



# HALESITE F. D. SIREN



Volume 19 Number 1 Hot Line: 427-7250 • Non Emergency Phone: 427-1910 Summer, 2016

## FUND DRIVE 2016

The Halesite Fire Department Annual Fund Drive for 2016 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 18



The Halesite Fire Department will conduct our annual summer blood drive on Thursday, August 18. Donating takes only about one hour, and steak dinners will be served. Give the gift of life this summer.

## HOW FIRE SAFE IS YOUR CHILD'S COLLEGE HOUSING?

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that in the past five years 126 people have died in 89 fires on college campus (9 deaths), in Greek housing (10 deaths), or in off-campus housing (107 deaths). Significant contributing factors were:

- missing / disabled smoke alarms
- cigarettes
- alcohol

Questions to ask about your student's housing:

*Are there working smoke alarms in each bedroom, on each building level, and in each area of public assembly?*

*Are there at least two ways out of each room and building?*

*Do upper levels have at least two stairways or a fire escape?*

*Are exit signs clearly marked in hallways?*

*Are there enough electrical outlets for all appliances/electronics without the need for extension cords?*

*Are there sprinkler systems and/or fire alarms and do they send a signal to the local fire department and/or campus security?*

*Is the building address clearly posted so emergency personnel can quickly find it?*

More information is available at the **Campus and Dorm Safety** tab at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

A short, informative video is at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XF21V5YpZk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XF21V5YpZk)

There are approximately 1,100,000 firefighters in the United States, and about 756,000 (69%) are volunteers.

## NEW CHIEF FOR HALESITE F.D.

On January 1, 2016, Greg Colonna became the 46th Chief of the Halesite Fire Department. Greg joined the department in 1995 and has held various leadership positions including Captain of the Engine Company and Lieutenant of the Rescue Squad. He has completed numerous firefighting and emergency medical courses and has risen from Second Assistant Chief in 2010 and First Assistant Chief in 2013.

Greg will be assisted by First Assistant Chief Jamie Magerle and Second Assistant Chief Dom Spada.



## HALESITE F.D. PARAMEDIC NOW AVAILABLE 24 / 7

In January Halesite F. D. extended paramedic coverage to 24/7. Since 1968, we have offered emergency medical assistance with members trained as EMTs. 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 Fire Department  
Fire / Ambulance  
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## 25 YEARS AGO

On May 16, 1991, a fire broke out in McCrory's Department Store at the Walt Whitman Mall. At about 8:30PM, a cigarette was flicked into an area of artificial flowers and wicker furniture. The flames and smoke quickly spread throughout the store and into the mall. The intense flames soon caused the store's roof to collapse and the fire spread to six additional stores. Over 200 firefighters from 15 fire departments, including Halesite volunteers, were called to fight the blaze. Before it was extinguished, the fire killed two employees and sent 29 people to nearby hospitals.

Fire investigators later ruled that the fire was intentionally set and an employee was charged with arson.



## H.F.D. JUNIORS

After being dormant since the 80's, the Halesite Fire Department's Junior Firefighter program was resurrected a little over a year ago with an initial founding class of 30 members. Within a short period of time we now have over 50 members. The program is a unique organization specifically designed for kids in grades 7 - 12. Through the guidance of certified Program Advisors, we are learning skills such as teamwork, leadership, confidence, responsibility and the ability to stay calm in an emergency situation.

Some of our past year's highlights have been the opportunity to observe the Halesite Fire Department participate in a "Class A" Fire Drill at the Suffolk County Fire Academy in Yaphank, NY. The "Class A" Fire Drill is a simulated fire of a residential building. We also visited the Huntington Harbor Master and Bay Constable to discuss water safety and view two of the 4 boats in service. Other highlights included our guest speaker during our First Annual Installation Dinner, FDNY Firefighter, Ironman and Marathoner Matt Long, our participation in various parades, drills (such as search and rescue, SCBA, and ladders operations), and fund raising with events like our Juniors Car Wash. It has been a busy year for us.  
Morgan Oh, Junior Firefighter

## HOW SAFE IS YOUR MEDICINE CABINET?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Protection, 80% of visits to an emergency department by children under 12 years old are due to unsupervised children taking medications on their own; and one third of visits involve over the counter medications.

