



News From The

Elmont Fire District



Vol. 1, Issue 1, Fall 2011

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DISTRICT

Welcome to our first newsletter. In each edition, in this space, you will find important information from the Elmont Fire District, the governmental entity responsible for providing fire protection in Elmont and some portions of surrounding communities.

In this inaugural column, the Board of Fire Commissioners would like to take the opportunity to explain the origins of the Fire District and its role in our community.

The Elmont Fire District was established in 1928 by an act of the state legislature. The District encompasses 5.73 square miles and is governed by a board of five publicly elected Fire Commissioners, each of whom serves a five year term, with a different Commissioner standing for election each year in a five year rotation.

The Fire District oversees all administrative and financial aspects of providing fire protection and emergency medical services in its service area, including preparing an annual budget and levying taxes to fund that budget, purchasing equipment and supplies, maintaining the District's fleet and facilities and the like. The actual delivery of fire and emergency medical services is performed by the 180 dedicated volunteers of the Elmont Fire Department, led by Chief Michael Capozziello. (The Board of Commissioners also approves the election of all officers of the fire department, including the Chief.)

The Board of Fire Commissioners meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the Fire District offices at 100 School Road.

Future columns will talk about various Fire District programs and initiatives and other topics of interest to the community.

FIRE COMPANY PROFILE

BELMONT HOOK & LADDER CO. 1: THE ORIGINAL FIRE COMPANY OF ELMONT FD



Belmont Hook & Ladder Company 1 in the early days

For more than a hundred years, members of Belmont Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 have been protecting residents and businesses of the Elmont and North Valley Stream areas. Many aspects of this firehouse make it special and unique, from its long list of members and fire officials, to its historic events and noteworthy origin.

In early 1905, local farmers and businessmen from the Elmont area met at the Hoeffner Hotel on Elmont Road. This was at the urging of local horse racing tycoon August Belmont, Jr., who spoke to local businessman Philip Hoeffner about starting a fire company for the area as well as protecting his race track. In order to make the fire company a reality, Belmont gave \$2,500 towards the project and purchased two plots of land for \$200 from the Stattle farm. The company was named Belmont Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 in honor of Belmont. Hoeffner is recognized as the founder of the company. The new members of the fire company were a "who's who" of Elmont; many of the first 40 members even had streets named after them. Company members bought their badges and uniforms for a mere five dollars.

In 1906, the first piece of apparatus was a horse-drawn truck, with ladders and buckets hanging from the sides. When a member spotted a fire he would go to the

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EFD IN ACTION



Firefighters respond to house explosion on Lincoln Street on Sept. 6

“We all get along; it’s like an extended family. Not only are we fighting fires together, but we become friends and constantly learn from one another.”

firehouse and ring a gong (one gong signified north, two for south, three for east, and four for west). The fire company's first major fire broke out at the John Lewis Childs Mill in Floral Park in 1908, approximately three years after the firehouse was organized. Being a new company, the company received letters of praise from the mill and Floral Park Fire Department. Over the course of the first three years, members responded to many barn and house fires, as well as brush fires.

In 1928, the Elmont Fire Department was organized, and the firehouse served as Headquarters for the new department until the 1970s. In 2005, Elmont FD celebrated the 100th anniversary of Hook & Ladder Company 1 with a parade, block party and dinner dance.

To this day, the firehouse is in the same location at Elmont Road and Tarboro Street. “For more than a century, the structure remained the same until we renovated the interior of the second floor last summer for some much-needed remodeling,” said Elmont Fire Commissioner Andy Bohnet, who has been a member of Company 1 for more than 30 years. “The history of the fire company is very important to us. One item that helps keep the tradition alive is an antique case that holds old parade firefighter trophies, which remains a fixture in our firehouse.”

“However, we are also innovative,” added Commissioner Bohnet. “When it comes to fire apparatus and equipment and services, we always stay ahead of the curve.” From its humble beginnings of a horse-drawn fire truck, the Elmont Fire Department made significant advances with its state-of-the-art apparatus, including a 100-foot hydraulic tower ladder.

