



HALESITE F. D. SIREN



Volume 15, Number 1 Hot Line: 427-7250 • Non Emergency Phone: 427-1910 Summer, 2012

FUND DRIVE 2012

The Halesite Fire Department Annual Fund Drive for 2012 has begun. Each year we ask residents to support the volunteers with donations to the Fund Drive. While tax dollars pay for equipment, maintenance, dispatchers' salaries, fire hydrant rental, and other operating expenses, many activities of the department are dependent on residents' donations. Donations pay for athletic teams, insurance, death benefits, refreshments, and community functions like our Blood Drives each January and August, the Fire Prevention Week Open House in October, and the Holiday Party for fire district children in December.

We begin the Fund Drive each year with a mailing to residents and have subsequent mailings later in the year. In October we may conduct a door to door canvas of the district residents. *We never solicit over the telephone.* If you would like to make a donation, please use the enclosed postage paid return envelope.

Thank you for your support.



IS YOUR HOUSE NUMBER VISIBLE?

Can you imagine calling for help and having no one find you? It can happen, if your house number is not plainly visible from the street.

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.



SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION

Dead flowers rotting in a flower pot. That's what fire investigators concluded caused \$20,000 worth of damage to a home in Arkansas. The homeowner had left the dead, decomposing flowers in organic potting soil that dried out and self-heated enough to ignite and burn the house.

Spontaneous combustion causes about 1,400 residential structure fires each year in the U.S. It is a chemical reaction that occurs when materials increase in temperature without drawing heat from its surroundings - no external heat, spark, or flame is needed. The material generates its own heat; and, if it reaches ignition temperature, combustion occurs. Oily rags are the most common source of spontaneous combustion, but fires in Halesite have also been caused by fertilizer, mulch, hay, and compost.

How can spontaneous combustion be prevented?

- rags that have absorbed paint, stain, linseed oil, turpentine, varnish, or other combustibles should be kept in well covered, metal containers and thoroughly dried before collecting or transporting.
- frequently water inside plants that have mulch or fertilizer - keep them moist.

Spontaneous combustion is not the most common cause of house fires; but it can cause serious fire damage and it can be prevented.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION LIST

All too often the Halesite Fire Department responds to a medical emergency and finds a patient who does not have or cannot provide current medical information. It is important for emergency responders and emergency room staff to have basic medical information, including at least:

- current medications
- allergies to medications
- past medical history (respiratory or heart problems, diabetes, etc.)

Blood type and emergency contact information can also be helpful.

This emergency information should be accessible not only at home (like on a refrigerator where responders are trained to look) but also out of the home in your wallet or purse.

Plan ahead and have this information available before you need it, and remember to keep it up to date.



HALESITE F. D. WEB SITE

Check out the Halesite Fire Department's web site:

www.halesitefd.org

There is a wealth of information at this site including department history, current news and upcoming events, recent alarms, fire safety and prevention tips, membership, and a fire department photo gallery. There are also listings of our fire companies and their members, as well as department and district officers. You can sign up for periodic e-mail alerts and you can request information from our chief officers.

DROWNING - IT TAKES ONLY SECONDS

Whether on a beach or at a local pool, the water that looks so calm and inviting can take your child's life in the time it takes to make a phone call, run to the bathroom, or turn to talk to someone.

Drowning claims nearly 4,000 lives each year, over one-third of them four years old or younger. Drowning occurs when respiratory function is impaired after a victim has been immersed in water. If a drowning victim is not breathing when removed from the water, resuscitative measures (most likely including CPR) should be initiated immediately.

While the mechanism of respiratory failure is different in salt water than it is in fresh water, only a small amount of water is needed to cause suffocation.

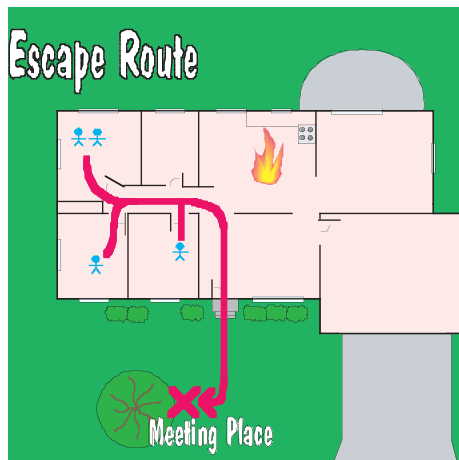
It is important to know that the drowning process can continue, even after the victim regains consciousness. While initial resuscitative efforts may be successful - the victim can talk, walk, and breathe - the victim is still in danger of drowning even hours after being pulled from the water.

