



HALESITE F. D. SIREN



Volume 18, Number 1 Hot Line: 427-7250 • Non Emergency Phone: 427-1910 Summer, 2015

FUND DRIVE 2015

The Halesite Fire Department Annual Fund Drive for 2015 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 summer 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.



WHERE'S THE EXIT?

This past March marked the 25th anniversary of the Happy Land Social Club fire in the Bronx that in minutes killed 87 persons, at the time the biggest mass murder in modern U.S. history. The fire was intentionally set and spread so fast that some victims still had drinks in their hands, appearing like frozen figures from Pompeii. Bodies were piled up on the dance floor, their faces covered with black soot.

Whenever you enter a restaurant, club, or any indoor gathering, look for exit signs. Find not only the nearest exit, but also alternate exits, as soon as you settle in.

TWO STEPS TO STAYIN ALIVE' WITH HANDS-ONLY CPR



Most people who experience cardiac arrest at home, work, or in a public place do not survive because they do not receive immediate CPR. To improve survival rates, the American Heart Association recommends two steps for bystanders to follow when they witness a teen or adult collapse unconscious, with no pulse, and not breathing:

1. Call 911
2. Begin Hands-Only CPR

Mouth-to-mouth rescue breathing is no longer required for those who have not been trained. With Hands-Only CPR, push hard and fast in the center of the victim's chest to the beat of the classic disco song, "Stayin' Alive." CPR can more than double a person's chance of survival and "Stayin Alive" has the right beat (100 compressions per minute) for Hands-Only CPR.

For more information about CPR, go to: www.heart.org

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

ELECTRICAL FIRE KILLS SIX

Last winter two adults and four of their grandchildren were killed in a fire that burned their Maryland home to the ground. Investigators determined that the cause of the blaze was electrical - a faulty electrical outlet ignited materials nearby, including a Christmas tree. A fire official warned that items susceptible to fire should be kept away from outlets in use. "If you walk around your house, you will find at least one spot where there is combustible material near an outlet. An example is a bed pushed against an outlet used for lamps or alarm clocks." Each year in the U.S. there are an average of 48,000 residential electrical fires that cause over 400 deaths and \$1.4 billion in damage. In addition to combustibles near active outlets, other causes include:

- Worn or frayed electrical cords
- Running electrical cords under rugs
- Light fixtures with bulbs exceeding recommended wattage
- Placing combustible material over a lamp shade
- Using multiple extension cords or power strips on a single outlet
- Outdated wiring that was not designed to handle increased loads from computers, microwaves, wide screen TVs, air conditioners, etc.

In addition to checking your home for electrical hazards, you should also have smoke detectors throughout your home. They can provide warning when a fire is at its early stages and allow you and your family to escape before you are overcome by the fire and its deadly smoke.

For more information about fire, go to: www.nfpa.org

BLOOD DRIVE FOR SUMMER, 2015



Because of construction at the firehouse, the date for the summer Blood Drive is not yet known. We will announce it on our web site and on our digital sign in front of the firehouse. It will take only about one hour, and steak dinners will be served. Give the gift of life this summer.

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.

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.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION LIST



In the event of a medical emergency, responding medical personnel need to know as much as possible about the patient's medical history, including:

- allergies to medications
- current medications
- past medical history (respiratory or heart problems, diabetes, etc.)
- family to be contacted
- blood type

This information should be readily available at the time of the emergency and is needed by Emergency Room personnel before treatment can be given. ***Without this information, treatment will be delayed.***

One way to accomplish this is with a medical alert necklace or bracelet. Emergency medical personnel are trained to look for these medical alert tags.

You can also carry this information in your wallet or purse, where you can have it available to give to EMTs or hospital personnel.

This medical information can also be attached to the refrigerator in your kitchen, where first responders can easily spot it.

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

FIRE INSURANCE - CHECK FOR EXCLUSIONS

"I thought my fire insurance would cover the damage, when my house caught fire...until my insurance agent pointed out some exclusions in my policy."

