



HALESITE F. D. NEWS



Volume 12, Number 1 Hot Line: 427-7250 • Non Emergency Phone: 427-1910 Summer, 2009

FUND DRIVE 2009

The Halesite Fire Department Annual Fund Drive for 2009 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 with an early summer 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.



TAX REDUCTION

We hope you noticed last December that your tax bill showed a reduction in the assessment for the Halesite Fire District. While many taxes are rising, the Halesite Fire Commissioners were able to effect a decrease in your fire tax.



100 YEARS AGO

Despite the efforts of both the Halesite and Huntington Fire Departments, the bowling alley and gym on the estate of August Heckscher in Wincoma were destroyed in this fire on the evening of September 7, 1909.

HANDS-ONLY CPR



The American Heart association recently released a statement that for those who are not trained to perform it, CPR is more effective when done with the hands only. **Mouth-to-mouth is no longer part of CPR for those who have not been trained.** Studies have found that someone on the street is probably not going to perform mouth-to-mouth on a stranger who has just collapsed. CPR in many cases is not being initiated.

Hands-Only CPR is now recommended for witnessed, out of hospital, sudden cardiac arrest - an adult who is unconscious, not breathing, and has no pulse: Steps are:

1. Call 911
2. Push hard and fast (80 to 100 pushes per minute) in the center of the victim's chest.

Hands-Only CPR is not recommended for unresponsive infants or children, for adults whose arrest is from respiratory causes (like near-drowning or drug OD), or for unwitnessed events.

Conventional CPR is still an important skill to know. Until you are trained, Hands-Only CPR will save lives. More information can be found at:

www.americanheart.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Halesite Volunteer Fire Department is one of 109 fire departments in Suffolk County; and our department is comprised entirely of volunteers. In 1997 Halesite F.D. had 86 members to respond to 373 calls for help. At the start of 2009, we had 66 members, and last year we responded to nearly 600 calls.

Like most departments on Long Island, the Halesite F.D. needs members, especially during the daytime hours, when many members are at work away from the district. You do not have to fight fires; you can join to respond to only emergency medical calls. Whether you choose to help with either fire or medical emergencies, we will provide the training. You need to provide only the time for training and the desire to help your neighbors.

Much of the job is not exciting. It can be tiring, dirty work that will take you away from home, parties, and family gatherings. Occasionally, however, you can experience the thrill of helping to save a home from fire or saving a life with your medical training.

Please call the Halesite firehouse at 427-1910 for details.

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



TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON N.Y. AVENUE

You may not have noticed, but there are red traffic stop lights in front of the firehouse that are activated when equipment is leaving **and returning.**

Please be sure to stop when these solid red lights are on. Police have increased enforcement of these signals.



OVER 40 YEARS OF AMBULANCE SERVICE

2009 marks the 42nd year that the Halesite F.D. has provided ambulance service to the residents and businesses within the Halesite Fire District. Since October 12, 1967, ambulance service has been provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The ambulance responded to seven calls in the final 12 weeks of 1967; last year we responded to over 400 ambulance calls. Because of the increase in the number of calls each year, we now have two ambulances available to answer your calls for help.

At least one NYS certified Emergency Medical Technician responds in the ambulance for every call; and usually there are more EMTs responding in their own vehicles. We can provide oxygen, defibrillation, and several other basic emergency medical treatments.

In addition to this Basic Life Support service, Advanced Life Support is now offered between 6:00AM and 6:00PM on weekdays. This is a joint effort with the Centerport Fire Department, and it is offered during the times many volunteers are at work and unable to respond to emergencies within the district.

If you would like to be part of our emergency medical response team, please call the firehouse at 427-1910.



**Halesite Fire Department
Ambulance
427-7250**

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 2008 there were 1,300 total U.S. human cases of West Nile virus reported to the C.D.C., 44 of which were from New York State, including six 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. Mosquitoes pick up the virus when they feed on infected birds. Suffolk County Department of Health encourages residents to report dead crows and blue jays through its hot line: **(631) 853-8405**.

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.

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.