Anyone who has swallowed even a small amount of water can be in danger of drowning; and medical attention should be sought.



100 YEARS AGO

On a summer evening in 1912, a large barn on the Huntington Bay property of George Taylor burned to the ground. Fire was spotted coming through the roof, and the Halesite and Huntington Fire Departments were called; but the structure was gone before they arrived. The Long Islander reported, "several horses and cows, as well as an automobile in the building were saved. The origin of the fire is a mystery."



EXIT DRILLS IN THE HOME

Smoke Detectors and Fire Extinguishers are important parts of a Fire Safety Plan for your home. So is **E.D.I.T.H.** - **Exit Drills In The Home**. Every family member should know how to get out of the house in the event of a fire. Also plan a secondary escape route and make sure everyone knows where to meet once they are out - some place a safe distance from the house like a tree, mailbox, flagpole, etc. Notify the fire department from a neighbor's house and don't allow anyone to re-enter the building until the fire chief says it is safe to do so.

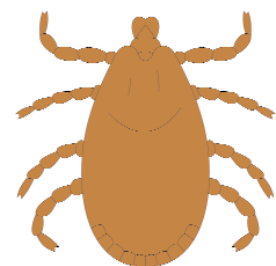
Exit drills can save your life and the lives of your loved ones. Plan your escape and practice it often. It is also a good idea to make yourself aware of the nearest fire exit when you are in a store, restaurant, hotel, or other public building.

If you have any questions about E.D.I.T.H., call the firehouse. A fire department officer will contact you.

**Halesite Fire
Department
Fire / Ambulance
427-7250**

FIRST AID FOR TICK BITES

On Long Island ticks are common in medium height shrubs, overgrown fields, and woodland areas inhabited by deer, squirrels, rabbits, and other common woodland animals. Ticks can cause serious illness and death in humans. You can reduce the chance of being bitten by a tick by avoiding the areas they are likely to inhabit. You can also use repellent, tuck pants into boots or socks, and wear light colored clothing to make ticks more visible.



If you spot a tick before it bites, it can easily be removed by brushing it off with your hand. If one has attached itself to you, it may be removed with your fingers shielded by a paper towel or tissue; or by grasping it with tweezers as close as possible to the site of the attachment. To avoid imbedded mouth parts from breaking off, pull straight outward without twisting or jerking. If the mouth parts of the tick remain attached, consult your doctor. Antiseptic should be applied to the site of the bite.

Be alert for any symptoms that appear within two to twelve days:

- red ring or "bull's eye" around the bite
- fever, chills, and headache
- skin rash or pain at the site of the bite
- swollen, painful lymph nodes.

If any of these symptoms occur, consult your doctor.

If you would like to donate to the Halesite Fire Department, please use the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Thank you for your support.

MEMBERS OF THE HALESITE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Department Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Chief Andy Magerle	O'Hara Place	20
1st Assistant Chief Dan McConnell	Winchester Lane	22
2nd Assistant Chief Greg Colonna	Afton Lane	16