The fire started in the attic, spread across half of the house, and flames finally burned through the roof. The fire department was on the scene within minutes and was able to limit the fire damage to the attic and roof; but smoke and water damage extended throughout the house. Water was everywhere on the first and second floors, as well as in the basement; and smoke had permeated almost everything on every level.

"The insurance agent assured me that my policy would cover the fire damage to attic and roof. He then pointed out that water - not fire - caused damage to the floors, walls, and electronics. It was smoke - not fire - that ruined our clothes, furniture, and drapes. Yes, water was needed to extinguish the fire and smoke was generated by fire; but fire damaged only the attic and roof, not the rest of the house. My policy did not cover loss or damage to items that were not actually burned by fire."

Maintain adequate fire insurance for your home or residence. Be sure that your fire insurance does not have exclusions or restrictions that can severely limit your protection. Suppose the fire makes your home inhabitable. Will your policy cover lodging and meal expenses, while you are out of your home?

Many homes in the Halesite Fire District have antique types of architecture and valuable furnishings. You should review the policy with your agent to make sure that you have coverage to return your home to the way it was before the fire. You should also keep an inventory (with receipts, if possible) of the items in each room. A video or photo record is easy to create and will help in determining losses.

Now is the time to review your fire insurance - before your home becomes one of the 360,000 residences that annually suffer a fire.

MEMBERS OF THE HALESITE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Department Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Chief Dan McConnell	Winchester Lane	26
1st Assistant Chief Greg Colonna	Afton Lane	19
2nd Assistant Chief Jamie Magerle	Woodhull Road	19

<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	55	Kate Kuntz	Youngs Hill Road	5
Walter Sammis	Ketewomoke Drive	52	Henry Waldron	Kroft Court	4
Frank Grasso	Homestead Path	47	Michael Conforti	Vineyard Road	4
Roger Ketcham	East Shore Road	47	Kevin Kelly	Maple Hill Road	4
Dennis Troup	Bayview Drive	46	Stephen Medici	Golf Lane	3
Jerry Conway	Fort Hill Road	44	Carolyn Corkett	Melody Lane	3
John Blanda	Courtyard Circle	40	Jason Oppenheim	Bay Road	3
Peter Wilbur	Maple Hill Road	39	Lucy Oppenheim	Bay Road	3
Kurt Martin	Mohawk Street	38	Sarah Apgar	Cove Road	3
Peter Magerle	Bass Court	36	Brad Gaito	Winchester Lane	3
Mark Blanda	Courtyard Circle	33	Jessica Kitzen	Huntington Bay Road	3
John Cannon	Bay Road	33	Steven Lapp	Heckscher Drive	3
Craig Lanigan	Bialla Place	31	Wayne Jenö	Cliftwood Drive	3
Douglas Anthonson	Huntington Bay Road	30	Daniel Harman	Mill Lane	3
Paul T. Holly	Warrenton Court	30	Thomas Scheff	Cleveland Drive	3
Mike Magerle	Afton Lane	29	Alexander Niediela	Vineyard Road	3
Jeff Schondebare	Vineyard Road	28	KC Anna	Bay Drive West	3
Gerry Conlon	West Shore Road	28	Robert Cirillo	Inlet Place	3
John Solano	Cliftwood Drive	28	Richard Oh	Glades Way	3
Nick Berghela	Walden Place	27	Greg Guy	Northwood Circle	3
Mike Mitchell	Lake Drive	26	Eric Ferber	Sea Ridge Court	2
Larry Northcote	Glades Way	26	Liam Dreusike	Crombie Street	2
Neil Nugent	Bay Drive West	26	Casey Magerle	Bass Court	2
William Mitchell	Longview Drive	26	Brent Filippini	Maxwell Court	2
Joseph DeSimone	Van Buren Drive	24	Christian Defeo	East Neck Road	2
David Willis	Cliftwood Drive	23	Alex Shoemaker	Maple Hill Road	1
Robert Wenk	Cornehlsen Drive	23	Jayne Ericksen	Abbott Drive	1
Andy Magerle	O'Hara Place	23	Mike Serbanoiu	Hillwood Drive	1
William Peer	Grist Mill Lane	21	Dave Skrobela	Old Town Lane	1
Hugh O'Brien	Bay Drive East	14	Nina Fleisig	Cove Road	1
Ryan Sammis	Cliftwood Drive	13	Lorraine Healy	East Shore Road	1
Jesse Sammis	Soundview Road	12	Karlton Nurnberger	Wall Street	1
Robert Kocis	Hildreth Avenue	12	David Freda	Severin Place	1
William Eletto	Burt Avenue	12	Tom Hardart	Maple Hill Road	1
Dominic Spada	Highview Drive	11	James Costanzo	Crescent Drive	10 mos.
Erik Weber	Platt Place	10	Justin Chermak	Elm Street	9 mos.
Keith Freda	Crest Road	8	Betty Wood	Soundview Drive	8 mos.
Vincent Capobianco	Merrill Place	7	Bill Latham	Melody Lane	7 mos.
Donald Tesoriero	Huntington Bay Road	6	Peter Magerle, Jr.	Bass Court	4 mos.