Made up of 25 members, Commissioner Bohnet describes Hook & Ladder Co. 1, like other companies within the Department, as culturally diverse. “We

have members from almost every ethnic background. They come from all walks of life, ranging in age from the early 20s to the mid-70s,” said Commissioner Bohnet.

Rich Hogan, age 72, is the oldest living member of Company 1. With more than 50 years of volunteer firefighter service under his belt, he is the longest-serving member currently in this fire company. Hogan followed in his late father's footsteps; his Dad put in at least 50 years in the Department.

“I’ve known firefighting all of my life; I grew up with the fire company,” said Hogan. “I’ve seen a lot of changes over the years, bigger and better equipment, increased training. But, what hasn’t changed is the core of the fire company and the department – volunteer firefighters helping their neighbors.”

Certain fire rescues come to Hogan's mind, including one in which he received an award from Nassau County, “I left my brother-in-law's house and drove straight to the scene,” said Hogan. “Heavy black smoke was coming out of a house. There was a woman in a bedroom and when I got inside the house, I crawled around and heard a moan. I found the woman and picked her up. Then, I carried her out of a window where my brother-in-law, another firefighter in Company 1, and cops were able to grab her from the other side.”

While responding to fires and emergency calls gives the members a true sense of fulfillment, they also cherish the camaraderie that comes with being a volunteer firefighter.

Commissioner Bohnet said, “We all get along; it's like an extended family. Not only are we fighting fires together, but we become friends and constantly learn from one another.”

ELMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATED IN SPECIAL APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANT EVENT



On June 14, the Elmont Fire Department attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Applebee's Restaurant at 1710 Hempstead Turnpike in Elmont. At the event, Applebee's donated proceeds from its Family and Friends Training Day, as well as a portion of the opening day sales to the Elmont FD. The Department shared historical photos of the Fire District with Applebee's, which the restaurant embedded in the wallpaper for patrons to enjoy.



Michael P. Capozziello
Elmont Chief of Department

FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

Welcome to the Elmont Fire Department's first community newsletter - a great opportunity for us to share highlights and news about the Elmont Fire Department and District with our residents and the business community.

Your Elmont Fire Department is an all-volunteer organization, made up of 180 men and women, in 4 Engine companies, 2 Hook and

Ladder companies, 1 Heavy Rescue company and 1 EMS (Emergency Medical Services) company. We are not salaried personnel; we are your neighbors volunteering our time. In 2010, the Department responded to 1,166 fire calls and 463 ambulance calls, for a total of 1,629 alarms. This included a storm in which we responded to 43 alarms in 11 hours.

Here's a bit of history about the Elmont FD. Although the Department as it stands today was organized in 1928, fire protection for the Elmont community was formed many years prior to the unification of the then five original fire companies. Belmont Hook and Ladder Company #1 was organized in 1905, and has been responding from the very same firehouse on Elmont Road since its humble beginnings. (See profile about the original fire company, p. 1-2) The company namesake Belmont and the Belmont Race Track name are not just a coincidence. August Belmont, Jr., an American

