



# HALESITE F. D. SIREN



Volume 16, Number 1 Hot Line: 427-7250 • Non Emergency Phone: 427-1910 Summer, 2013

## FUND DRIVE 2013

The Halesite Fire Department Annual Fund Drive for 2013 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.**



## 75 YEARS AGO

In July, 1938, a stove exploded on board the sloop "Heydey" that was moored near the Huntington Yacht Club, sending two victims to the hospital. The resultant fire quickly spread, forcing both mariners to jump overboard and swim for shore. *"An alarm was sounded and quickly responded to by the Halesite Fire Department under Chief Hewlett Johnson. The boat was cut loose from the moorings and beached just north of the yacht club, where the firemen quickly extinguished the blaze.*

*The Long-Islander, July 22, 1938*



## WHERE IS THE EXIT?

Imagine a night out with friends or family. It has been a long week and you are all looking forward to a good meal or just some down time at a local pub. You notice the lights dim, but you figure management is just setting a mood. Then you catch a slight whiff of smoke, probably from the kitchen where a chef has overcooked something.

Within minutes you hear someone yell "fire!" and you see smoke pouring into the room. You look for the exit, but the room has become too dark to see more than a few feet. You begin to cough and the smoke makes your eyes water and your lungs hurt. People are screaming for help and panic sets in. You think, "Is this where I am going to die?"

It was for 492 people in the Coconut Grove Nightclub in 1942; for 165 people in the Beverly Hills Supper Club in 1977; for 87 at the Happy Land Social Club in 1990; and more recently at the Station Nightclub fire where 100 perished just 10 years ago.

While there may not be much we, as patrons, can do to prevent such fires, we can reduce our risk of being a victim by noting the location of fire exits every time we enter a restaurant, club, hotel, or public assembly area. Get into the habit of routinely checking for fire exits. You may never need to use one; but knowing where they are before a fire breaks out can save your life.

## HALESITE F.D.'S NEW CHIEF

In December, Halesite elected a new Chief of Department. Dan McConnell has 23 years in the Halesite Fire Department and was previously the Department's 1st Assistant Chief. He grew up in Huntington Bay, received a BA in Economics from Boston College and an MBA from Fordham University. He lives with his wife, Meg, and their four children, on Winchester Lane. Dan succeeds Andy Magerle, who was Chief for the past three years.



## IS YOUR HOUSE NUMBER VISIBLE?

Can you imagine calling for help and having no one find you? It can happen, if your house number is not 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 427-7250, AND GIVE THE  
DISPATCHER YOUR NAME,  
ADDRESS, AND NATURE OF THE  
EMERGENCY. BE AS PRECISE AS  
POSSIBLE.**

## DROWNING - IT TAKES ONLY SECONDS

The lifeguard jumped from his chair keeping his eyes on the victim as he sprinted through the water toward a small group of bathers. Two parents saw him rushing their way. "Does he think you are drowning?" the husband asked his wife. They were neck deep and he had been splashing her and she had been screaming. "We're fine" the couple said, but the lifeguard yelled for them to get out of the way, as he pushed between them. Only a few feet away, their six year old son was drowning.

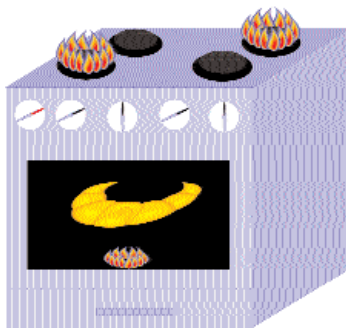
How did the lifeguard spot from 50 feet what the parents, only 10 feet away, could not? The parents were conditioned by movies and TV to expect violent thrashing and screaming. The lifeguard knew that drowning people normally cannot call for help because the water is causing breathing difficulties and breathing takes priority over speech. Arm waving is unlikely, because instinct forces a drowning victim to push down on the water surface to help stay above water.

Drowning claims nearly 4,000 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.

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 recussitative 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.



## COOKING SAFETY

Cooking fires - mostly from unattended cooking - are the number one cause of home fires and home fire injuries. The majority start with the ignition of common household items like wall coverings, curtains, packaging, and potholders. Most of these fires are preventable. You can reduce the risk of a kitchen fire in your home by observing the following safety tips:

- Never leave stovetop cooking unattended, and keep a close eye on cooking inside the oven;
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles;
- Do not wear loose fitting clothing that can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire;
- Keep children and pets away from the cooking areas;
- Do not use a wet oven mitt; it can present a scald danger, if the mitt is heated;
- Turn pot handles inward so they can not be bumped or grabbed by children;
- Always keep a potholder/oven mitt and the pan lid nearby. If a small grease fire starts in the pan, you can smother the flames with the lid.

