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**A LETTER TO THE  
RESIDENTS OF THE  
CUTCHOGUE FIRE DISTRICT**



by

**UNITED FIRE CO. No. 1  
OF CUTCHOGUE**



**IN CASE OF FIRE CALL  
PECONIC 6262**

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Dear Residents:

Before I begin this little story of the United Fire Company No. 1 of Cutchogue, I want you all to do one little thing. It won't take but one minute. Go to your telephone and write down the number of the Cutchogue Fire Company. It is Peconic 6262. Have you written it down? That's fine; now we're ready to start.

The present Cutchogue Fire District was formed in December 1927. At that time a call for volunteers was sent out by the commissioners. Some fifty-four men offered their services as volunteer firemen. As they had one Reo chemical truck to work with, the Company became known as the United Chemical Company No. 1 of Cutchogue. In 1930 an American La France 500 gallons pumper with booster tank was added to the apparatus. The Company then changed its name to the United Fire Company No. 1 of Cutchogue. This name it still retains. As Cutchogue and its vicinity grew, the need of a Hose Cart became more and more apparent. The budget didn't include any appropriation for it, so the firemen decided to build one themselves. They purchased a second hand Pierce-Arrow and built the body themselves. The boys surely have reason to be proud of the truck for it is considered by many as the best looking as well as the best built Hose Cart on this end of the Island. This truck was completed in 1931. All three pieces of apparatus are still in use at the present time and a new utility truck, built especially for the Company, has recently been delivered. This truck will be one of the first on the North Fork with a cab. The Company also has in its possession a two-wheel hand drawn chemical tank. This tank dates back to the old Company, that was organized around 1909. The last time it was used was back about 1918.

The first chief of the present Company was Sherwood C. Beebe. Mr. Beebe held the office for the first five years of the new Company. He was followed in turn by Steve Kaelin, Stanley Case and Harry Mason, each of whom served two years. The present chief is Alfred Davids. The other officers for the year 1939 are Steve Kaelin, assistant chief; Eugene McCaffery, Captain; Edward Austin, Edward Tomaszewski and Harrison Case, Lieutenants; Walter Kaelin, Secretary; Wilson Tuthill, Treasurer; Ray King, John Wickham and Adam Zaveski, Trustees; Stanley Ambroski, Milton Folts and Ellis Billard, Chief Drivers. The Company also has a Fire Police force. The Company has at present fifty-seven active members.

The Commissioners of the District are Gerald Beebe, Chairman; P. H. Horton, C. W. Horton, J. Z. Machinchick and Harry Mason. These men are truly a representative

group, consisting of business men, surveyor, garage owners and a caretaker, the commissioners are elected for five years, one being elected each year.

During the past twelve years since its organization, the Company has gained a wide reputation as an efficient, "on its toes" fire Company. It even gained national recognition on the night of December tenth, 1931 when they aided a U. S. Mail Plane to land, the night was foggy and the pilot missed his regular airport. The Cutchogue firemen took the fire truck, and their own cars to the golf club and shone their lights on a level place on the links. The pilot said in the "New York Times" the following day: "The firemen saved the mail, the plane, and me." This is only one way which the firemen served and are still serving the public. During the past year it was the first Fire Company on the North Fork to take first aid lessons under a Red Cross instructor. Twenty-one members took this course and they all passed their exams and received their Red Cross Certificates. It was also the first Company of the North Fork to purchase and learn to use an inhalator. This inhalator may some day save your life in case of drowning, electrical shock or gas poisoning.

At the present time the Company is organizing a blood donors group, another first. Even though the group is still in its infancy, it has been called upon three times to donate blood to patients at the Eastern Long Island Hospital. Maybe you will need a transfusion. Will you know where to get a person with the corresponding type? These facts prove why the Cutchogue Vamps are known as alert, wide awake firemen—a benefit to the community.

But, to keep up their good work as firemen they need the co-operation of our residents, especially our visiting summer residents. They need co-operation now more than ever. Due to the drastic hurricane of September 21, 1938 many wooded lands and shattered buildings still need to be cleared. We ask you to be careful in the clearing of these lands and buildings. Last year immediately after the hurricane we had signs printed and placed on practically every summer home in the district. They read "Unless every property owner exercises extreme caution in the clearing of property damaged by the recent storm, a grave danger of fire exists. Burn only on windless days and in small quantities. Have water within reach at all times. Put out all fires when leaving. We ask your co-operation in this emergency."

Please obey these signs. You may not only burn your property but your neighbor's house as well. Think twice before burning anything! Remember also what Fire Company serves you. The Cutchogue Fire District includes among

others Nassau Point, Nassau Farms, Fleets Neck, New Suffolk, Eugene Heights, Baldwins Point, Kimogenor Point and Beachwood. On any fires at these places dial 6262 for the Cutchogue firemen. Give the location and owner's name of the place afire. The houses of summer residents are often rented to different people every summer. It is impossible for the firemen to know who occupies all of these residences. But they do know most of the owners' names. If you rent a house through an agent and do not know the owner's name, stop in at the firehouse on New Suffolk Lane. Leave your name and the address of the place you occupy. The custodian, Thomas Gagen, is at the firehouse every day. Stop in, look the apparatus over. We like to get acquainted with our summer friends.

Now that our little story is about over, I want to ask you to go back to the telephone and see if you have the Cutchogue Fire Company number correct. The number is Peconic 6262. Please remember it. And use it for emergency only.

Yours for Better Fire Protection,

UNITED FIRE COMPANY No. 1,

WALTER KAELIN, Secretary.