



# National Fire Heritage Center Newsletter

## Message from the President

I am writing this on the eve of our upcoming Dedication Ceremony in Emmitsburg. We are about to embark on one of the more significant steps in the many stages that our organization will experience over its institutional lifetime. It doesn't seem that long ago when a small group of us were sitting in the communications room in Frederick talking about the report that had been published by the United States Fire Administration. The room was full of energy, expectations and frustration.

Why has it taken so long to create a heritage center that recognizes the lives of our leaders and legends? We all know that there are lots of museums that have done an outstanding job of characterizing the hardware of the fire service especially at the local level. But, where could someone go to find out about the actual ideas, innovations and insights of individuals who have made a difference at the local, state and national level? As a matter of fact, what about our international impact on fire?

We still don't have all of the answers to all of the questions that will be posed about the preservation of these items but we are standing on the threshold of at least one answer. Where can someone go to start looking for this information? The answer: The National Fire Heritage Center, located in Emmitsburg Maryland.

I hope some of you will be able to find your way clear on that October day to be present at our dedication ceremony. We have already received a lot of RSVPs and are looking forward to a gathering of all generations of members of this profession. I will guarantee you that if you are going to be there, you will see some interesting things. I will also guarantee you that if you are not there, you will get to read about or see our efforts because we have a contingency plan to document the event.

I look forward to seeing you on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011.



Ronny J. Coleman





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## Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum Welcomes the National Fire Heritage Center

The Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum and Preservation Society, Inc., will officially welcome the National Fire Heritage Center as a partner in fire history preservation during the dedication ceremony on October 14, 2011. The museum has provided display and office space to the National Fire Heritage Center in the museum building located at 300 South Seton Avenue in Emmitsburg, MD at no charge.

The museum is pleased to announce several items of Frederick County fire service history will be on display during the dedication and throughout the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. The museum features the hand tub pumper "Old Lady" originally owned by the Mechanical Fire Co. No. 1 of Baltimore City and fought the Frederick Court House Fire in 1861 while owned by the United Fire Co. No. 3 of Frederick. Also on display from the "Uniteds" are an 1878 hose reel and 1939 Ahrens-Fox piston pumper.

Recently added for display will be the 1893 Holloway Hose Carriage named Romeo owned by the Independent Hose Co. No. 1 of Frederick, the oldest continuous fire company in Maryland being in operation since 1818. This ornate apparatus was especially designed in honor the organization of the Maryland State Firemen's Association in Frederick in 1893. A "Badger" chemical cart that served the town of Jefferson, MD has also been added to the collections.

The officers and members of the Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum, as well as the entire fire and rescue service of Frederick County, MD, welcome the members and guests of the National Fire Heritage Center to Emmitsburg on October 14, 2011 for this historic occasion.





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Isn't she a beauty!

## Trivial Pursuit - Here's the Answer on Oprah

Following release of our last Newsletter, we received feedback from many of you on the question of "Oprah Winfrey Miss Fire Prevention" – a Google search found a number of hits including this one with a photo from People Magazine – [http://www.people.com/people/oprah\\_winfrey/biography](http://www.people.com/people/oprah_winfrey/biography):

1971

### Beauty Queen

Winfrey wins Nashville's Miss Fire Prevention contest. The pageant sponsor, a radio station, offers Winfrey a job reading the afternoon headlines on air. After being crowned Miss Black Tennessee in 1972, she competes in the Miss Black America competition, but her burgeoning news career and college studies end her pageant days. At 19, she becomes anchor of





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Nashville's WTVF-TV station and leaves Tennessee State University to be the first female African-American news anchor in Nashville.

## Original Heritage Hall Report

Attention all NFHC Members – kindly advise if to receive either or both an electronic or actual hard copy of the 2003 USFA/FEMA/DHS Report (159 pages), “Heritage Hall: A Proposal to Archive the History of the Fire Service/Fire Protection Disciplines in America” that lead to the establishment of the NFHC in 2006. The Report outlines insights regarding the need, rationale, and justification for such an undertaking; the steps needed to create and operate a proper archival effort along with numerous operational, administrative, and resource implications of developing and managing it. The Report remains an invaluable resource for our approaches and operations for today and beyond.

