



HALESITE F. D. SIREN



Volume 20 Number 1 Hot Line: 427-7250 • Non Emergency Phone: 427-1910 Summer, 2017

FUND DRIVE 2017



BE SMART. DON'T START.



The Halesite Fire Department Annual Fund Drive for 2017 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.



BLOOD DRIVE SET FOR AUGUST 17



The Halesite Fire Department will conduct our annual summer blood drive on Thursday, August 17. Donating takes only about one hour, and steak dinners will be served. Give the gift of life this summer.

Lately it seems, you can't watch local news without hearing about the "Drug Epidemic" that is plaguing Long Island. We've all heard the stories of heart-broken families who are trying to carry on after the loss of a loved one; but it always hits especially hard when we hear that the person who has been lost to drug abuse is a young adult. It was an incident just like this that brought 2nd Assistant Chief Dominic Spada to the realization that the Fire Department could be a tool to educate teens and their parents about the dangers associated with even the most casual drug and alcohol use. After responding to an untold number of drug and alcohol related alarms as an EMT and Fire Chief, he created "Be Smart. Don't Start." His hope was to bring families together by sparking a conversation about the dangers of drug and alcohol use and how it affects the community as a whole, not just the individual who is addicted.

By partnering up with the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD), the discussions include how drug and alcohol use may begin and how parents can recognize signs and changes in their children before they are too far down the path of addiction. Chief Spada, along with Halesite firefighters and EMTs share first hand insight from emergencies they have responded to, and how our own lives have been affected from the abundance of drug and alcohol related emergencies. The Huntington Bay Police Department is also involved to give information about the legal ramifications and consequences of underaged drinking and drug use or possession.

In addition to the professional presenters, parents who have lost their children to drug and alcohol addiction will discuss the ongoing effects it has had on their families, and offer insight to other parents to help keep their own children from becoming addicted. There is also personal insight from recovering addicts who have faced their addictions and have fought back to share their stories of hope and recovery. The presentations are geared toward Middle School and early High School students and their parents. Look for our next "Prevention before Intervention" night to be scheduled in September, as our kids head back to school.



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.

TO CONTACT THE HALESITE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN A FIRE OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY DIAL (631) 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 HILLS COURT, BAY PAT COURT, BAY PLACE, BAY ROAD

35 YEARS AGO

On Saturday morning, March 20, 1982, the town's early morning quiet ended when fire broke out at **Hamburger Choo Choo**. When a cook at the iconic Main Street luncheonette fired up the grill, grease was ignited. The grill's automatic fire extinguishing system could not contain the fire which quickly spread to the wooden wall behind the grill, up into the space between beams, and to three adjoining stores - Buster Brown Shoes, Cards Etcetera, and Sweet Temptation candy store.

Halesite Fire Department volunteers were called to assist Huntington Fire Department at the fire that was not under control until noon. The Long-Islander reported that "the wood frame construction of the buildings, estimated to have been built in the middle of the last century, contributed to the speedy spread of the fire."



SOLAR PANELS

The use of solar panels in the Halesite Fire District is increasing. While there are benefits to homeowners, the panels create new risks to firefighters. Even with the main meter pulled and breakers shut off, dangerous voltage can be present, especially when the sun is shining. Plus when they are covered with snow, panels can create significant slip and trip hazards.

At a fire scene, we often have to cut a hole in the roof to let smoke and poison gasses escape. Since solar panels can remain charged, we cannot step on or cut them; we must look for alternative sites for ventilation.

If you have solar panels on your home or business, please call us at (631) 427-1910 and let us know. We can add this important information to our dispatch system and plan our fire attack options before a fire strikes.

There are approximately 1,160,000 firefighters in the United States. 70% are volunteers.

CAN YOU ESCAPE?



It's 2:00AM and you have been awakened by the smoke alarms in your hallway. You smell smoke and see a light haze banking down from your ceiling. Time to wake the kids and get us all down the stairs and out the front door. As you start down the stairs, you see flames at the foot of the stairway engulfing furniture and drapes across the main floor. You can't get down the stairs, you can't reach the main floor, you can't get out of the house through the front door! You do not know, if anyone has seen the fire or called the fire department. The flames are working their way up the stairs and it is getting harder to see and harder to breathe. Survival may depend upon your how well you and your family have planned and practiced for an escape from fire.