**Note: Never pour water on a grease fire or discharge a fire extinguisher onto a pan fire, as these actions can actually cause the fire to spread or intensify.**

As with any fire, no matter how small it appears to be, call us immediately at:

**427-7250**

## BEE STING CARE

Bee stings can be either a mild annoyance or a life-threatening event, depending on whether or not the victim is allergic to the insect venom. The first action is to get the victim away from the bee before other bees arrive. If you know that the victim is allergic to bee stings, call for emergency medical assistance immediately. Do not wait for symptoms to appear.

The stinger should be removed as quickly as possible. The longer the stinger remains in the body, the more severe the reaction will be. You can simply pull the stinger out with your fingers.

Common bee sting symptoms include itching, redness, swelling, and mild pain. Ice packs can reduce swelling and pain.

If the victim experiences difficulty breathing, call for emergency medical assistance. This can be a life-threatening condition that requires immediate attention. If the victim is allergic to bee stings, he or she might be carrying an epinephrine auto-injector (**EpiPen**). If so, help the victim use the EpiPen. Antihistamines (**Benedryl**) can slow the reaction, but will not stop it.

If you have any doubt about a bee sting victim's reaction to the sting, call for emergency medical assistance.



## 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.

# 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	23
1st Assistant Chief Greg Colonna	Afton Lane	17
2nd Assistant Chief Jamie Magerle	Woodhull Road	17

<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	53	Dominic Spada	Highview Drive	9
Walter Sammis	Ketewomoke Drive	50	Eric Weber	Platt Place	8
Frank Grasso	Homestead Path	45	Keith Freda	Crest Road	6
Roger Ketcham	East Shore Road	45	Michael Waring	Grist Mill Lane	5
Dennis Troup	Bayview Drive	43	Vincent Capobianco	Merrill Place	5
Jerry Conway	Fort Hill Road	42	Alex Pavelka	Old Town Lane	5
John Blanda	Courtyard Circle	38	Donald Tesoriero	Huntington Bay Road	5
Peter Wilbur	Maple Hill Road	37	Joseph Grant	Woodhull Road	3
Kurt Martin	Mohawk Street	36	Kate Kuntz	Youngs Hill Road	3
Peter Magerle	Bass Court	34	Henry Waldron	Kroft Court	2
Mark Blanda	Courtyard Circle	31	Michael Conforti	Vineyard Road	2
John Cannon	Bay Road	31	Kevin Kelly	Maple Hill Road	2
Craig Lanigan	Bialla Place	29	Stephen Medici	Golf Lane	1
Douglas Anthonson	Huntington Bay Road	28	Carolyn Corkett	Melody Lane	1
Paul T. Holly	Warrenton Court	28	Jason Oppenheim	Bay Road	1
Mike Magerle	Afton Lane	27	Lucy Oppenheim	Bay Road	1
Jeff Schondebare	Vineyard Road	26	Sara Apgar	Cove Road	1
Gerry Conlon	West Shore Road	26	Brad Gaito	Winchester Lane	1
John Solano	Cliftwood Drive	26	Jessica Kitzen	Huntington Bay Road	1
Nick Berghela	Walden Place	25	Steven Lapp	Heckscher Drive	1
Mike Mitchell	Lake Drive	24	Wayne Jenó	Cliftwood Drive	1
Larry Northcote	Glades Way	24	Rachel Smith	Cliftwood Drive	1
Neil Nugent	Bay Drive West	24	Daniel Harman	Mill Lane	1
William Mitchell	Longview Drive	24	Thomas Scheff	Cleveland Drive	1
Chris Chiusano	Oakwood Road	23	Alexander Nediela	Vineyard Road	1
Bob Waring	Grist Mill Lane	23	Kenneth Anna	Bay Drive West	1
Joseph DeSimone	Van Buren Drive	22	Ryan Pavelka	Old Town Lane	1
David Willis	Grist Mill Lane	21	Robert Cirillo	Inlet Place	1
Robert Wenk	Cornehlsen Drive	21	Richard Oh	Glades Way	10 mo.
Andy Magerle	O'Hara Place	21	Greg Guy	Northwood Circle	10 mo.
William Peer	Grist Mill Lane	19	Evan Meyers	Woodhollow Lane	10 mo.
Jamie Spear	Bay Drive West	17	Eric Ferber	Sea Ridge Court	6 mo.
Robert Pavelka	Old Town Lane	12	Liam Dreusike	Crombie Street	6 mo.
Hugh O'Brien	Bay Drive East	12	Casey Magerle	Bass Court	5 mo.
Jennifer Pavelka	Old Town Lane	12	Brent Filippini	Maxwell Court	4 mo.
Ryan Sammis	Cliftwood Drive	11	Thomas Thurmond	Lowndes Avenue	2 mo.
Jesse Sammis	Bantry Court	10	Christian Defeo	East Neck Road	1 mo.
Robert Kocis	Hildreth Avenue	10	Courtney Defeo	East Neck Road	1 mo.
William Eletto	Crestwood Drive	10	Michael McDonald	Cider Mill Lane	1 mo.

