



# HALESITE F. D. NEWS



Volume 13, Number 2 • Hot Line: 427-7250 • Non Emergency Phone: 427-1910 • Fall, 2010

## HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR FURNACE?

It's important that you have your furnace professionally inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.

- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- Check the flue pipe and pipe seams. Are they well supported, free of holes and cracks? Soot along or around seams may be an indicator of a leak.
- Check the chimney for cracks or loose bricks. All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.
- Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.

### **If A Puff Back Occurs:**

- Shut off the oil burner. The shut off switch is often at the top of the basement stairs.
- Close the door to the basement to reduce the chance of smoke spreading throughout the house.
- Exit the house and call the fire dept. via cell phone or neighbor's phone.
- Advise the arriving firefighters about access to the basement.

## SAVE THE DATES

### November

13 Holiday Boutique

### December

10-12 Annual Christmas Tree Sale

12 Annual Holiday Party for Children in the Fire District

### January

7 Blood Drive

### February

6 Pancake Breakfast

## IS YOUR HOUSE NUMBER VISIBLE?

In a fire or medical emergency, seconds count. To avoid delaying responders, make sure your house number is clearly visible from the street both day and night. Use reflective numbers that are at least 4" high and place them where they are not hidden by foliage, open doors, or vehicles. In addition to a number on your house, a curbside number is also helpful to responders.

### NEW WEB SITE

For more safety tips, as well for news about Halesite Fire Department members, activities, events, and recruitment, visit our new web site:

[www.halesitefd.org](http://www.halesitefd.org)

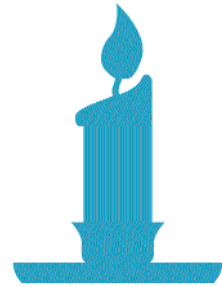
You can also sign up for e-mail messages and newsletters from the Halesite F.D. Just enter your e-mail address at the lower right corner of our home page.

## KEEP HYDRANTS CLEAR



Please do your part to keep hydrants visible. We place winter flags on them to aid in locating them. Please shovel or sweep snow away from hydrants and do not leave trash, debris, or cars in front of them.

We hope we will not need to use them; but you want them to be clearly visible, if we do.



## CANDLES - AN INCREASING FIRE RISK

There has been an alarming upward trend in home candle fires in the United States. Candles have become increasingly popular among teenagers and during holidays. Almost half of candle fires start in the bedroom, and home fires caused by candles occur over 18,000 times each year, causing nearly 200 deaths. Candles can create a spirit of warmth, and they add atmosphere and ambiance; but they also create a serious fire hazard. Please consider these safety tips when using candles in your home:

- Use candles only with constant adult supervision.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles away from items that can catch fire, like drapes, books, decorations, and clothing.
- Do not place candles where they can be knocked over by children or pets.
- Make sure that candles are placed on a level piece of furniture, in sturdy holders that will not turn over.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- Make sure candle holders are non combustible and big enough to collect dripping wax.

**Remember: A candle is an open flame. It can easily ignite any combustible nearby.**

---

## KNOW WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF FIRE

**P**lanning what to do in the case of a fire can make the difference between life and death:

**Practice two ways out** of every room in your home or office. **Designate a meeting place** - a mailbox, utility pole, etc. - located a safe distance from the fire where family members know to meet.

**Get out** as soon as you discover a fire; do not try to fight the fire or gather belongings. **Once out, stay out** until a fire chief says it is safe to return.

From a neighbor's house or cell phone, **call the Halesite Fire Department at 427-7250 to report the fire.**

**Keep your family together** away from the fire and be ready to direct arriving firefighters.



## FROZEN WATER PIPES?

**N**ever try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame. The pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space. Use hot water or a UL-labeled device such as a hand-held dryer for thawing.

---

## WINTER FIRE SAFETY

**I**n the U.S.A. each year, more than 1,500,000 winter fires cause \$3 billion in property loss, 1,900 deaths, and nearly 8,000 injuries with January being the peak month for fire deaths and injuries. Cooking is the leading cause of residential fires annually; but in winter, heating is the leading cause. Winter poses particular fire risks that warrant special precautions:

- Be sure wood stoves are installed properly.
- Have your furnace and chimney inspected annually.
- Make sure kerosene heaters exhaust properly to avoid CO build up, and be sure the heater has an emergency shut off in case the heater is tipped over.
- Choose a freshly cut Christmas tree, keep it watered, and keep the tree from blocking stairs or exits.
- Disconnect holiday decoration lights at bedtime and when unattended.
- Avoid using electric heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- Keep all combustibles away from any heating system.
- For protection all year, install and maintain smoke and CO detectors on every level of your home.

---

## BE PREPARED FOR A BLACKOUT

**T**here are many causes of power outages: hurricanes, winter storms, utility blackouts, even local auto accidents involving power lines. Whatever the cause, there are some simple steps you can take to reduce the impact of a power outage:

- Keep a battery powered radio ready to help you stay informed about the loss of power.
- Have a standard telephone or charged cell phone available - not one that relies on power - so you can call emergency services when necessary.
- Have several flashlights and spare batteries available on each floor of your home or office.
- Keep a supply of blankets, water, food, and medications on hand.



**FOR FIRE OR MEDICAL  
EMERGENCY, DIAL  
427-7250  
FOR POLICE EMERGENCY  
DIAL 911**