MEMBERS OF THE HALESITE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Department Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Chief Kurt Martin	Mohawk St.	32
1st Assistant Chief Andy Magerle	O'Hara Pl.	17
2nd Assistant Chief Dan McConnell	Winchester La.	19

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
John Newell, Jr.	Glenview Pl.	73	William Mitchell	Longview Dr.	19
Walter Lockwood	Fort Hill Rd.	71	Joseph DeSimone	Van Buren Dr.	18
Harry Hyne, Jr.	Bay Ave.	60	David Willis	Halesite	17
Dennis Magerle	Bay Ave.	50	Robert Wenk	Cornehlson Dr.	17
Donald Pope	Bay Ave.	49	William Peer	Grist Mill La.	15
Walter Sammis	Ketewomoke Dr.	46	Mike Colonna	Vineyard La.	14
Frank Grasso	Homestead Path	41	Greg Colonna	Afton La.	13
Roger Ketcham	East Shore Rd.	41	Tom Waller	Fort Hill Rd.	13
Robert Wilbur	Everett Pl.	40	Jamie Magerle	Woodhull Rd.	13
Dennis Troup	Bayview Dr.	39	Jamie Spear	Johnson St.	13
John Newell, III	McKay Rd.	38	Robert Pavelka	Old Town La.	8
Jerry Conway	Fort Hill Rd.	38	Hugh O'Brien	Bay Drive East	8
John Blanda	Courtyard Circle	34	Jen Pavelka	Old Town La.	8
Donald Danko	Fort Hill Rd.	33	Ryan Sammis	Bantry Ct.	7
Peter Wilbur	Maple Hill Rd.	33	Jesse Sammis	Bantry Ct	6
Peter Magerle	Bass Ct.	30	Robert Kocis	Hildreth Ave.	6
Mark Blanda	Courtyard Circle	27	William Eletto	L'ecluse La.	6
John Cannon	Bay Rd.	27	Dominic Spada	Highview Dr.	5
Craig Lanigan	Bialla Pl.	25	Peter Fredriksen	Bayview Dr.	4
Douglas Anthonson	Huntington Bay Rd.	24	Eric Weber	Platt Pl.	4
Paul T. Holly	Warrington Ct.	24	Kevin Malone	Compass Ct.	3
Mike Magerle	Afton La.	23	James Levine	Soundview Rd.	2
Jeff Schondebare	Halesite	22	Justin Lockwood	Glenview Pl.	2
Gerry Conlon	West Shore Rd.	22	Keith Freda	Crest Rd.	2
John Solano	Cliftwood Dr.	22	Michael Waring	Grist Mill La.	1
Nick Berghela	Walden Pl.	20	Jeremy Boehm	Knollwood Ave.	1
Mike Mitchell	Lake Dr.	20	Zack Conlon	West Shore Rd.	1
Larry Northcote	Glades Way	20	Vincent Capobianco	Merrill Pl.	1
Thomas Maguire	13th St.	20	Alex Pavelka	Old Town Lane	1
Neil Nugent	Bay Drive West	20	John Buser	Flower Hill Rd	1
Chris Chiusano	Oakwood Rd.	20	Matthew Oesch	Saylor Pl.	3 mo
Bob Waring	Grist Mill La.	19			

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

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

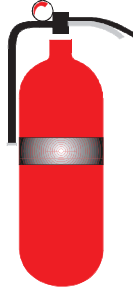
We are all volunteers; none of us is ever paid for responding to an alarm

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.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, ONE FOR EVERY HOME

Every home should at least one fire extinguisher - preferably one for each floor. Different extinguishers put out different types of fires:

- (A) A-rated extinguishers are for wood, paper, trash, and plastic.
- (B) B-rated are for gasoline and grease fires.
- (C) C-rated are for electrical fires.



For best protection, have a multi-purpose ABC-rated extinguisher on each floor of your home. And don't wait until you have a fire to learn how to use it. Know where it is and how it works before you need it.

Remember: A fire extinguisher is no substitute for the fire department. Always call the fire department first, no matter how small you believe the fire to be.

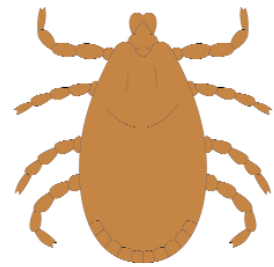
BLOOD DRIVE SET FOR AUGUST 21



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 21, 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.

"The relative risk for people in homes without smoke detectors is 10.4 times that for people in homes with smoke detectors"
- Fire Engineering, May, 2000

FIRST AID FOR TICK BITES



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.

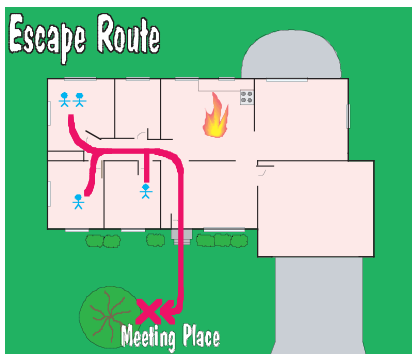
Be alert for any symptoms that appear within two to twelve days:

- 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.