## Ex Libris; In your library

### Fire-Fighting, Webster's Timeline History 1798 - 2007

Professor Philip M. Parker, Ph.D, Editor, the Chair of the Professor of Management Science, has produced a document entitled “Fire-Fighting, Webster's Timeline History 1798 – 2007. It is published by Icon Group International, Inc. 7404 Trade Street, San Diego, CA 92121. [www.icongrouponline.com](http://www.icongrouponline.com).

While many of you may feel that this book misses out on some important events in fire, it is a pretty good reference source especially for students or historians. The book was first published in June of 2011.

## WNYF

If you have not read a copy of “WNYF” you have missed out on some exciting information. For almost 70 years, FDNY's training and historical resource has been this magazine. Starting in 1940, this magazine has addressed a huge amount of information that is available for use by current and future generations of firefighters. Recently, the FDNY foundation has placed all of these back issues on a DVD which makes them searchable and retrievable. Check out [fdnyfoundation.org](http://fdnyfoundation.org) for additional information.





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## Old Time Fire Books Online

If you are interested in finding some old time books that are online, go to this website:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=xxVAifG87y0C&pg=PA21#v=onepage&q&f=false>

## Additional Losses of our Leaders

The National Fire Heritage Center continues to receive information regarding the losses of some of our legacy leaders. Please take a moment of silence to recognize the following:

**Harold E. (Bud) Nelson, PE, FSFPE**, born in Chicago Illinois February 9<sup>th</sup>, 1929, departed on July 21, 2011. He resided in Fairfax Virginia.

2006 National Engineering Award Recipient

Fire Protection Engineer

*The National Engineering Award is presented for inspirational leadership and tireless devotion to the improvement of engineering education and to the advancement of the engineering profession, as well as to the development of sound public policies as an engineer-statesman.*

For more than 50 years Harold E. (Bud) Nelson, P.E., FSFPE has been an inspirational leader in the profession of fire protection engineering. Because of his tireless devotion to the advancement of engineering he is truly considered by those in the profession as an engineer-statesman.

Throughout his career, Mr. Nelson applied the advances in fundamental fire research to practical engineering problems and building fire investigations, and in the process developed and disseminated new engineering methodologies for broader use by practicing professionals. As a consequence, Bud Nelson is recognized world-wide as one of the fathers of modern fire protection engineering.

As the Director of the Accident and Fire Prevention Division (1958-1975) at the General Services Administration (GSA), Nelson's leadership was integral in establishing GSA's international





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reputation as a leader in fire safety for high-rise buildings. At GSA, he pioneered the application of total systems concepts to the fire safety of GSA buildings. This concept changed the way fire protection professionals evaluate high-rise building fire safety.

After GSA, Nelson served as a Senior Research Engineer and group manager from (1975-1992) at the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST). At NIST, Nelson conducted groundbreaking research in the areas of fire risk appraisal, human behavior in fires, and fire safety for persons with disabilities. Nelson also developed a fire hazard grading system that is now utilized in the national fire codes.

After retiring from Federal government service, Bud Nelson joined Hughes Associates, Inc., a global fire science and engineering consulting firm, where he continued to contribute for 10 years (1992-2002) by advancing computer based engineering tools used in modeling fire growth and fire hazards development, and in fire investigation.

Mr. Nelson was a founding member of the International Association for Fire Safety Science (IAFSS). In 1999, he received the IAFSS Kawagoe Gold Medal for career achievement in fire safety technologies that have advanced control of unwanted fires. He received Gold medal Awards from both the Commerce Department and General Services Administration, and the standards Medal from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Bud Nelson served as President of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. In 1987 he was honored by the Society as the first recipient of the Harold E. Nelson Award that recognizes dedicated and inspired service to the ideals and goals of the Society. In the year 2000, *Fire Chief Magazine* recognized Nelson as "arguably the most influential fire protection engineer of the 20th century."

