



# HALESITE F. D. SIREN



Volume 17, Number 1 Hot Line: 427-7250 • Non Emergency Phone: 427-1910 Summer, 2014

## FUND DRIVE 2014

The Halesite Fire Department Annual Fund Drive for 2014 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 spring 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.**



There are approximately 1,100,000 firefighters in the United States, and about 795,000 (72%) are volunteers.

**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.**



## 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.

## FIRE SAFETY SITES

- [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)
- [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)
- [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)
- [www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org)
- [www.nyc.gov/fdny](http://www.nyc.gov/fdny)

## HEART ATTACK OR NOT?



"I can't be having a heart attack," Ishe said. "I'm not having chest pain."

While chest pain is a classic symptom of a heart attack, women can experience a heart attack without chest pain. Pain or discomfort can be located instead in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach. Other signs can include shortness of breath, a cold sweat, nausea, or lightheadedness.

According to the American Heart Association while one in 30 female deaths is from breast cancer, one in three is from heart disease. In fact, heart disease is more deadly for women than all forms of cancer combined.

For more information and to view the AHA video "Just a Little Heart Attack", go to:

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

If you (or someone with you) experience any of these symptoms, do not drive to your doctor or to the hospital. Call the Halesite Fire Department for rapid transport to Huntington Hospital.

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**

## HALESITE F.D. JOINS FIGHT AGAINST DRUG OD DEATHS

*"The number of overdose deaths in NYS now exceeds motor vehicle deaths"* says John Coppola, executive director of NYS Ass'n of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Providers. To help reverse the rising death toll from drug overdose, Halesite F.D. Emergency Medical Technicians have recently been trained to administer Narcan®. Narcan can immediately reverse the effects on patients who have overdosed on heroin, as well as on prescription medications such as oxycodone, codeine, fentanyl, and darvon. Last year 563 people from Suffolk County successfully received narcan treatment. Narcan alone is not the solution to the drug problem; it can, however, save lives and that is the goal of every HFD member.

### 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](http://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.

## "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.

More stroke information is available at: [www.stroke.org](http://www.stroke.org)

## COUNTY INTRODUCES PULSEPOINT

Imagine you are shopping at King Kullen and you hear sirens in the distance. They get louder and soon you see an ambulance pull into the parking lot. The EMTs rush into the store and down the aisle next to the aisle you are in. A woman is on the floor and her husband is standing next to her not knowing what to do. The EMTs begin CPR and set up an AED. Soon the woman is quickly wheeled out of the store on a stretcher as EMTs continue to administer CPR. You wonder, if you could have made a difference, if you had known about the sudden cardiac arrest. You were only a few steps away and could have started CPR and called for an AED minutes before the ambulance arrived.

Earlier this year, Suffolk County became the first municipality on the East Coast to offer **PulsePoint**, an app available in Apple and Android stores that alerts CPR-trained bystanders to nearby victims of sudden cardiac arrest. An interactive map also directs users to the nearest AED.

As the county dispatcher notifies emergency personnel as usual, the alert is also sent to CPR-trained residents who are in the immediate vicinity of the victim. They can begin life-saving CPR before emergency workers arrive, greatly increasing the chances of a successful outcome.

For more information and to find out how to activate the app on your phone, visit:

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



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

# 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	24
1st Assistant Chief Greg Colonna	Afton Lane	18
2nd Assistant Chief Jamie Magerle	Woodhull Road	18