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, or fire hydrant. 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.

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

PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO MAKE YOUR DONATION

FIRST AID KITS

Everyone should have a first aid kit accessible in their home, and the kit should contain at least the following items:

- sterile gauze pads (*assorted sizes*)
- roll of bandage tape
- hydrogen peroxide (*to clean wound*)
- sterile cotton
- antibacterial ointment
- hydrocortisone cream
- sterile eye wash
- adhesive bandages (*assorted sizes*)
- elastic bandage
- aspirin, ibuprofen, acetaminophen
- chemical ice pack (*reduces swelling*)
- scissors
- tweezers
- thermometer
- small flashlight
- first aid manual

All of these items are readily available at your local drug store.



These are minimum suggested contents, and they should be supplemented by items necessary to deal with any specific problems that may be peculiar to your household. Be sure to replace any items that are used, and make sure that all dated items are current.

Also make sure that everyone in your home knows where the first aid kit is kept.

Caution: First aid kits are for minor injuries. For many injuries, prompt medical attention by trained specialists is needed. If you have any doubt about how serious an injury or illness may be, call for the Halesite Fire Department ambulance at:

427-7250



DROWNING

Drowning claims nearly 4000 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 will be 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. Just because resuscitative efforts have been 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.



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.

CARBON MONOXIDE - THE SILENT KILLER

Every year we read about people being found dead, victims of carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is the most commonly encountered and pervasive poison in our environment and is responsible for more deaths in the U.S. than any other poison. Most of these deaths are preventable. CO can be created by gas stoves, ovens, clothes dryer, portable generators, car engines, as well as heating systems and hot water heaters. All appliances should be professionally installed and maintained.

CO poisoning can also occur outdoors. Children have been overcome by CO after holding onto a swim platform or swimming near the stern of a boat when the boat's engine is running. This "Teak Surfing" claims lives every year

CO is extremely dangerous because it is odorless, colorless, and tasteless; and early symptoms of poisoning, which are similar to those of the flu, may not be noticed. Symptoms can include dizziness, headache, nausea, mental confusion and can be misdiagnosed as migraine headache, stroke, or food poisoning.

Every home should have at least one CO detector. Install it near the bedroom or other room where people spend much of their time and where the alarm can be heard.

If it activates, call us.



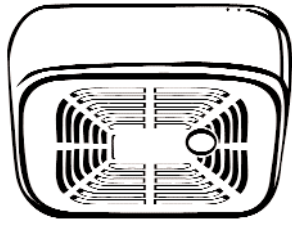
TO CONTACT THE HALESITE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN A FIRE OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY

DIAL

427-7250,

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

BE AS PRECISE AS POSSIBLE.



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. Don't forget to install one in your garage, especially if it is attached to your house. 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 it 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 work, but they need your help.

If you hear a smoke alarm:

- Leave immediately, *closing doors behind you!*
- 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 officer says it is OK.



KNOW THE SOUND DETECTORS MAKE

Everyone in your home and place of work should know what sound your smoke and CO detectors make. If the sound is heard, everyone should evacuate; and then the fire department should be contacted.

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.



DON'T FEAR FIRE- FIGHTERS IN GEAR



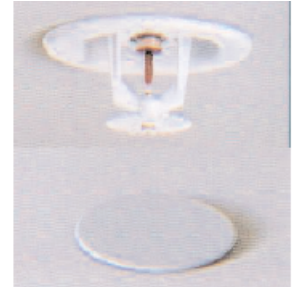
With turnout gear, breathing apparatus, and tools, firefighters working a fire scene can look scary, especially to young children. Be sure to tell children not to hide from firefighters. We are there to rescue people and extinguish the fire.

FIREFIGHTER GEAR

Before entering a burning building, a firefighter will usually have the following that will add about 70 pounds to his or her weight:

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

HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS



Home fire sprinklers protect your home 24/7 whether you are home or away from home. In contrast to smoke detectors, sprinklers are activated by heat, not smoke, cooking vapors, or steam. Only the high temperature of a fire will activate the sprinkler, and only the sprinkler exposed to the heat, not the entire system, will activate. The amount of water needed to contain a fire at this early stage is a fraction of the amount needed from a fire hose, if the fire is allowed to develop for even the few minutes it will take for the fire department to arrive.

For more information go to:

HomeFireSprinkler.org
NFPA.org



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.

FOR FIRE OR MEDICAL
EMERGENCY, DIAL

427-7250

FOR POLICE EMERGENCY
DIAL 911