Bud Nelson is a registered professional engineer, and Fellow of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. He has authored over 50 publications in the subject of fire protection engineering. His accomplishments stand as a success model for all engineers of the vision, energy and perseverance needed to make significant and lasting change in engineering.





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## **Charles A. "Chet" Henry**



Charles A. "Chet" Henry of Lemoyne, PA, died on June 25, 2011, at Homeland Center near Harrisburg after a long period of declining health on multiple fronts. Chet was the widower of Marilyn Troxell ("Troxie") Henry. He is survived by his wife and former colleague, Sandra (Smith) Cowan Henry, and by his greatly-loved siblings.

Chet was born June 13, 1927 in Harrisburg. He enjoyed growing up in the locally well-known "Shipoke" neighborhood, and retained friendships made there and in the Harrisburg school system, where he played sports, for the rest of his life. He later played catcher and first base for the perennial league-winning sandlot baseball team, The Harrisburg Firemen, a team choice which would later seem almost prophetic.

He served two separate tours in the United States Navy, sailing with the USS Jenks in World War II ('44-'46) and the USS Rich ('48-'50). Employment with the Bethlehem Steel Company followed, where he was a Foreman in the Open Hearth.

In 1963, Chet started what would be a stellar career with the Harrisburg Fire Department, where he rose through the ranks to become Battalion Chief; Assistant Chief and Training Director, and Chief. During those years, he instituted the department's first formal firefighter training program, and pioneered the use of the first safety programs in schools, hospitals and nursing homes throughout Harrisburg, Dauphin County and beyond. He completed a wide variety of courses at the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg; the Philadelphia Fire Academy, and the Pittsburgh Fire Academy, and served as a Fire Instructor for the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy. While Chief, he served on the Governor's Commission on Fire Safety, which then issued its formal report, "Pennsylvania Burning."

Recognizing an apparent rising star in the field, in 1977 Governor Milton J. Shapp appointed him as the Commonwealth's first State Fire Commissioner. For 15 months, he worked alone, out of a small office, with a minor budget and, eventually, a single staffer. He was the right man at the right time. He worked





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tirelessly at tating the pulse of the fire service by personally visiting the state's fire companies and firefighter associations in all 67 counties, weekends included. The Commissioner also forged business, insurance and educational alliances, and acted as a catalyst for all fire-related entities in the Commonwealth. His carefully-cultivated relationships with the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy led to valuable grant awards to the state in the fields of master planning, organizational design, fire prevention education, and arson. All this and much more was chronicled in his office's quarterly publication, "The Fire Crier".

Chet seemed to step out of "central casting", and he brought such a wealth of knowledge to the position, and such a sense of what was needed, that Pennsylvania's fire program – particularly in the discipline of fire prevention – was noticed nationally. After giving many hundreds of unforgettable speeches and presentations throughout Pennsylvania, he was then sought out to give his motivational speeches throughout the country. With his congeniality, candor and common sense, he was a media dream. Keynoting a Fallen Firefighter ceremony at the National Fallen Firefighter's Memorial in Emmitsburg, and speaking from a church pulpit in Philadelphia where Ben Franklin (father of the nation's first fire company) had once spoken, were personal favorite events. But whether he was speaking to a vast audience under a spotlight in Washington D.C. or to several dozen firefighters from the platform of a fire truck in rural Pennsylvania, he spoke with the same sincerity and intensity.