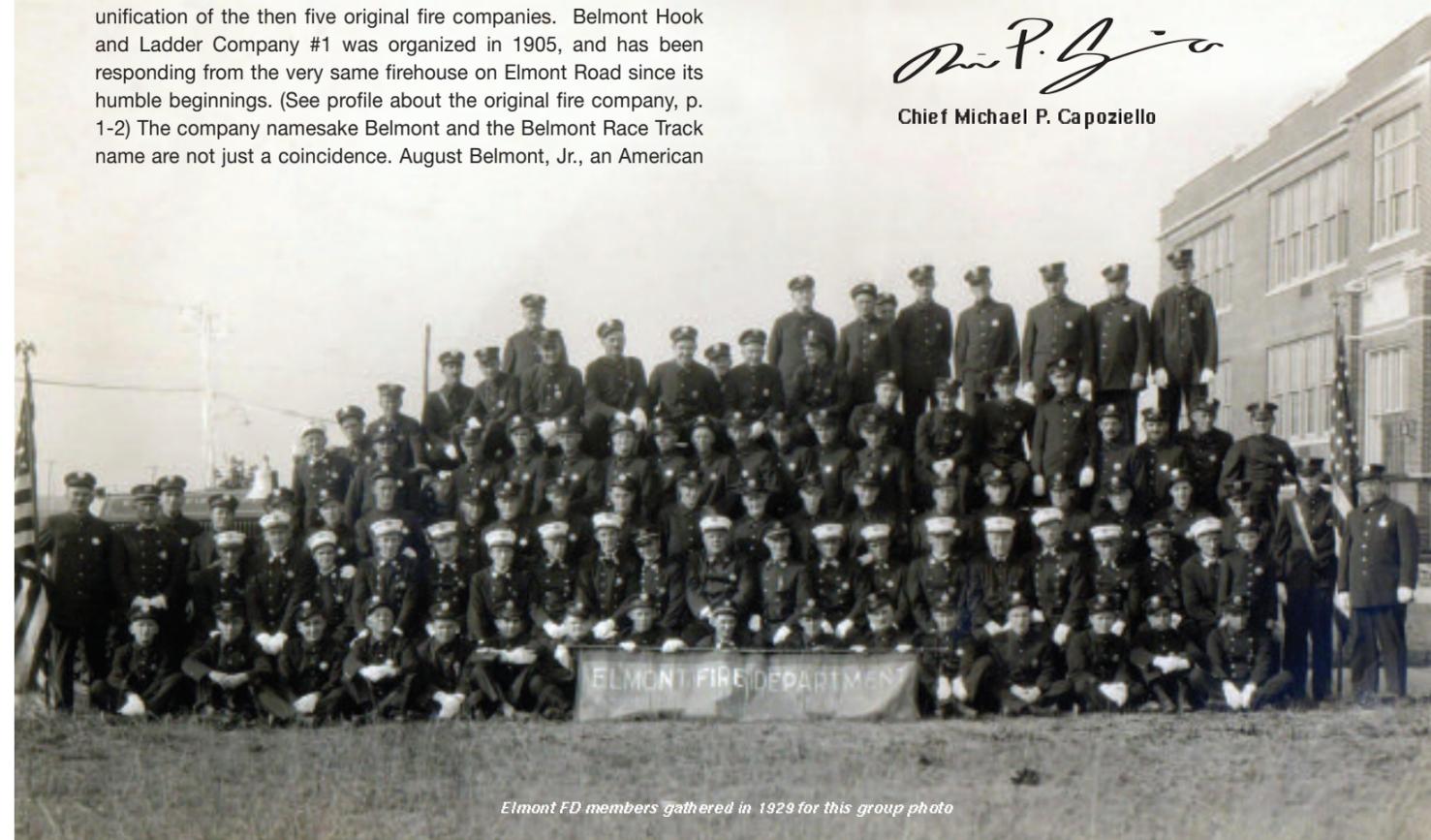
financier, the builder of New York's Belmont Park Race Track, and a major owner/breeder of thoroughbred racehorses, funded much of the money needed to start the fire company, and in return, helped protect his race track that opened in 1905.

The next company to form was Elmont Engine and Hose Company #2 in 1913. The company will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2013. Belmont Engine and Hose Company #1 was formed in 1922, also with the financial backing of Belmont, Jr. In 1924, as the east end of Elmont was growing, a group of men formed East End Engine Chemical and Hose Company #3 on Meacham Avenue. Elmont Hook and Ladder Company #2 was the last of the “original 5” to form in 1926, prior to the formation of the joint department. Engine Company #4 on Linden Boulevard was formed in 1952, and Heavy Rescue Company #1 formed in 1965. The EMS Company, formed in 1988, is made up of non-firefighting members of the community whose interest is based in emergency medical care.