What to do, if escape through your front door is not an option?

Close all doors behind you.

If you have to escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke.

Plan ways for family members to get out of the second floor, if stairs are not an option.

Show children how escape on their own, if you can't help them.

Everyone should know where to meet once they are out of the house to make sure all family members are accounted for.

Make sure everyone knows to never to go back into the burning building.

For more fire safety information, visit www.nfpa.org

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

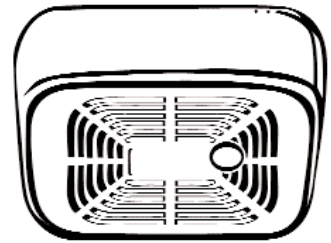
"Five Perish in Fire at Queens Home"

In a 2:30AM fire in April five people, ages two to twenty, died in the fast moving fire. Flames were burning intensely when firefighters arrived only four minutes after the call was received. Investigators found no smoke alarms in the home.

"Seven Saved from House Fire"

In the same month, parents and their seven children got out safely from their burning home, thanks to working smoke alarms. The fire caused \$350,000 worth of damage to their home, but there were no injuries to the family.

What made the difference in these two recent fires? **Smoke Alarms!**



In a recent study almost two-thirds of home fire deaths occurred in homes with no smoke alarms.

Smoke Alarm Basics

- Every bedroom needs a smoke alarm.
- Smoke alarms should be tested at least every month.
- Change alarm batteries every year, (unless you have a newer alarm with a battery with a 10 year life).
- Replace alarms every 10 years.
- Teach children what an alarm sounds like.

Close Your Bedroom Door

Closed doors can hold back heat, smoke, and flames.

Closed doors keep more oxygen in the room.

Closed doors can give you more time to react when an alarm sounds.

Department Members

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Address</u> | <u>Years of Service</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Chief Greg Colonna | Afton Lane | 21 |
| 1st Assistant Chief Jamie Magerle | Woodhull Road | 21 |
| 2nd Assistant Chief Dominic Spada | Highview Drive | 13 |

| <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 | 57 | Keith Freda | Crest Road | 10 |
| Walter Sammis | Ketewomoke Drive | 54 | Vincent Capobianco | Merrill Place | 9 |
| Frank Grasso | Homestead Path | 49 | Donald Tesoriero | Huntington Bay Road | 8 |
| Roger Ketcham | East Shore Road | 49 | Kate Deegan | Youngs Hill Road | 7 |
| Dennis Troup | Bayview Drive | 48 | Henry Waldron | Kroft Court | 6 |
| Jerry Conway | Fort Hill Road | 46 | Michael Conforti | Vineyard Road | 6 |
| John Blanda | Courtyard Circle | 42 | Kevin Kelly | Maple Hill Road | 6 |
| Peter Wilbur | Maple Hill Road | 41 | Stephen Medici | Golf Lane | 5 |
| Kurt Martin | Mohawk Street | 40 | Jason Oppenheim | Vineyard Road | 5 |
| Peter Magerle | Bass Court | 38 | Brad Gaito | Winchester Lane | 5 |
| Mark Blanda | Courtyard Circle | 35 | Jessica Kitzen | Huntington Bay Road | 5 |
| John Cannon | Bay Road | 35 | Steven Lapp | Taylor Road | 5 |
| Craig Lanigan | Bialla Place | 33 | Daniel Harman | Mill Lane | 5 |
| Douglas Anthonson | Huntington Bay Road | 32 | Thomas Scheff | Cleveland Drive | 5 |
| Paul T. Holly | Warrenton Court | 32 | Alexander Niedziela | Vineyard Road | 5 |
| Mike Magerle | Afton Lane | 31 | KC Anna | Bay Drive West | 5 |
| Jeff Schondebare | Vineyard Road | 30 | Robert Cirillo | Inlet Place | 5 |
| Gerry Conlon | West Shore Road | 30 | Richard Oh | Glades Way | 5 |
| John Solano | Cliftwood Drive | 30 | Liam Dreusike | Crombie Street | 4 |
| Nick Berghela | Walden Place | 29 | Casey Magerle | Bass Court | 4 |
| Dan McConnell | Winchester Lane | 28 | Alex Shoemaker | Maple Hill Road | 3 |
| Mike Mitchell | Lake Drive | 28 | Jayne Ericksen | Abbott Drive | 3 |
| Larry Northcote | Glades Way | 28 | Dave Skrobela | Old Town Lane | 3 |
| Neil Nugent | Bay Drive West | 28 | Nina Fleisig | Cove Road | 3 |
| Joseph DeSimone | Van Buren Drive | 26 | Lorraine Healy | East Shore Road | 3 |
| David Willis | Cliftwood Drive | 25 | James Costanzo | Crescent Drive | 3 |
| Robert Wenk | Cornehlsen Drive | 25 | Justin Chermak | Elm Street | 3 |
| Andy Magerle | O'Hara Place | 25 | Karlton Nurnberger | Wall Street | 2 |
| William Peer | Grist Mill Lane | 23 | Peter Magerle, Jr. | Bass Court | 2 |
| Hugh O'Brien | Bay Drive East | 16 | John Pettit | Corlett Place | 2 |
| Ryan Sammis | Cliftwood Drive | 15 | Marc Solomowitz | Harborcrest Court | 2 |
| Jesse Sammis | Soundview Road | 14 | William Trembley | Sedgewick Street | 1 |
| Robert Kocis | Hildreth Avenue | 14 | Michael Koper | Vale Drive | 6 mos. |
| William Eletto | Burt Avenue | 14 | David Deweth | Youngs Hill Road | 4 mos. |
| Erik Weber | Platt Place | 12 | Michael McGinniss | Preston Street | 1 mo. |

