

Saltaire Volunteer Fire Company Inc.
Fire Island, N.Y.

P. O. BOX 5375



BAY SHORE, N.Y. 11706

SVFC MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY – MAY 18, 2020

We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. While we wish this notice was reminding you to join us for our annual Pancake Breakfast, we are instead sending a note to give you an idea of what to expect from us given the current reality of COVID-19. We are ready at any time to provide the Fire and Emergency Services you expect, however, there are several changes to our operational approach that have been implemented to protect both you and our volunteer members.

- The firehouse (even parts used in the past by the Camp) are now off limits to the public.
- The Pancake Breakfast is cancelled for Memorial Day Weekend. There is just not a safe way to do this at this point. Other events may also be cancelled, but we promise they will be back!
- While we really wish we could open our doors and show kids the vehicles and equipment, for right now we can't do this in a safe way. We will resume this as soon as it becomes safe to do so.

For medical emergencies:

If you are having a medical emergency, stay where you are, and call 911. The 911 operator will ask a series of questions and will determine if you do or do not need to go to the hospital. When the SVFC is activated to respond, the following precautions have been implemented:

- Members will don additional personal protective equipment (PPE) prior to leaving the firehouse.
- Upon our arrival, we will approach cautiously, with a limited crew in and will begin our assessment from a distance in full PPE. We will request, if possible, for the patient to meet our EMS crew outside. We promise we are not being unfriendly, just trying to keep everyone safe.
- Unless the patient is a minor, guidelines restrict having anyone accompany the patient.

After a transport to the hospital, the EMS crew will take additional measures to clean and sanitize the ambulance, equipment, as well as themselves and their clothing. This increases the return to service time for our ambulance and crew which reduces our availability for other EMS calls.

For a fire or other non-medical related incidents:

Our policies and procedures have only changed to reduce our exposures to each other and to you. Where possible, we will limit the number of personnel inside of a home, keep our distance, and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment to reduce our exposures.

Check your fire extinguishers and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors batteries! If you can't remember when you last replaced batteries, replace them. If the detector is over 10 years old, it should be replaced.

Please remember that our members and their families all bear the stress of being a volunteer emergency responder. Support them through what will be a more stressful than usual season. If you are interested in becoming a member or contributing to the Fire Company, please ask a member for more information or email info@saltairefd.com

Thank you for your support during this challenging time and please stay safe!