### **Life Members**

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

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

Our 81 members respond to calls for help at any time of day or night.

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

## RESIDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The first priority of firefighters arriving at the scene of a structure fire is to make sure that all occupants have exited safely. If there is any doubt, a search of the structure is made even before water is used to extinguish the blaze.

Residents often place signs or decals on windows to alert first responders to the rooms where people who may need help getting out of the building are located. In addition, incorporated into the Halesite Fire Department dispatch system is information about any special considerations firefighters need to know about every address in the fire district. This information is transmitted to the first arriving vehicles, so the chiefs and officers know not only that there may be people trapped in the fire building, but also where in the house these people are located.

If there is anyone in your home who might have difficulty escaping from a fire - little children, elderly, handicapped, special needs, or those with limited mobility - please let us know. Pick up a form at the firehouse, complete it, and return it to us. This information will be added to the dispatch system and will be available to first responders who will know where to look for these priority patients.

## FIRE STARTED BY LAPTOP

A fire caused by an overheated laptop completely destroyed a two-family home in Milford, CT. The laptop had been plugged in overnight, causing it to overheat. It was also in direct contact with combustibles - a cardboard box filled with clothing. Residents escaped unharmed, but damage was estimated at \$275,000.

*The Boston Globe, March 27, 2013*



## BLOOD DRIVE SET FOR AUGUST 23

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 23, 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.



## EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION LIST

All too often the Halesite Fire Department responds to a medical emergency and finds a patient who does not have or cannot provide current medical information. It is important for emergency responders and emergency room staff to have basic medical information, including at least:

- current medications
- allergies to medications
- past medical history (respiratory or heart problems, diabetes, etc.)

Blood type and emergency contact information can also be helpful.

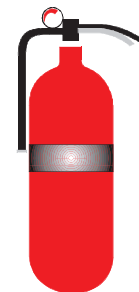
This emergency information should not only be accessible at home (like on a refrigerator where responders are trained to look), but also out of the home in your wallet or purse.

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

## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, ONE FOR EVERY HOME

Every home should have 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.*



## 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)

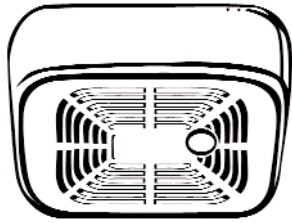
## JELLYFISH STINGS

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.



## 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 fire-fighters say it is OK.

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

## 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.



## 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**

## STAYING ALIVE

While you will probably never experience a serious fire, knowing what to expect and how to react can make the difference between life and death.

**FACT:** *In a fire, thick, black smoke can reduce visibility to zero. Expect total darkness.*

**REACT:** Smoke fills a room from top to bottom; so to escape, crawl along the floor as low as possible, where visibility is best. Have an escape plan - with more than one escape route - and practice it often.

**FACT:** *Smoke and gasses from a fire can kill you while you sleep.*

**REACT:** Have a smoke alarm in all sleeping areas and on all floors. Test them monthly and change batteries annually.

**FACT:** *Clothes can catch on fire.*

**REACT: STOP** where you are; gently **DROP** to the floor; cover your face with your hands and **ROLL** quickly from side to side until the flames go out. To help someone else whose clothes are burning, push them to the floor and have them roll. Cover them with a wool or cotton blanket to smother the flames.



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

## 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." For details of this new law, go to:

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