Impressed with Chet's vision, vitality and leadership, in 1981, Governor Dick Thornburgh combined and transferred fire-related entities from other departments and created the Office of Fire Safety Services within the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). That prudent yet dramatic move gave the State Commissioner's Office the additional responsibility of the State Fire Academy (located in Lewistown) and the Volunteer Loan Assistance Program. A new era of service to the state's emergency responders followed. Five biennial Fire Awareness Symposiums were held by the Fire Commissioner's Office, where Chet sought out and showcased, at no charge to the Commonwealth, the best fire prevention education programs existing throughout the country; the State Fire Academy became nationally authorized to provide firefighter certification programs, and the Volunteer Loan Assistance Program was enhanced by the introduction of computer technology, improved procedures and increased staffing. By the time of his retirement in 1989, the state's fire deaths had dropped by twenty percent, and Chet had served the state's fire deaths had dropped by twenty percent, and Chet had served three





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Governors with great distinction. Through careful guardianship, most of the excellent programs he instituted survive today, enhanced by increasingly modern systems, newly-relevant courses and vastly-improved technology.

The few free hours Chet had were spent riding his favorite horse, "Pal", in the mountains near his home, which he built himself in Rye Township, Perry County, with his German Shepherd dog, "Smoky", or one of his successors, by his side. During his retirement, he greatly enjoyed his Gold Wing motorcycle; toured the United States on it, and participated in BMW motorcycle adventures in the European Alps and Norway. He was a member of Chapter "K" of the Honda Owners' Association. When he reluctantly sold the cycle because of deteriorating health, he had amassed over 150,000 happy and accident-free miles.

Chet started attending the Central Branch of the Harrisburg YMCA in 1936 as a Kiwanis Kid, and enjoyed its facilities through the ensuing decades. A natural athlete, he developed a love for handball, and played daily. He won the doubles championship in 1976 with his comrade (and one of his chief competitors) Wayne Howell. Chet received the Marty Sacks Award in 2003 and later served as a director and board member of the Marty Sacks Foundation, which provides grants to worthy applicants under the auspices of the Foundation for Enhancing Communities. He also enjoyed bowling, long distance running and dancing.

Chet served as one of the first Directors of the United States Fire Institute based in Washington DC; was a Director of the International Association of Fire Service Instructors; a member of the State Firefighters' Association; the Dauphin County Firemen's Association, and a Life Member of the Pennsylvania Pump Primers Association. He was also a former member of the West Shore Elks and the USS Rich Association.

With courage, Chet put himself in harm's way as a city firefighter and Chief. With commitment, he served the state's fire service community as its Commissioner. And most remarkably of all, with great character, he treated presidents and pump primers exactly the same. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends, and widely remembered for his massive contributions to the City of Harrisburg and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It can truly be said, "Well done, good and faithful servant."





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A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, July 9 at Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick, 212 State Street, Harrisburg, where he served as a Eucharistic Minister. Hundreds of friends visited at the Neill Funeral Home, Camp Hill, on the day before the Funeral.

Memorial contributions are respectfully suggested for the Homeland Center, 1901 North Fifth Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102; the PA National Fire Museum, 1820 North Fourth Street, Harrisburg, 17102, a local fire department in any community, or a charity of your choice.

Of Chief and Commissioner Henry, Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner Ed Mann said... "Chet was a dedicated public servant who spent much of his life serving others, in both the military and the fire service," Mann said. "The firefighting community in Pennsylvania is stronger today thanks to his contributions. Firefighters across the state feel his loss." Mann said much of the organization and responsibility of today's Office of the State Fire Commissioner, or OSFC, is the result of Henry's leadership and vision. Governor Dick Thornburgh supported Henry's ideas and moved operational responsibility for the State Fire Academy and oversight of the Volunteer Loan Assistance Program to OSFC. Henry died June 25 at age 84. He was appointed State Fire Commissioner in 1977 and served in that capacity through 1989. In addition, Henry's passion for fire prevention and safety changed the culture of homeowners and businesses across the state and gained him admiration and respect nationwide.

***Douglas Pollington*** – Born 1924, departed July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011. His wife Margaret died the day prior to his passing.