On behalf of the Elmont Fire Department, we look forward to the continued privilege of serving you, as we work to ensure that the community has the highest level of fire and emergency medical services available. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter, and expect future issues being mailed to your home from time to time.

Sincerely,

Chief Michael P. Capozziello



Elmont FD members gathered in 1929 for this group photo

EFD RELIES ON RECRUITMENT

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A FIREFIGHTER?

EL CUERPO DE BOMBEROS

DE ELMONT DEPENDE DEL RECLUTAMIENTO



Elmont FD Explorers made phone calls to youth in the community about Recruit NY day

Los Exploradores del Cuerpo de Bomberos de Elmont contactan con los jóvenes de la comunidad acerca del Día de Reclutamiento en NY

reminding Explorer applicants to participate in *Recruit NY*.

Through the years, hundreds of young adults have joined the Explorer program, and several have gone on to become firefighters in the Department. Many have risen through the ranks to hold the position of Chief of Department, as well. In fact, all four current Chiefs of the Elmont FD were Explorers at one time.

As a member of the Elmont Fire Department, you would:

- Feel the satisfaction that comes from saving a life or coming to the aid of a neighbor when he or she needs you the most.
- Become part of the fire service family and make friends with men and women of all ages and walks of life, while performing an important community service.
- Become someone who your family, friends and neighbors can turn to in an emergency.
- Make a huge difference in your life and the lives of others by volunteering your time.
- Be eligible for certain benefits such as state income or real estate property tax credits, college tuition reimbursement, and a deferred defined monthly benefit starting at age 55 under the district's Length of Service Awards Program.

In order to volunteer, you must be at least 18 years of age, a United States citizen or legal U.S. resident and live in the Elmont Fire District (Elmont & North Valley Stream). You would be trained in firefighting or emergency medical services. Advanced training courses are offered to members. All the training provided to you is **FREE** of charge and is always ongoing. Your responsibilities as a member would include responding to emergencies, either fire, rescue or ambulance calls, as well as attendance at monthly meetings and training exercises. As volunteer firefighters, we perform the same functions as our career brothers and sisters.

Did you know there are approximately 26,000 volunteer fire departments in the country, which make up more than 830,000 volunteer firefighters? Here in Elmont, we are also volunteer firefighters and we love and are proud of what we do!

While the Elmont Fire Department (EFD) has enough manpower to help maintain a high level of safety in the community, the Department is always looking for new members. In addition to ongoing recruitment efforts, the Elmont FD participated in the first-ever statewide volunteer firefighter recruitment weekend to help boost membership numbers. Through *Recruit NY* initiated by the Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY), -- more than 140 fire departments across the state held open houses over the course of April 9 and 10 to encourage residents to join volunteer fire departments.

"We were thrilled with the turnout at our Recruit NY open house on April 10th," said Elmont Chief of Department Michael Capozziello. "Many residents who attended showed interest in learning more about what we do as volunteers to protect the citizens in our communities. We were able to recruit some new Explorers; it was an extremely worthwhile event for our Department."

A month prior to the drive, Elmont FD sent its recruitment committee members to the high schools in the district to let the young adults between the ages of 14 and 17 know about the Fire Department's "Explorer" program. (The Fire Service Explorer Post is a branch of the Boy Scouts of America.) On April 8, a group of current Explorers made phone calls from the Chief's office,



Residents visited Elmont Fire Department for recruitment drive and mock demonstrations

Los residentes visitaron el Cuerpo de Bomberos de Elmont con motivo de la campaña de reclutamiento y la demostración de simulacros

¿Sabías que hay aproximadamente 26.000 cuerpos de bomberos en todo el país que están compuestos por voluntarios, con un total de más de 830.000 bomberos voluntarios? Aquí, en Elmont, también tenemos bomberos voluntarios y es algo de lo que estamos muy orgullosos.