<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	54	Vincent Capobianco	Merrill Place	6
Walter Sammis	Ketewomoke Drive	51	Donald Tesoriero	Huntington Bay Road	6
Frank Grasso	Homestead Path	46	Joseph Grant	Woodhull Road	4
Roger Ketcham	East Shore Road	46	Kate Kuntz	Youngs Hill Road	4
Dennis Troup	Bayview Drive	44	Henry Waldron	Kroft Court	3
Jerry Conway	Fort Hill Road	43	Michael Conforti	Vineyard Road	3
John Blanda	Courtyard Circle	39	Kevin Kelly	Maple Hill Road	3
Peter Wilbur	Maple Hill Road	38	Stephen Medici	Golf Lane	2
Kurt Martin	Mohawk Street	37	Carolyn Corkett	Melody Lane	2
Peter Magerle	Bass Court	35	Jason Oppenheim	Bay Road	2
Mark Blanda	Courtyard Circle	32	Lucy Oppenheim	Bay Road	2
John Cannon	Bay Road	32	Sara Apgar	Cove Road	2
Craig Lanigan	Bialla Place	30	Brad Gaito	Winchester Lane	2
Douglas Anthonsen	Huntington Bay Road	29	Jessica Kitzen	Huntington Bay Road	2
Paul T. Holly	Warrenton Court	29	Steven Lapp	Heckscher Drive	2
Mike Magerle	Afton Lane	28	Wayne Jenó	Cliftwood Drive	2
Jeff Schondebare	Vineyard Road	27	Daniel Harman	Mill Lane	2
Gerry Conlon	West Shore Road	27	Thomas Scheff	Cleveland Drive	2
John Solano	Cliftwood Drive	27	Alexander Niediola	Vineyard Road	2
Nick Berghela	Walden Place	26	KC Anna	Bay Drive West	2
Mike Mitchell	Lake Drive	25	Robert Cirillo	Inlet Place	2
Larry Northcote	Glades Way	25	Richard Oh	Glades Way	2
Neil Nugent	Bay Drive West	25	Greg Guy	Northwood Circle	2
William Mitchell	Longview Drive	25	Evan Meyers	Woodhollow Lane	2
Joseph DeSimone	Van Buren Drive	23	Eric Ferber	Sea Ridge Court	1
David Willis	Cliftwood Drive	22	Liam Dreusike	Crombie Street	1
Robert Wenk	Cornehlsen Drive	22	Casey Magerle	Bass Court	1
Andy Magerle	O'Hara Place	22	Brent Filippini	Maxwell Court	1
William Peer	Grist Mill Lane	20	Thomas Thurmond	Lowndes Avenue	1
Hugh O'Brien	Bay Drive East	13	Christian Defeo	East Neck Road	1
Ryan Sammis	Cliftwood Drive	12	Michael McDonald	Cider Mill Lane	1
Jesse Sammis	Soundview Road	11	Alex Shoemaker	Maple Hill Road	9 mo.
Robert Kocis	Hildreth Avenue	11	Jayne Ericksen	Abbott Drive	9 mo.
William Eletto	Crestwood Drive	11	Jim Grosso	Abbott Drive	9 mo.
Dominic Spada	Highview Drive	10	Mike Serbanoiu	Hillwood Drive	9 mo.
Erik Weber	Platt Place	9	Mike Skrobela	Old Town Lane	9 mo.
Keith Freda	Crest Road	7	Nina Fleisig	Cove Road	8 mo.
Michael Waring	Grist Mill Lane	6	David Greenblatt	Flower Hill Road	5 mo.
			Lorraine Healy	East Shore Road	3 mo.

The Halesite Volunteer Fire Department has been serving the residents of Halesite since 1901.  
 Our 80 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	Chris Chiusano	Thomas Maguire	John Newell III
Aldo Biondi	Donald Danko	Arthur Messinger	Don Pope
Jim Bradley	Guy Guido	Daniel Messinger	Clement Schryver
James Cody	William Kaiser	William Michta	Robert Waring
			Robert Wilbur

# 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.



## RED LIGHTS & SIRENS



Under NYS Law, when approached (from the front or rear) by an emergency vehicle whose light and siren are activated, the driver of every other vehicle must yield the right of way.

In yielding the right of way, you must drive immediately to the right hand edge or curb of the roadway, parallel to the roadway, and clear of any intersection.