***Battalion Chief Steven Auch*** – co-author of the Firefighter Mayday Doctrine Research Project.

## Memories from the Past

Recently I was reviewing past correspondence from Gloria Hickey about Harry's involvement in the National Fire Heritage Center. I don't think I am violating any rights of privacy of advising you of this





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memory, “Way back in 1987 Harry lived in Springhill Lake apartments and I lived across the street. One Sunday afternoon we were sitting on the patio outside and Harry was “doodling” on the edge of the POST. I asked “what on this earth was he doing?” And he replied that he had an idea for a “museum” for the fire service. He had squares, rectangles, etc. and various titles. He was very serious when he said he felt it should be located near the Fire Academy and open to the public. It should not be “dead” but alive with the memories, contributions, sacrifices, and courage of all firefighters. His “dream” was so real to him and through his thoughts, ideas, etc it has also become real to me over these 24 years. I thought you might find the “history” or birth of the Fire Heritage Hall interesting. Please give Harry’s love to all. They are very much a part of him. If you would like more stories on “Heritage Hall” and its first conception just let me know! Please give our best to Bill Killen, God’s blessing to everyone!

## **Steamer DVD – Hubie Does it Again**

Captain Dave the cartoonist of the California Fire Service has now added another example of his art and science to the fire service. Working with a local production company, Hubie has now produced a film entitled “The Steamer, An American Icon”. This 55 minute video is an exciting film for any generation to view. –

America, 1902. As mighty white horses came thundering down the street, excitement, color and sound greeted those who stopped in their tracks to watch the steam fire engine racing to a fire – bells clanging, whistles blowing and smoke billowing from this historical classic.

This colorful documentary is about the discovery, resurrection and restoration of a 1902 American Steam Fire Engine. In 1991, recessed in the shadows of an old barn in Fallbrook, CA, one of these pioneer fire engines was found. The journey that followed is inspirational and amazing. From some of the most unlikely sources, piece by piece, this American Icon was brought back to life.

Whether it’s learning about rich firefighting history, listening to team anecdotes, watching the steamer pump water, or enjoying Blaze the fire dog and powerful horse teams, this DVD is bound to keep your interest.





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Known as "The American", this fire engine is an American treasure. From its glorious origins as Engine No. 1 in Reno, Nevada in 1902 to its remarkable resurrection, this fascinating, true story is captivating from start to finish!

Today, the steamer represents the best of us....the best of America.

## Into The Fire DVD

If you haven't seen the DVD entitled Into the Fire, produced by Fireman's Fund it definitely should be on your "To Watch" list. From big city engines to small town volunteer departments this film covers them all. It takes you on an emotional journey that has an effect upon both firefighters and civilians alike. The film includes music from Bob Dylan, Talking Heads and other artists. The film was written and directed by Bill Couturie, an Academy Award winning Director. It also contains narrative by Gary Sinise, recently of CSI-New York fame. The film is in the film library at the NFHC for view by visitors.

## Names in the News

John L. Bryan Receives Induction Plaque to the OSU Department of Fire Protection and Safety Technology "Hall of Heroes and Legends"



Dr. John L. Bryan, Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the University of Maryland, Department of Fire Protection Engineering received an induction plaque to the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Department of Fire Protection and Safety Technology "Hall of Heroes and Legends."

The plaque was presented by James C. "Robbie" Robertson, former Maryland State Fire Marshal. Both Bryan and Robertson are alumni of the OSU program.

The award was given at the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) Chesapeake Chapter's Annual Seminar that was held on Feb 8, 2011 in Calverton, Maryland.

Bryan served as Chair and Professor of the Department of Fire Protection Engineering from the establishment of the department in 1956 until his retirement from the University of Maryland in 1993.