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Dennis Magerle	Bay Avenue	52	Jennifer Pavelka	Old Town Lane	11
Walter Sammis	Ketewomoke Drive	49	Ryan Sammis	Cliftwood Drive	10
Frank Grasso	Homestead Path	44	Jesse Sammis	Bantry Court	9
Roger Ketcham	East Shore Road	44	Robert Kocis	Hildreth Avenue	9
Dennis Troup	Bayview Drive	42	William Eletto	L'ecluse Lane	9
Jerry Conway	Fort Hill Road	41	Dominic Spada	Highview Drive	8
John Blanda	Courtyard Circle	37	Peter Fredriksen	Bayview Drive	7
Peter Wilbur	Maple Hill Road	36	Eric Weber	Platt Place	7
Kurt Martin	Mohawk Street	35	Keith Freda	Crest Road	5
Peter Magerle	Bass Court	33	Michael Waring	Grist Mill Lane	4
Mark Blanda	Courtyard Circle	30	Vincent Capobianco	Merrill Place	4
John Cannon	Bay Road	30	Alex Pavelka	Old Town Lane	4
Craig Lanigan	Bialla Place	28	Donald Tesoriero	Huntington Bay Road	3
Douglas Anthonson	Huntington Bay Road	27	Joseph Grant	Woodhull Road	2
Paul T. Holly	Warrenton Court	27	Kate Kuntz	Youngs Hill Road	2
Mike Magerle	Afton Lane	26	Henry Waldron	Kroft Court	1
Jeff Schondebare	Halesite	25	Michael Conforti	Vineyard Road	1
Gerry Conlon	West Shore Road	25	Kevin Kelly	Maple Hill Road	1
John Solano	Cliftwood Drive	25	William Brower	Grist Mill Lane	1
Nick Berghela	Walden Place	23	Eldon Smith	Landing Road	8 mo.
Mike Mitchell	Lake Drive	23	Stephen Medici	Golf Lane	7 mo.
Larry Northcote	Glades Way	23	Carolyn Corkett	Melody Lane	7 mo.
Neil Nugent	Bay Drive West	23	Jason Oppenheim	Bay Road	7 mo.
Chris Chiusano	Oakwood Road	23	Lucy Oppenheim	Bay Road	7 mo.
Bob Waring	Grist Mill Lane	22	Sarah Apgar	Cove Road	7 mo.
William Mitchell	Longview Drive	22	Brad Gaito	Winchester Court	7 mo.
Joseph DeSimone	Van Buren Drive	21	Jessica Kitzen	Huntington Bay Road	7 mo.
David Willis	Grist Mill Lane	20	Steven Lapp	Heckscher Drive	7 mo.
Robert Wenk	Cornehlson Drive	20	Wayne Jen0	Cliftwood Drive	6 mo.
William Peer	Grist Mill Lane	18	Rachel Smith	Cliftwood Drive	6 mo.
Jamie Magerle	Woodhull Road	16	Daniel Harman	Mill Lane	5 mo.
Jamie Spear	Bay Drive West	16	Thomas Scheff	Cleveland Drive	3 mo.
Robert Pavelka	Old Town Lane	11	Alexander Niedziela	Vineyard Road	1 mo.
Hugh O'Brien	Bay Drive East	11			

Life Members

Laura Bergman
Aldo Biondi
Jim Bradley
James Cody
Donald Danko

Guy Guido
William Kaiser
Thomas Maguire
Arthur Messinger
Daniel Messinger

William Michta
John Newell III
Don Pope
Clement Schryver
Robert Wilbur

The Halesite Volunteer Fire Department has been serving the residents of Halesite since 1901.

Our 70 members respond to calls for help at any time of day or night.

We are all volunteers; none of us is ever paid for responding to an alarm.

The Halesite Volunteer Fire Department is in need of more members. The hours can be long, the work can be dirty and occasionally dangerous, and the pay is nil. But if you want the satisfaction of coming to the aid of your neighbors and sometimes even saving lives, stop by the firehouse for information about membership.

LIGHTNING FIRES



Each year fires started by lightning cause death, injury, and hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage in the U.S., mostly during the summer months. A house fire can start from a direct lightning strike or by an indirect strike through wires, pipes, or even the ground. A strike might not cause an immediately noticeable fire; it can, instead, cause a small fire that will smolder and grow in the attic or walls. Proper grounding and surge protectors can provide some measure of safety for household appliances. You might also consider the installation of a home lightning protection/surge arrestor system by a qualified electrician.

During a thunder storm, additional precautions should be taken:

- Unplug appliances and other electrical items like air conditioners and computers.
- Stay off corded phones, computers, and other electronic equipment that puts you in direct contact with wiring or plumbing.
- Avoid washing your hands, bathing, doing laundry, or washing dishes.
- Install and maintain smoke alarms. They can alert you to a fire that you might not be able to see.
- If you think your house has been struck by lightning, get everyone out of the house and call the Halesite Fire Department on your cell phone or from a neighbor's telephone.

FLASH TO BANG

When you see a lightning flash, count the seconds until you hear the bang. Every five seconds equals one mile.

If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning.



BLOOD DRIVE SET FOR AUGUST 17

Summer in Halesite. We all plan countless activities - BBQs, picnics, sports, and vacations. Unfortunately, giving blood is not high on many activity lists, even though blood supplies become dangerously low in summer. This is why the Halesite Fire Department will conduct its annual blood drive at the firehouse on Friday, August 17, from 3:30PM to 8:30PM. It takes only about one hour, and steak dinners will be served. Give the gift of life this summer.