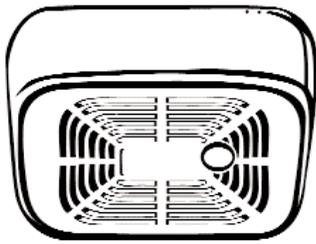
*Over 30 members have joined the Halesite Fire Department during the past four years. Below are comments from one of these new members:*

### BOY, THAT'S NOT WHAT I THOUGHT!

After joining the Halesite Fire Department about two and a half years ago, someone recently asked me if my experience has turned out to be what I expected. Having spent all of my working-life commuting to Manhattan and rubbing elbows with others in the investment banking world, I wasn't really sure what to expect after retiring and coming to Halesite. Like most people who have always just been beneficiaries of Halesite's good work, I guess I thought they were a bunch of guys who had some extra time to devote to their community. Boy, was I wrong.

So let me tell you about the six big surprises I got after joining the Halesite Fire Department:

- Unlike some other local fire departments, Halesite also provides ambulance service with two, well-equipped ambulances and over 30 certified EMTs. They respond to almost 400 ambulance calls every year and act as a backup when other Huntington departments are short-handed.
- I've been astounded by the level of commitment of Halesite members. Remember, every member is an unpaid volunteer, and yet they respond to fire and ambulance calls at all times of the day and night. I've learned it's not easy to jump out of bed at 4:10 A.M. when the alarm goes off because an elderly resident fell on their way to the bathroom and needs an ambulance. What's astounding is that by the time I get to the fire house at about 4:14 A.M. there are already several cars there, some with their blue lights still flashing.
- I was surprised to learn Halesite has many women EMTs, firefighters, and officers. It's not the boys club I expected.
- In addition to the time they devote to fire and ambulance calls, these volunteers are expected to spend several hours each month doing practice drills and training. The course to become an EMT alone requires over a hundred hours of classroom time. In addition, several times each year members go to the Fire Academy in Yaphank to practice their lifesaving skills in buildings with live fire and smoke. Members who are officers go through far more training. They somehow balance the demands of their day jobs, their families and the Halesite FD. I don't know how they do it.
- These people are very professional in their approach to their duties. They come from all walks of life. In addition to a few career FDNY members, we have teachers, accountants, lawyers, insurance executives, college professors, crane operators, homemakers, retirees, truck drivers, grandparents, college students, pilots, and business owners, just to name a few.
- Perhaps because they are united in a common effort and spend so much time together, there is a brotherhood I did not expect. And yet, even as a newcomer, I was welcomed with warm enthusiasm.



## SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES

Smoke detectors save lives, yet thousands of people die each year in homes without smoke detectors. Install smoke detectors in your home - at least one on each floor, and preferably one outside each bedroom. Since smoke and deadly gasses rise, detectors should be placed on the ceiling at least 4" from the nearest wall. This 4" minimum is to keep detectors out of possible "dead air" spaces. Do not install near a window since smoke might be detoured out the window instead of into a detector. Check the unit each month and replace the battery annually. Replace detectors every ten years to assure maximum protection. *Nearly 25% of homes equipped with smoke alarms have alarms that do not work!*

Smoke detectors can save lives, but they need your help.

### If you hear a smoke alarm:

- Leave Immediately!
- Call the Fire Department from a neighbor's house or cell phone.
- Go to your predetermined meeting place outside your home.
- Do not go back inside until a fire Chief says it is OK.

*Nearly two thirds of all home fire deaths occur in properties with no working smoke alarms.*

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## JUST A BUMP... OR A CONCUSSION?

The phone rang while she was changing the baby's diaper on the changing table. When she reached for the phone, she took her eyes off her nine month old for just a second. As she picked up the phone, she looked back at her son and saw him roll, just out of reach, off the side of the table onto the floor. His head hit the floor with a "thud" and he started to scream. She dropped the phone and picked up her son as he began to scream even louder. "How badly is he hurt? Does he have a concussion? How can I tell?"