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

Our 81 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

Life Members

Laura Bergman	Donald Danko	Daniel Messinger	Robert Waring
Aldo Biondi	Guy Guido	William Michta	Robert Wilbur
Jim Bradley	William Kaiser	John Newell III	
James Cody	Thomas Maguire	Don Pope	
Chris Chiusano	Arthur Messinger	Clement Schryver	

HALESITE F.D. PROVIDES PARAMEDIC COVERAGE

Don't be surprised, if you see a Centerport F. D. vehicle responding to emergency medical calls in Halesite.

Halesite F.D. has offered emergency medical assistance for over 45 years with members trained as EMTs. In a joint effort with neighboring Centerport F.D., Halesite EMTs are now assisted by a trained paramedic, who can provide a higher level of emergency medical care, including administering drugs that are not available to basic EMTs. Centerport F.D. and Halesite F.D share the cost of this service and the paramedic responds to calls for an ambulance within both fire districts. The paramedic is stationed at the Centerport firehouse and is available from 6:00AM to 6:00PM daily. This joint program provides critical emergency medical service to those in the Halesite Fire District at half the cost incurred by other fire districts.

**Halesite Fire Department
Ambulance
427-7250**

IS YOUR HOUSE NUMBER VISIBLE?

Can you imagine calling for help and having no one find you? It happens every year, because residents do not have their house number 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.

FOR A STROKE, ACT F.A.S.T.



Stroke is the #5 cause of death in the United States and the leading cause of serious, long term disability. It happens when a blood vessel in the brain becomes blocked (ischemic stroke) or ruptures (hemorrhagic stroke). Over 85% of strokes are ischemic. Without blood flow, brain cells begin to die. The severity of a stroke is not related to the size of the bleed, but rather to the location of the bleed in the brain. Each year approximately 795,000 people suffer a stroke.

Signs of a stroke include the sudden onset of the following:

- numbness or weakness of one side of the face or body
- severe headache with no known cause
- trouble with speech or vision
- dizziness or vertigo
- confusion

Any one of these signs indicates a 70% chance that a stroke has occurred. If someone exhibits **any** of these signs, think **F.A.S.T.**:

F ace	ask person to smile; does one side of the face droop?
A rms	ask person to raise both arms; does one arm drift downward?
S peech	ask person to repeat a simple sentence; is speech slurred?
T ime	if any of these signs are present, it is time to call for an ambulance.

Early treatment, including new blood clot-dissolving drugs, can prevent disability and death, **but only if given in the first three hours**, so be sure to record the time that signs were first noticed. This early treatment is available at Huntington Hospital, which has been designated as a NYS Stroke Center.