HOT WATER SAFETY

Be sure to keep children away from all sources of hot water, including stoves, tubs, sinks, and hot water pipes. Be careful with hot coffee and tea. It takes only seconds for serious and extremely painful burns to result.

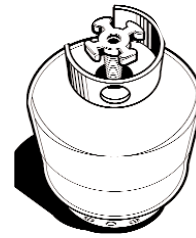
BE PREPARED FOR A BLACKOUT

There 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 cell phone available - not one that relies on power - so you can call emergency services as necessary.

PROPANE TANK SAFETY

Propane tanks are a great convenience, especially with barbecue grills. Unfortunately they can also create a tremendous, deadly explosion.



Be sure to follow these basic safety tips:

1. Always transport cylinders in an upright position on the floor of a vehicle with the windows open. Do not put them in your car trunk.
2. Never leave a cylinder in a parked vehicle.
3. Never store or use a gas barbecue cylinder inside your home.
4. Apply a soapy solution to make sure connections are tight.



KNOX-BOX® RAPID ENTRY SYSTEM

The Halesite Fire Department has recently added the Knox-Box Rapid Entry System that allows us to gain entry to residential and commercial property without forcing entry through doors or windows. Time is saved and damage is eliminated.

In a fire or medical emergency where doors and windows are locked, responders may cause costly property damage, if they have to make forcible entry. With a Knox-Box system the fire department has access to a secure box mounted near the property entrance.

Inside this box is a key(s) that opens the main door(s). Medical information can also be secured within the Knox-Box. Access to the box is controlled by the fire department dispatcher and an audit trail is electronically maintained, providing date, time, and user ID for each release.

To sign up for a Knox-Box system, go to: www.knoxbox.com

HEART ATTACK



Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, causing more deaths than cancer and stroke combined. Over 900,000 deaths occur annually and nearly 25% of these patients had no previous history of cardiac problems.

What are the signs of a heart attack?

The American Heart Ass'n says that the body may send one or more of the following warning signals:

- Uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing, or pain in the center of the chest lasting for more than a few minutes.
- Pain, usually originating under the sternum and may radiate to the arms, neck, or jaw.

NOTE: 15-20% of attacks are painless

- Chest discomfort with lightheadedness, fainting, sweating, nausea, or shortness of breath.

If you experience any of these signs, or see them in your family or friends, seek medical attention immediately.

Amount of time the average person waits to go to an emergency room after feeling chest pain:

2 hours, 2 minutes

Time it takes for a heart attack to do irreparable damage:

1 hour

INSURANCE CODES

Because of its membership, training, equipment, and record keeping, The Halesite Fire District receives a high rating from New York State Fire Underwriters. This means low fire insurance rates for district residents. Make sure that the **Halesite Fire District** is the district of record on your insurance policy.

"BRAIN ATTACK" THE SIGNS OF STROKE

Many of us recognize crushing chest pain as a sign of a heart attack. Unfortunately, not enough of us know the signs of a stroke or "brain attack". In the USA, stroke is the primary cause of severe, long term disability and the third leading cause of death. 30% of stroke victims are dead within one year, and a majority of survivors live with great disability. Early treatment, including new blood clot-dissolving drugs, can prevent disability and death - **but only if given in the first three hours**. This early treatment is available at Huntington Hospital, which has been designated as a NYS Stroke Center.



Signs of stroke may include any or all of the following:

- weakness or paralysis of the face or on one side of the body;
- unexplained numbness, tingling, or pins & needles;
- sudden slurring of speech or inability to speak;
- sudden, severe headache with no known cause;
- vertigo, dizziness, or staggering;
- double vision, or trouble seeing in one or both eyes;

There are three simple tasks to request of a suspected stroke victim:

1. **Smile:** is the smile even or does one side droop?
2. **Talk:** can the patient clearly say a simple sentence?
3. **Raise both arms at the same time:** with victim's eyes closed, do both arms rise equally?

If you suspect someone is having a stroke, seek medical attention immediately.

THE FIRE IS OUT... OR IS IT?

Every year the Halesite Fire Department is called to a structural fire that is made more serious because someone thought the fire was extinguished, but later discovered that the fire had spread. An oven fire or electrical fire, for example, can appear minor at first, and may even appear to be out. What happens all too often is that, while the fire may be out on one side of the wall, it can continue to burn and spread behind the wall. In some types of construction, there is nothing to stop a fire on one floor from spreading to other floors - all behind the walls, where it can spread without being detected by an occupant.