In addition a major factor in teen drug abuse is the availability of prescriptions in the family medicine cabinet. Kids will grab a one or two pills from several prescriptions in the cabinet. They believe parents will not miss a couple of pills and then kids take them to "pharma parties", where they mix and share them with friends. Individual pills can be harmful, but these combinations can be especially dangerous. Pills are also taken from medicine cabinets by teens, while they are visiting friends and family. The US Drug Enforcement Agency reports that teens generally get their prescription drugs from friends or family; and that 70% of 12th graders said they were given the drugs by a friend or relative.

You should store medications - prescription and OTC - out of sight or consider locking them in a secure location

Monitor pill usage to make it easier to spot missing pills.

Safely dispose of old or unused meds.

**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 HILLS COURT, BAY PATH COURT, BAY PLACE, BAY ROAD**

## WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON?

An 80 year old woman on a July afternoon bus tour complains of dizziness, weakness, and thirst.

A 16 year old male at the second day of August pre-season football practice complains of severe muscle cramps and a headache.

An 18 month old male has had diarrhea and has been vomiting for two days. Mom reports that her son has not been able to keep down food or even water, and appears weak and tired.

These three, widely different patients could have one common link - dehydration. Dehydration occurs when your body does not have enough water to function properly. This can be from too little fluid intake or too much fluid loss. For example:

- Not wanting to drink water or other fluids
- Strenuous physical activity, especially in hot, humid weather
- Illness that causes vomiting or diarrhea
- Certain medications, such as "water pills"
- Medical conditions, such as diabetes

Symptoms will vary depending on dehydration severity. Early signs include thirst, increased but weak pulse, fatigue, and cool clammy skin. Severe dehydration can cause altered mental status, loss of consciousness, and dry, hot skin.

Rest, discontinuing physical activity, and getting to a cool, shaded area can help reduce dehydration issues.

Early dehydration can be reversed with increased fluid intake (avoid alcohol, coffee, and soft drinks). Drink slowly. If fluids cannot be kept down, they may have to be administered at an Emergency Department.

Untreated dehydration can lead to permanent brain damage, seizures, and death. Learn dehydration signs and symptoms and how to treat them.

## Department Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Chief Greg Colonna	Afton Lane	20
1st Assistant Chief Jamie Magerle	Woodhull Road	20
2nd Assistant Chief Dominic Spada	Highview Drive	12

<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	56	Vincent Capobianco	Merrill Place	8
Walter Sammis	Ketewomoke Drive	53	Donald Tesoriero	Huntington Bay Road	7
Frank Grasso	Homestead Path	48	Kate Kuntz	Youngs Hill Road	6
Roger Ketcham	East Shore Road	48	Henry Waldron	Kroft Court	5
Dennis Troup	Bayview Drive	47	Michael Conforti	Vineyard Road	5
Jerry Conway	Fort Hill Road	45	Kevin Kelly	Maple Hill Road	5
John Blanda	Courtyard Circle	41	Stephen Medici	Golf Lane	4
Peter Wilbur	Maple Hill Road	40	Jason Oppenheim	Vineyard Road	4
Kurt Martin	Mohawk Street	39	Lucy Oppenheim	Vineyard Road	4
Peter Magerle	Bass Court	37	Brad Gaito	Winchester Lane	4
Mark Blanda	Courtyard Circle	34	Jessica Kitzen	Huntington Bay Road	4
John Cannon	Bay Road	34	Steven Lapp	Taylor Road	4
Craig Lanigan	Bialla Place	32	Wayne Jen0	Cliftwood Drive	4
Douglas Anthonson	Huntington Bay Road	31	Daniel Harman	Mill Lane	4
Paul T. Holly	Warrenton Court	31	Thomas Scheff	Cleveland Drive	4
Mike Magerle	Afton Lane	30	Alexander Niedziela	Vineyard Road	4
Jeff Schondebare	Vineyard Road	29	KC Anna	Bay Drive West	4
Gerry Conlon	West Shore Road	29	Robert Cirillo	Inlet Place	4
John Solano	Cliftwood Drive	29	Richard Oh	Glades Way	4
Nick Berghela	Walden Place	28	Greg Guy	Northwood Circle	4
Dan McConnell	Winchester Lane	27	Eric Ferber	Sea Ridge Court	3
Mike Mitchell	Lake Drive	27	Liam Dreusike	Crombie Street	3
Larry Northcote	Glades Way	27	Casey Magerle	Bass Court	3
Neil Nugent	Bay Drive West	27	Alex Shoemaker	Maple Hill Road	2
Joseph DeSimone	Van Buren Drive	25	Jayne Ericksen	Abbott Drive	2
David Willis	Cliftwood Drive	24	Dave Skrobela	Old Town Lane	2
Robert Wenk	Cornehlsen Drive	24	Nina Fleisig	Cove Road	2
Andy Magerle	O'Hara Place	24	Lorraine Healy	East Shore Road	2
William Peer	Grist Mill Lane	22	Tom Hardart	Maple Hill Road	2
Hugh O'Brien	Bay Drive East	15	James Costanzo	Crescent Drive	2
Ryan Sammis	Cliftwood Drive	14	Justin Chermak	Elm Street	2
Jesse Sammis	Soundview Road	13	Betty Wood	Soundview Drive	2
Robert Kocis	Hildreth Avenue	13	Peter Magerle, Jr.	Bass Court	1
William Eletto	Burt Avenue	13	John Pettit	Corlett Place	11 mos.
Erik Weber	Platt Place	11	Marc Solomowitz	Harborcrest Court	7 mos.
Keith Freda	Crest Road	9			