Stroke risk factors that can be controlled include:

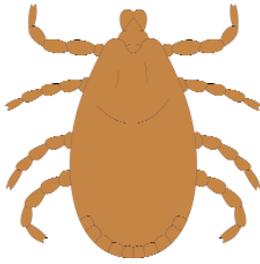
high blood pressure	smoking
high cholesterol	sedentary life style
smoking	excess weight

More stroke information is available at: www.stroke.org

TIA: A MINI-STROKE

A Transient Ischemic Attack or TIA occurs when an artery is blocked, but for just a short time. The signs can be the same as a regular stroke, but they may last for only a few minutes. While signs disappear quickly and generally cause no permanent brain damage, these "Mini-Stroke" should be considered as a warning. 10% of TIA patients will have an acute stroke within 30 days and 30% of TIA patients will have an acute stroke within one year.

FIRST AID FOR TICK BITES



While we experienced an unusually cold and snowy winter, this harsh weather did not reduce the risk of Lyme disease or other tick-borne illnesses. The heavy snow acted as a blanket for ticks that are now searching for blood in warmer weather.

On Long Island ticks are common in medium height shrubs, overgrown fields, and woodland areas inhabited by deer. 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 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.

ALLERGIC REACTIONS CAN BE DEADLY

"It came on quickly. Small bumps started to rise on my skin and they itched like crazy. My pulse was racing, I had a tightness in my chest, and I felt a lump in my throat - and the lump was getting bigger. I was having a hard time breathing and started to get dizzy. I was fine a minute ago. What is happening?"

What is happening is anaphylactic shock - a serious allergic reaction that is on the rise in the U.S. with food allergies being the leading cause. Milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, soy, fish and shellfish account for 90% of all food allergic reactions. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that food allergies among children increased 50% between 1997 and 2011. Some food allergies resolve during childhood, but allergies to nuts, fish, and shellfish are usually lifelong. Allergic reactions can also be triggered by insect stings, latex, and medications.

Often there is little time to act. Symptoms can become life-threatening within minutes. Antihistamines act slowly and do not treat life threatening symptoms of anaphylaxis.

When breathing is seriously compromised, epinephrine, typically in the form of an EpiPen®, is needed immediately. Many people with these allergies carry EpiPens for such emergencies and the Halesite Fire Department has them on board the ambulances.

If you are with someone experiencing severe allergic reaction, call for an ambulance immediately.

For more information about food allergies, visit: www.cdc.gov



FIRE SAFETY SITES

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

MAN KILLED IN HOUSE FIRE

In February an Illinois man died from a fire in his house. When firefighters arrived, the fire had burned itself out and did little structural damage. The smoke, not flames, killed the homeowner. Fire officials found a smoke detector in the home, but the detector had no batteries.

Every bedroom needs a working smoke detector. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that three out of five U.S. home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no working smoke alarms. Half the deaths occurred between 11:00PM and 7:00AM when people were asleep.

More fire prevention information is available at: www.nfpa.org.



FIRST AID FOR BURNS

Extreme heat, such as flames, hot liquids, hot metal, flash explosions, and the sun's radiation can cause burn injuries. Chemicals, such as acid, lye, and bleach can also burn.

Treatment for Burn Victims

1. **Stop the Burning Process.** Remove the victim from the heat source. Stop, drop, and roll to smother clothing fires.
2. Quickly remove any clothing that could hold in the heat and cause the skin to keep burning. Remove clothing or jewelry from around burned area, because burned areas swell quickly. **Do not remove clothing that is sticking to the skin.**
3. If the burn is small, cool it with tap water. Do not use ice - it can cause further skin damage.
4. For burns to the head, hands, and feet, call trained medical help immediately.
5. For large burns, cover the victim with a clean, dry cloth to reduce shock and conserve body heat. Keep the victim calm while waiting for medical help to arrive.