If you discover any type of fire in your home or office, always call the fire department, even if it looks like the fire has been extinguished. We have instruments that can detect heat and fire that may be spreading behind walls, floors, and ceilings; and we have the equipment to extinguish the fire, if it has begun to spread.



FIREFIGHTER GEAR

Before entering a burning building firefighters will usually have the following that will add about 70 pounds to their weight:

protective outer gear:	25 lbs
breathing apparatus:	25 lbs
tools:	20 lbs

AMANDA'S LAW

Effective February 22, 2010, Amanda's Law mandates the installation of carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in all homes in New York State, regardless of when the home was built, "where the dwelling unit has appliances, devices, or systems that may emit CO or has an attached garage."

SWIMMING POOL CHEMICALS HAZARD

The very chemicals that are designed to make pool water clear and clean can be a source of serious injury and damage. Under normal circumstances, pool chemicals are intended to be added to large quantities of water. If a limited amount of water is instead added to some pool chemicals, an unwanted reaction can occur, resulting in an increase in temperature and the release of toxic gas. Even a small amount of water splashed on a chemical can cause a severe reaction. Also, most pool chemicals are inherently incompatible with each other; and even some old and new chemicals of the same type can react unfavorably.

Pool Chemical Precautions

Store chemicals in a dry environment, on the same level, off the floor and away from any source of moisture.

Keep containers securely closed when not in use.

Do not mix chemicals.

Do not place spilled chemicals back into chemical storage container.

Tools (scoops) used with one chemical should not be used with a different chemical without cleaning.

Store pool chemicals by themselves. Do not store with any combustible or flammable materials or near ignition sources like lawn mowers.

Do not allow smoking in storage area.

Pool chemicals can cause serious personal injury if they contact skin, eyes, or respiratory or digestive systems. Such injuries can occur with direct chemical contact or if chemical dust is inhaled or consumed.

Pool chemical reactions should not be handled by you or a family member. If you spot any sign of a chemical reaction in the storage area, contact the fire department immediately.

DRYER FIRES

While cooking equipment is by far the leading cause of U.S. home fires, clothes dryers have been the source of recent fires in Halesite. Nationally 15,500 dryer fires cause over a dozen deaths, nearly 400 injuries, and about \$400 million in property damage each year. The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean.

These fires are easily preventable. What can you do to reduce the chance of a dryer fire in your home?

- clean the lint screen before each load
- inspect and clean the vent and duct
- replace plastic or vinyl exhaust hoses with metal venting
- keep area around dryer clean and free from clutter
- always use appropriate electrical outlets for dryers
- don't place items with rubber, foam, or plastic in dryer
- don't leave a dryer operating when you are not home



GOOSE STARTS CALIFORNIA FIRE

Feb 20, 2012 -- "Novato firefighters battled a half-acre wildlands blaze Sunday that began when a goose flew into power lines near the Gness Field airport. The goose caught on fire, fell to the ground, and started the grass fire.

Firefighters found the errant goose, "well burned, but still alive," and took it to the Marin County Humane Society for treatment." *Marin Independent Journal*



FIRE SAFETY SITES

- www.nfpa.org
- www.safekids.org
- www.firesafety.gov
- www.sparky.org
- www.nyc.gov/fdny

WEST NILE VIRUS



The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) reports that West Nile Virus (WNV) has been in the NY area at least since the summer of 1999. During 2011 there were 712 total U.S. human cases of West Nile virus reported to the C.D.C., 44 of which were from New York State, including two that resulted in death. Most (80%) people infected with WNV will show no symptoms. Most of the remaining 20% who become infected will display mild symptoms, including fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a rash. Symptoms typically last a few days. About one in 150 infected with WNV will develop severe illness involving the central nervous system, and these symptoms can last weeks or can even become permanent.

Generally, WNV is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito and on rare occasions, through blood transfusions. Mosquitos pick up the virus when they feed on infected birds. Symptoms begin between three and 14 days after bitten by an infected mosquito. There is no specific treatment for most cases, and there is currently no vaccine. Severe cases require hospitalization and supportive treatment.

How can WNV be prevented?

Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets, barrels, etc.

Change water in pet dishes daily and replace water in bird baths weekly.

Make sure you have good screens on your doors and windows.

When outdoors, consider using insect repellents containing DEET and wearing long pants and long sleeve shirts.