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

Our 74 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	Clement Schryver
Aldo Biondi	Guy Guido	William Michta	Robert Waring
Jim Bradley	William Kaiser	William Mitchell	Robert Wilbur
James Cody	Thomas Maguire	John Newell III	
Chris Chiusano	Arthur Messinger	Don Pope	



## HELP CAN BE JUST A BUTTON PUSH AWAY

Barbara has lived alone since her husband died a few years ago. Her son visits occasionally; but he commutes to his job in NYC and has a wife and three children, who take up most of his free time. Eventually Barbara adjusted to being by herself in her house. Her independence is important to her and she does not want to be a bother to anyone.

Late one afternoon, she was walking back from the mailbox with the day's mail. She closed the front door and was glancing at the stack of bills, when she tripped over her cat, Queenie. She fell hard, hitting her head on to the wood floor. When she awoke, it was dark outside. Her head was throbbing; and, as she tried to get up, she felt intense pain in her left hip. The slightest movement brought tears to her eyes from the pain.

She was alone and no one was expected until maybe the next day. It would be Saturday and her son occasionally stopped by with one of his daughters after a soccer game. She could not move, could not reach a telephone, could not eat, or get to the bathroom. There was nothing she could do but wait and hope that her hip injury and the blow to her head were not getting worse with internal bleeding.

As the hours passed, the pain and lying on the cold floor eventually sent her into shock; she passed out.

When she awoke, it was Saturday afternoon and she was in the local hospital emergency department. Her son had found her unconscious, pale, and cold to the touch. He had called for the fire department ambulance that took her to the hospital.

She was grateful that her son had found her; although she realized how much worse the situation could have been, if he had not stopped by. She was lucky this time, but what about the next time she had a medical emergency. She might not survive for long with an untreated medical issue.

During rehab for her broken hip, Barbara was told about medical alert systems. With a small device worn on her wrist or around her neck, she would always be only a button push away from help. Medical personnel would be at her side within minutes.

If you (or a family member) live alone, even for part of a day, a medical alert system can make a difference between an injury and life threatening injury.

### ◆◆◆ HOW NOT TO KILL WEEDS

In April, an Everson, WA., man used a blowtorch to kill weeds in a flowerbed near his 120 year old, two story house. "It kills better; they do not come back for years." Unfortunately, the fire spread to his house. Half the house was destroyed and the other half suffered smoke damage.

### ◆◆◆ 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.

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

Stroke is the #5 cause of death in the United States and a leading cause of disability. It happens when a blood vessel in the brain becomes blocked (ischemic stroke) or ruptures (hemorrhagic stroke). Over 85% of strokes are ischemic.

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

- numbness or weakness of one side of the face or body
- severe headache
- trouble with speech of vision
- dizziness or vertigo
- confusion



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 is 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**. This early treatment is available at Huntington Hospital, which has been designated as a NYS Stroke Center.

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## 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.