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

Our 73 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 Mitchell | Robert Wilbur |
| Jim Bradley | William Kaiser | John Newell III | |
| James Cody | Thomas Maguire | Don Pope | |
| Chris Chiusano | Arthur Messinger | Clement Schryver | |

“HEY, MOM! WHAT’S WRONG?”

She was sitting in her chair watching TV when I went to get some tea for her. When I returned, she appeared to have zoned out, as she watched her favorite game show. She stared blankly at the TV and could not reach for the tea I had prepared. One side of her face seemed to droop and she was not answering me. As I looked closely, I could see her pupils looked strange – one was much bigger than the other. She was fine two minutes ago; what was happening?

What was happening was a stroke, sometimes called a brain attack. Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in America and a leading cause of adult disability. It occurs when a clot blocks the blood supply to the brain or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts. Most common signs and symptoms are:

- sudden weakness or numbness of the face, arm, or leg
- sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding others
- sudden trouble seeing with one or both eyes
- sudden dizziness, trouble walking, or loss of balance or coordination
- sudden severe headache with no known cause



Call us immediately, if you or someone else has any of these symptoms.

If you think someone may be having a stroke, act **F.A.S.T.**:

- F** Face: Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?
- A** Arms: Ask the person to raise both arms straight out in front.
Does one arm drift downward?
- S** Speech: Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase.
Is the speech slurred or strange?
- T** Time: If you see **any** of these signs, call 9-1-1 right away.

Note the time when any symptoms first appear. Early treatment, including new blood clot-dissolving drugs, can prevent disability and death - **but only if given in the first three hours of the onset of stroke symptoms.** This early treatment is available at Huntington Hospital, which has been designated as a NYS Stroke Center. For more stroke information, visit www.stroke.org

T. I. A. (MINI-STROKE)

Mini-Stroke refers to a Transient Ischemic Attack, a temporary interruption of blood flow to part of the brain that destroys no brain cells and causes no permanent disability. The symptoms of a TIA are similar to those of a stroke but are usually resolved within a few minutes.

A TIA is a warning sign and increases your risk of a subsequent stroke. About one third of TIA sufferers will have a stroke within the following 12 months. For this reason, it is important to recognize a TIA and to seek immediate medical attention.

A TIA is both a warning and an opportunity - a warning of an impending stroke and an opportunity to take steps to prevent one from happening.



50 YEARS OF AMBULANCE SERVICE

2017 marks the 50th 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; in recent years, annual calls have exceeded 400. Because of the increase in the number of calls each year, we have two ambulances available to answer your calls for help.

We are now assisted by trained paramedics who can provide a higher level of emergency medical care, including drugs that are not available to basic EMTs. This is a joint program with Centerport F.D. and the cost is shared by both districts. The medic is stationed at the Centerport firehouse and responds to emergency medical calls within both districts at half the cost incurred by other fire districts.