It may be hard to determine the severity of a head injury. Most often there is nothing to worry about; however, if you observe any of the following signs, medical attention should be sought immediately:

- loss of consciousness
- convulsions
- drowsiness or listlessness
- vomiting
- clear or bloody fluid from the nose, mouth, or ears

For older patients, add the following signs and symptoms:

- dizziness
- confusion
- irritability
- headache
- balance problems
- blurred vision

When in doubt, call for the Halesite Fire Department ambulance.

For more concussion information, visit [www.cdc.gov/concussion](http://www.cdc.gov/concussion)



## BLOOD DRIVE SET FOR AUGUST 22

The Halesite Fire Department will conduct its annual blood drive at the firehouse on Friday, August 22, 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.

## WATCH FIREWORKS, BUT FROM A SAFE DISTANCE!

Each July 4th in the U.S., far more fires are reported than on any other day of the year; and fireworks are the single largest cause of these fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association, nearly 17,800 such fires were reported in 2011. In addition, U.S. hospital emergency rooms typically treat nearly 10,000 patients for fireworks injuries on July 4th. The number one cause of these injuries is from sparklers, which can burn at temperatures up to 1,800 degrees and cause small, but very deep burns from the thousands of projectiles sparklers release.

A relatively new addition to consumer fireworks products is the "Sky Lantern" or "Fire Lantern". It typically consists of rice paper on a bamboo frame with a small candle or fuel cell. The heat from the candle or cell causes the lantern to rise and travel for miles, sometimes starting fires when they eventually land. Some states have banned the use of Sky Lanterns and New York State considers them a violation of its Fire Code.

Have a safe Independence Day. Observe only professional fireworks displays. If you do purchase legal consumer fireworks, be careful, especially around children:

Never have any portion of your body directly over any device when lighting the fuse.

Anyone using sparklers should wear long sleeves, a glove, and protective eyewear.

Have a bucket of water or garden hose nearby for emergencies and for dousing used fireworks

## **“CIGARETTE SPARKED FATAL BLAZE THAT KILLED FOUR”**

This is an actual headline that illustrates the fact that smoking is the leading cause of fire-related deaths. According to the U. S. Fire Administration, every year nearly 1,000 smokers and non-smokers are killed in home fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials; and more than one third of the deaths are children of the smokers. Most of the fires caused by smoking originate in trash or waste; but most of the fatal fires caused by smoking originate in upholstered furniture, mattresses, or bedding.



Smokers should take the following precautions:

- Smoke outside
- Use deep, wide, sturdy ashtrays
- Ensure cigarettes are completely out by dousing them with water
- Do not smoke in a home where medical oxygen is used

**Plus, every home, with or without smokers, should have working smoke detectors.**



### **HOW NOT TO KILL BUGS**

A man, who was pulled from a fire in his Orlando apartment, told authorities that he started the fire, “to burn the bugs in his home and computer.” He was hospitalized and described as a danger to himself and others.

*The Orlando Sentinel, April 8, 2014*

## **WE DO MORE THAN FIGHT FIRE**

The Halesite Fire Department was formed in 1901 after a series of fires caused damage to property in the harbor area. While members formed the department to fight fire, they quickly learned that they would be asked to respond to a variety of alarms such as “rescuing a horse stuck in the mud near the Heckscher Estate”.

Last year we responded to over 500 calls for help with more than half being medical emergencies. Of the over 200 fire calls, there were over 60 automatic fire alarms, most of which were accidental activations and over 45 carbon monoxide detector alarms, caused mostly by low or defective batteries. There were numerous calls for power line issues, brush fires, fallen trees and limbs, motor vehicle accidents, boat fires, car fires, and calls to rescue people from accidents on the water. There have also been unusual calls for help - a pet caught in a storm drain, a python loose in an attic, explosives found in a house.

Most of our calls for help do not involve a serious fire condition, yet we train for the worst case and even the unusual scenarios. Regardless of the nature of the call or the time of day or night, the members of the Halesite Fire Department will respond to your call for help.

**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**

## **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.