Pese a que el Cuerpo de Bomberos de Elmont tiene suficientes recursos humanos para mantener el alto nivel de seguridad de la comunidad, siempre está buscando nuevos miembros. Además de nuestros esfuerzos de continuo reclutamientos, el Cuerpo de Bomberos de Elmont participó en el primer fin de semana de reclutamiento de bomberos voluntarios celebrado a nivel estatal para incrementar el número de nuevos miembros. A través de la iniciativa *Recruit NY*, puesta en marcha por la Asociación de Bomberos del Estado de Nueva York (FASNY), más de 140 cuerpos de bomberos de todo el estado celebraron jornadas de puertas abiertas para el público los días 9 y 10 de abril para motivar a los residentes a unirse a los cuerpos de bomberos voluntarios.

"Estamos encantados con las cifras de asistencia a la jornada de puertas abiertas al público *Recruit NY* el pasado 10 de abril," dijo el Jefe del Cuerpo de Bomberos Michael Capozziello. "Muchos residentes que asistieron mostraron interés en saber más acerca de lo que hacemos como voluntarios para proteger a los ciudadanos de nuestra comunidad. Logramos reclutar a algunos nuevos Exploradores y fue un evento que realmente mereció la pena para nuestro Cuerpo de Bomberos."

Un mes antes de la campaña, el Cuerpo de Bomberos de Elmont envió a los miembros de su comité de reclutamiento a los institutos

de enseñanza secundaria del distrito para informar a los jóvenes de entre 14 y 17 años sobre el programa de "Exploradores" del Cuerpo de Bomberos. El puesto de Explorador de servicio de bomberos es una rama de los Boy Scouts de América. El pasado 8 de abril, un grupo de Exploradores que actualmente forman parte del programa realizaron llamadas telefónicas desde la oficina del Jefe del Cuerpo de Bomberos, recordando a quienes habían solicitado el ingreso en el programa de Exploradores que participaran en *Recruit NY*.

A lo largo de los años, cientos de jóvenes se han unido al programa de Exploradores y muchos de ellos se han convertido en bomberos. Algunos han ascendido en rango hasta llegar a ser Jefes del Departamento. De hecho, los cuatro Jefes del Cuerpo de Bomberos de Elmont fueron Exploradores.

Como miembro del Cuerpo de Bomberos de Elmont, podrías:

- Sentir la satisfacción de salvar vidas o de acudir al auxilio de vecinos cuando más lo necesiten.
- Ser parte de la familia del Cuerpo de Bomberos y entablar amistad con hombres y mujeres de todas las edades, mientras realizas un importante servicio a la comunidad.
- Ser alguien a quien tu familia, tus amigos y tus vecinos puedan acudir en situaciones de emergencias.
- Mejorar tu vida y la de otras personas al dedicar tu tiempo de forma voluntaria.
- Tener derecho a beneficios tales como: créditos por los impuestos a los propietarios de casas y/o apartamentos, reembolso de los gastos de matrícula universitaria y un plan de pensión a partir de los 55 años de edad como parte del Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP).

Para ser voluntario debes tener 18 años o más, ser ciudadano de los Estados Unidos o residente legal en el país y vivir en el Distrito de Bomberos de Elmont (Elmont & North Valley Stream). Deberás participar en entrenamientos para bomberos o de servicios médicos de urgencia. Los miembros pueden participar en cursos de entrenamientos avanzados. Todos los entrenamientos se ofrecen de forma gratis y continua. Tus responsabilidades como miembro incluirán: responder a emergencias tales como un incendio, un rescate o la llamada de una ambulancia; así como asistir a reuniones semanales y a ejercicios de entrenamientos. Como bomberos voluntarios, desempeñamos las mismas funciones que nuestros hermanos y hermanas de profesión.

If you are interested in joining the Elmont Fire Department, stop by one of the firehouses near your home, any Sunday morning from 10 a.m. -12 p.m., or call the Chief's office at 516-354-4560. You can also visit <http://www.elmontfd.com/recruit.php> for more information.