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.)
- emergency contact
- 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.

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."

HALESITE F.D. JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

After 30 years of dormancy, the Halesite Juniors program has been full speed ahead since it was reestablished by Lt. KC Anna in January of 2015. The program began with 30 members, and has been growing in membership ever since. It currently stands with almost 50 members and we are always looking to add to our ranks. Applications are accepted year-round, but new members are sworn in only at the July and January meetings.

The program is intended to allow teenagers the opportunity to gain technical and life skills not otherwise available to them. Participants will develop and build teamwork, leadership, confidence, responsibility, and the ability to stay calm in an emergency situation. These skills will be developed through training drills, coaching, the example set by senior members, and other Department and program activities. The Junior Crabbers host fundraisers, march in parades and compete in drill team events across the island. We have racked up several trophies from parades and competitions. The structure is set up to resemble the actual Department in that we have a Captain and Lieutenant to run the meetings; we also have committees for categories including fitness, activities and events planning, Drill Team, and Quartermaster. Each member is asked to be on a committee to further involve them in the camaraderie of the program.



After recognizing that the Junior Firefighter's program was rapidly expanding, the Halesite Fire Department approved a by-law change to allow Junior members to join at 17 years of age; providing they had paid their dues as a Junior in good standing for at least two years. This is a major change; normally, applicants to the Fire Department must be 18 years of age. This change allows Junior Firefighters to join the Department and gain some additional experience before heading off to college, once they graduate High School.

Whether it's practicing hydrants and hose lays, learning CPR, or more broad reaching ideas like project planning and situational awareness, the Halesite Junior Firefighter program is not only teaching our community members how to be the next generation of life savers, but it's giving them the underlying knowledge to be better prepared for whatever their future has to offer.

Anyone who is looking for more information about joining the Halesite Junior Firefighters, should visit our website, <http://halesitefd.org/juniors/> or email us at juniors@halesitefd.org

FIRE SAFETY SITES

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

Halesite Fire Department
Fire / Ambulance

(631) 427-7250

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, fireworks cause nearly 18,500 fires annually. 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 sparklers, which can burn at temperatures up to 2,000 degrees and cause small, but very deep burns from the thousands of projectiles sparklers release.

Most common injuries are to hands and fingers (36%); eyes (19%), and head/face/ears (19%). 35% of the injured are under the age of 15.

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

More Fireworks Safety information is available at: www.cpsc.gov

HOVERBOARD LINKED TO FATAL FIRE

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Board believes the Harrisburg, PA, house fire that killed two children in March was caused by a faulty hoverboard. This was one of 60 cases of hoverboard fires that the agency has investigated since 2015. The device's rechargeable lithium-ion batteries contain a potentially flammable solution that can explode, if damaged or defective. Some have exploded as they were charging; but others have caught fire while they were being ridden and even while not in use. More than 500,000 hoverboards have been recalled and major airlines have banned them, because of the fire risk.

Make sure that all of your electronic devices have a UL-certified safe label.



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 Fire Sprinkler information go to:

HomeFireSprinkler.org
NFPA.org

HALESITE F.D. DISPATCH SYSTEM

The Halesite Fire Department usually receives notification of a fire or medical emergency via telephone, either from an individual reporting the alarm directly or from Suffolk County's 911 emergency dispatch system. There is a dispatcher, an employee of the Halesite Fire District, in the firehouse, 24/7, ready to receive the call.

When the dispatcher obtains all the necessary information, he activates pagers that all members have and provides a recorded message with the details of the alarm. He also sends a text message to members with cell phones, and he activates the siren on top of the firehouse.

As he dispatches the alarm, he accesses on the department computer the pertinent information about the location of the alarm (cross streets, hydrant locations) as well as details about the house (including utility service locations) and occupants (medical issues or disabilities). Any information that we have received from residents that might help responders deal with an emergency is in the dispatch system.

The dispatcher also monitors the progress of the alarm and requests any additional resources – police, help from neighboring departments, fire marshall, utility rep, arson squad, medevac, etc.– that the chief calls for.

If there is anything about your home or office that could help HFD members deal with a fire or medical emergency there, please mail the information to us or drop it off at the firehouse.

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.