### Life Facts Information Card

We are providing the form below for you to complete and carry with you. A copy should also be placed on your refrigerator, where first responders are trained to look for medical information. Remember, in a medical emergency, you might not be able to verbally provide this information.

<b>Name:</b> _____
<b>Address:</b> _____
<b>City:</b> _____ <b>State:</b> _____ <b>ZIP:</b> _____
<b>Date of Birth:</b> _____ <b>Blood Type:</b> _____
<b>Allergies to Medications:</b> _____
_____
<b>Current Medications:</b> _____
_____
<b>Medical History:</b> _____
_____
_____

## NARCAN SAVES LIVES

Over 100 deaths annually in Suffolk County during the past two years have been attributed to heroin overdose. Over 80% of the victims have been white males in their 20s or 30s. Newsday recently reported that Suffolk County had more heroin-related overdose deaths than any other county in the state. Nationally drug ODs are now the leading cause of injury death, surpassing motor vehicle crashes.

When someone ODs on an opioid (such as heroin, morphine, oxycodone, fentanyl), the drug causes breathing to slow and eventually stop, leading to death, if there is no medical intervention. Narcan can immediately reverse the effects of opioid overdose, but it must be administered quickly before respiratory arrest leads to cardiac arrest. In Suffolk County each year, Narcan has been administered over 750 times preventing the opioid death toll from rising even further. Beginning in 2014, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) with the Halesite Fire Department have been trained to administer Intranasal Noxalone (Narcan), and the training program has allowed our EMTs to save lives.

Recently the program has been expanded beyond police and emergency medical responders. Narcan is now available at local pharmacies without a prescription for lay people who may have family members or friends with opioid issues. Insurance companies may help cover the cost.

More information, including OD signs & symptoms and Narcan training sessions are available at [www.suffolk-county.gov/substanceabuse](http://www.suffolk-county.gov/substanceabuse).

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## AUTOMATIC ALARMS WHEN YOU ARE OUT

The alarm phone rings at the Halesite Firehouse. ADT is calling to report an automatic fire alarm has been activated at your house. The dispatcher alerts Halesite volunteers via cell phone text, voice pager, and fire siren. Within minutes a chief officer arrives and begins a 360 degree walk around the outside of your home. Within the next couple of minutes, the first fire engines arrive and members begin to prepare to attack a possible fire. Unfortunately no one is home, the house is locked, and no access is found. While no smoke is visible, a fire could be spreading throughout the basement, and in some older houses fire could be spreading from the basement into the attic, with no visible smoke on the main floor.

The Chief orders members to break in through the front door and search the house. No fire, only a faulty smoke detector, is found. While the door was not destroyed, it was damaged and will need to be repaired.

What could have been done to avoid the damage? One possibility is for the alarm company to have one or two of your neighbors (with keys to your house) on the emergency contact list.

Another option is to have your cell phone number on file at the firehouse. You can be contacted by our dispatcher and you can tell him where a house key may be hidden outside your house.

A third option is a Knox-Box. With a Knox-Box system, the fire department has access to a secure box mounted on or near your property entrance. Inside the box is a house key that opens the front door. Medical information can also be stored inside the box. Access to the box is controlled by the fire department dispatcher and an audit trail is electronically maintained. For more information and to sign up for a Knox-Box system, go to:

[www.knoxbox.com](http://www.knoxbox.com)

## MAKE YOUR HOUSE FALL SAFE

According to the CDC, nearly 45% of Emergency Department visits by patients aged 65 and older are related to falls. Falls are also the most common cause of traumatic brain injuries.

There are many reasons people fall; some are vision problems, medical conditions, medications, poor footwear, and home hazards. One of these contributing factors that can easily be addressed is home fall hazards:

Remove clutter and tripping hazards  
Have good lighting, especially on stairs

Place railings on all stairways  
Keep stairs free from clutter  
Add grab bars in the bathroom  
Remove or secure throw rugs

## 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.

## 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.



## VOLUNTEER FIRE- FIGHTERS SAVE NY TAXPAYERS MORE THAN \$3 BILLION

A report issued in February by the Firemen's Ass'n of NY State concluded that volunteer firefighters save taxpayers \$3.7 billion annually. This would be the cost of an all-career service. Property taxes would have to rise an average of 26% to replace NYS's volunteers.

## Life Facts Information Card

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contacts:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Family MD: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_