Si te interesa unirse al Cuerpo de Bomberos de Elmont, acércate a una de las estaciones de bomberos cerca de tu casa cualquier domingo por la mañana de 10 a.m.-12 p.m. o llama a la oficina del Jefe del Cuerpo en el 516-354-4560. También puedes visitar la página <http://www.elmontfd.com/recruit.php> para obtener más información.

PREPARE & PRACTICE AN ESCAPE PLAN WITH YOUR FAMILY: AN IMPORTANT PART OF HOME FIRE SAFETY

ELMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFERS LIFESAVING INFORMATION...

In light of National Fire Prevention Month (October), the Elmont Fire Department wants to remind the public to follow the important home fire safety tips in order to keep residents and their loved ones safe. This year's fire prevention month theme is "Protect Your Family from Fire."

Elmont Chief of Department Michael Capozziello said, "A fire can spread very quickly, and knowing how to get out of your home quickly and efficiently can mean the difference between life and death. That's why it is critically important for residents to develop and practice an E.D.I.T.H. plan, which stands for Exit Drills In The Home."

PREPARE THE HOUSE:

- Make sure there are two exits for every room.
- Keep bedroom doors closed while sleeping.
- Ensure that all windows, doors, and other escape options can be opened, even by children.
- Install and test smoke detectors and install night lights near the floor to aid escape.
- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide detector.
- Vacuum your detectors.
- Make sure the detectors can be heard with the doors closed.



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 6 AT 2:00 A.M.**

When we turn the clocks back one hour, it is a good time for residents to replace the batteries in their smoke & carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. Also, test those detectors to make sure they are functioning properly.

Create a good escape plan:

- Meet with entire family and write down a step-by-step procedure for escape.
- Choose a meeting place outside the house after the evacuation.
- Emphasize that it's vital to NEVER go back into the house. Once you are out, stay out!

Practice your escape plan:

- Choose a monitor (person) to sound the alarm at the time of the drill.
- Utilize your second escape route.
- Use a smoke detector as your sounding device.
- Use alternate escape routes from every room.
- Roll out of bed when you hear an alarm.
- Feel doors with the back of your hand for heat prior to opening.
- Practice crawling fast and try to improve your time.
- Maintain constant contact with the walls.

If you become trapped:

- Put closed doors between you and the smoke.
- Stuff cracks and cover vents to keep smoke out.
- Signal from a window with a flash light or sheet.
- When on the phone with a fire dispatcher, if possible, stay on the line so that the dispatcher can inform the firefighters on scene where you are located in the home.

EL CUERPO DE BOMBEROS DE ELMONT OFRECE INFORMACIÓN QUE PODRÍA SALVAR VIDAS

En vista del mes (octubre) nacional de la prevención, el Departamento del cuerpo de Bomberos de Elmont les quiere recordar al público que tienen que seguir estos consejos importantes de seguridad en sus hogares para mantener sus residencias y seres queridos protegidos. Durante este mes del Año de la prevención el tema es "proteja a su familia en contra de incendios."

El Jefe del Cuerpo de Bomberos de Elmont, Michael Capozziello dijo, "El fuego puede extenderse muy rápidamente y la diferencia entre perder la vida o sobrevivir puede estar en saber cómo salir de casa de forma rápida y eficiente. Por eso, es de vital importancia que los residentes desarrollen y practiquen un plan E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drills In The Home), es decir, un Simulacro de Salida de la Casa."

PREPARE LA CASA:

- Asegúrese de que hay dos vías de salida para cada habitación.
- Mantenga las puertas del dormitorio cerradas mientras duerme.
- Asegúrese de que puede abrir todas las ventanas, puertas y otras posibles vías de salida y de que los niños también pueden hacerlo.
- Instale detectores de humo y compruebe su funcionamiento. Instale luces de noche cerca del suelo para facilitar la salida en caso de emergencia.
- Instale un detector de monóxido de carbono y ocúpese de su mantenimiento.
- Limpie sus detectores con un aspirador.
- Asegúrese de que la alarma de los detectores se escucha incluso con las puertas cerradas.