SPRAINS & STRAINS

Sprains and Strains are common ailments, and proper treatment can help reduce their severity. When dealing with either, remember **RICE**:

REST the affected area. Avoid using the injured part.

ICE - Apply ice to the injured area for the first 24 to 48 hours to reduce swelling.

COMPRESSION - Wrap an elastic bandage around the injured area to secure the ice in place. As long as there is swelling, continue to apply ice 3-4 times a day. After swelling has gone, the application of warm, moist heat will promote healing

ELEVATE the injured area above the level of the heart to slow the blood-flow - and swelling - to the injury.

Caution: The signs of a sprain are very similar to the signs of a break. If you have any doubt, seek immediate medical assistance.



100 YEARS AGO

The splendid work of the Huntington, Halesite, Huntington Station, and Cold Spring Harbor Fire Departments on Sunday night in handling the big blaze that consumed the Warren G. Sammis frame store buildings on the corner of New York Avenue and Elm Street is worthy of the highest commendations.

It is remarkable that such a fire, in the midst of other frame buildings and with a high wind blowing, was confined to the row in which it started.

The Long-Islander, January 29, 1915

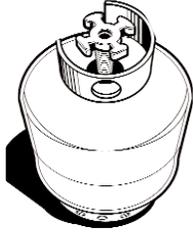


HOW NOT TO KILL BUGS

In April, a Bridgehampton man set fire to his car, while trying to kill bed bugs inside the vehicle. He had poured alcohol over the seats to eliminate the pests. Unfortunately he then sat in the car and lit a cigarette, setting off the blaze that heavily damaged his car and two nearby vehicles.

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 bbq cylinder inside your home.
4. Apply a soapy solution to make sure connections are tight.



JELLYFISH STINGS

If you are stung by a jellyfish:

Remove tentacles using sand or a towel. Do not use bare hands.

Rinse Sting Area with salt water, **not** fresh water.

Jellyfish can cause more than pain; they can cause severe allergic reaction. If you experience a rash, itching, swelling, and shortness of breath, seek immediate medical attention.



TO CONTACT THE HALESITE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN A FIRE OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY DIAL 427-7250

AND GIVE THE DISPATCHER YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND NATURE OF THE EMERGENCY.

BE AS PRECISE AS POSSIBLE.

FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE MANY LOCATIONS WITH THE WORD "BAY":

BAY AVENUE, BAY DRIVE, BAY DRIVE EAST, BAY DRIVE WEST, BAY PATH COURT, BAY PLACE, BAY ROAD

CARBON MONOXIDE KILLS

In April a father and his seven children died in bed from carbon monoxide (CO) coming from a **power generator** inside his Maryland home.

In Queens four people were found dead from CO poisoning in their home. The cause was a **running car** in an attached garage.

In May 17 workers in Hauppauge were treated for CO poisoning from a **faulty air conditioner**.

CO from a **leaking heater flue pipe** killed a restaurant manager in Huntington Station.

Two teenagers died from CO while "**Teak Surfing**" at the back of a boat where exhaust fumes collect. This was outside, on a lake, in a supposedly fresh air environment.

The sources of carbon monoxide are varied and are not limited to a particular season or location. CO is especially dangerous because it is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Early symptoms mimic those of the flu (but without fever):

headache
dizziness
nausea
fatigue
mental confusion

CO Detectors: Install CO detectors near every sleeping area of your home and check them frequently.

Oil & Gas Furnace: Have it inspected annually.

Portable Generator: Never operate one inside a home or garage. Use them outside only and at least 20 feet from home, doors, and windows.

For more information about CO, visit: www.cpsc.gov

Note: A **chirp every 30 or 60 seconds** means the battery needs replacing or the detector is malfunctioning. The fire department is not needed.

A **constant** tone is a CO warning; move to fresh air and call the fire department.