**EL HORARIO DE VERANO (DAYLIGHT SAVING
TIME) TERMINA EL DOMINGO, 6 DE
NOVIEMBRE A LAS 2:00 A.M.**

El día que se atrasan los relojes una hora es un buen momento para que los residentes cambien las pilas o baterías de sus detectores de humo y de monóxido de carbono (CO). Es también buena idea probar los detectores para asegurarse de que funcionan correctamente.

Cree un buen plan de escape:

- Reúna a su familia y escriba su plan de escape, paso a paso.
- Elija un punto de encuentro fuera de la casa donde reunirse con su familia tras la evacuación.
- Recuerde que es fundamental que todos sepan que NUNCA deben volver a entrar en la casa cuando hayan salido de ella. Una vez fuera, quédense fuera.



Practique su plan de escape:

- Designe a una persona para activar la alarma en el momento del simulacro de incendio.
- Utilice su segunda ruta de escape.
- Use un detector de humo como dispositivo de alarma.
- Use rutas de escape alternativas desde cada habitación.
- Salga de la cama rodando en cuanto escuche la alarma.
- Toque las puertas con el dorso de la mano para comprobar si están calientes antes de abrirlas.
- Practique moverse a gatas rápidamente y trate de mejorar su tiempo.
- Mantenga contacto constante con las paredes.

Si se ve atrapado:

- Cierre las puertas para bloquear el humo.
- Tape las rendijas y cubra las rejillas para mantener el humo fuera.
- Haga señales desde una ventana con una linterna o una sábana.
- Si está al teléfono con una operadora de emergencia, y si es posible, manténgase en línea para que la operadora pueda informar a los bomberos de en qué parte de la casa se encuentra usted exactamente.

SAFETY TRAILER ELMONT FD TAKES FIRE PREVENTION ON THE ROAD

Throughout the history of the Elmont Fire Department, spreading the message of fire prevention and safety is a top priority. Members share lifesaving advice and tips with youth and adults in the community through the Department's Fire Prevention Unit, which is headed by Fire Police Captain Igino Vecchione, Unit President, and Rescue 1 Captain Phil Price, Unit Vice President. The Fire Prevention Unit is extremely proud of its long-running Safety Trailer program.

Equipped with two bedrooms and a full-sized kitchen, the Safety Trailer allows firefighters to teach children and parents important

safety lessons, including how to handle a grease fire, how to maintain a smoke detector, and how to Stop, Drop, Cover & Roll (stop, drop to the floor, cover your face with your hands, and roll). The trailer also simulates smoke, which is a thrill for the kids.

Throughout the year, the Safety Trailer visits schools and community events within the Fire District, and occasionally travels to neighboring communities. A number of school visits occur during the month of October for National Fire Prevention Month.

"This is a vital service that we provide to the community," says Captain Price. "It is critical for our residents to learn about home fire safety, as well as how to escape if a fire breaks out."

Rich Hogan, who has been heavily involved in the Department's fire prevention program for decades says, "We have responded to fire calls where children took the proper steps, thanks to what they learned through the safety trailer and our interaction in the schools."

If you are interested in learning more about the Fire Prevention Unit, or would like to inquire about a Safety Trailer visit, please contact the Chief's Office at 516-354-4560.



Elmont FD Safety Trailer helps youth and adults in the community learn lifesaving skills



Elmont Fire District
100 School Road
Elmont, NY 11003-1734
www.elmontfd.com



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ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT JOINING THE ELMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT?

Volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel get the chance to...

- Offer a helping hand to neighbors in need
- Make a difference in your life and the lives of others
- Build friendships with fellow firefighters and EMTs
- Obtain income or real estate property tax credits, college tuition reimbursement, and a deferred defined monthly benefit starting at age 55

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JOINING THE ELMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT,
CALL THE CHIEF'S OFFICE AT 516-354-4560.**