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## Two Riverside County Volunteers Honored for 50 Years of Service

Top Left to Right Supervisors Bob Buster, John Tavaglione, Marion Ashley and John Benoit. Bottom Left to Right, Jeff La Russo, Volunteer Fire Coordinator, Captain Ray Russell, Lieutenant Dean McKernan and Fire Chief John Hawkins

CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department will present Ray Russell and Dean McKernan proclamations for their more than 50 years

each of dedicated service as volunteer firefighters. The presentation will be made during the Riverside County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, June 14, 2011, on the first floor of the County Administrative Center located at 4080 Lemon St., in Riverside.

Ray Russell, a Riverside County resident, began his service as a volunteer firefighter in 1957. At the same time of his volunteer involvement, Russell joined the California Division of Forestry. He left both departments from 1960 to 1963 to serve in the United States Army. He helped form the Home Gardens Volunteer Fire Company and is currently the only remaining Volunteer Fire Captain. He was also employed as a Training Officer in Riverside County and as an Assistant Chief with the California State Fire Training Office. Russell retired as an Assistant Chief from the California Department of Forestry in 1996 after a long and distinguished career. Of special note, Russell was awarded the State's Medal of Valor for his efforts in saving a pilot who had crashed his aircraft. Russell has also been a local business owner in Riverside County since 1992.

Dean McKernan has lived in Riverside County for over 56 years. He began his volunteer service with the Calimesa Volunteer Fire Department in 1959 and retired on January 11, 2011, from the Beaumont Volunteer Fire Department holding the rank of Volunteer Lieutenant. McKernan was actively involved as





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an educator at Beaumont High School for 37 years before retiring from there in 2005. Along with his decades as a teacher, McKernan also dedicated countless hours to youth athletics as a physical education instructor and served as an area football coach for 20 years. McKernan is an active elder at the Beaumont Presbyterian Church.

Both individuals are being recognized for superior commitment to their community and the fire service.

## Federation of Fire Chaplains MOA



President Coleman is pleased to advise the Membership and Board of Directors of the successful signing of another memorandum of agreement. This one is with the Federation of Fire Chaplains. The NFHC has now consummated agreements with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the United State Fire Administration.

The following document describes the nature and extent of this agreement.

### MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL FIRE HERITAGE CENTER AND THE FEDERATION OF FIRE CHAPLAINS

1. **PARTIES.** The parties to this Agreement are the National Fire Heritage Center (NFHC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland and The Federation of Fire Chaplains (FFC), in Clifton Texas.
2. **AUTHORITY.** This Agreement is authorized under the provisions of the policies and procedures of the National Fire Heritage Center and The Federation of Fire Chaplains both of which are not for profit organizations operating under the provisions of 5013c or 501-6.
3. **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth terms by which the National Fire Heritage Center and the Federation of Fire Chaplains will create a strategic partnership that aims





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to better identify, organize, access and preserve materials of historic and lasting value to the fire service community, researchers and students.

4. **BACKGROUND.** The NFHC has the goal of preserving the perishable past of all aspects of the fire service and allied professions in the United States. This involves preventing the accidental or deliberate destruction of personal papers, original research, correspondence, photographs or other forms of intellectual property that was developed by a specific person.

The mission of the FFC is to bring together persons interested in providing effective chaplain service: to give aid, comfort and help to firefighters and their families; to work toward the betterment of all areas of the fire and emergency services. To serve God, to aid humanity, our communities, our government, our religions, our country and the quality of life; to help mankind in developing their most noble characteristic – that of serving others; to help bring about a better understanding among all people with mutual harmony and respect regardless of one’s level of authority; and to achieve a single healing, unifying spirit of love for God and each other. The Federation is non-denominational, non-sectarian, and calls for no compromise for individual’s beliefs or convictions.

5. **RESPONSIBILITIES.**
  - A. The National Fire Heritage Center (NFHC) agrees to:
    1. Coordinate closely with FFC on providing information to family, heirs and executors of estates on how to preserve personal papers, anecdotal information, and other forms of documentation developed over an individual’s lifetime.
    2. NFHC agrees to evaluate and coordinate materials offered for donation into the national library system with its other partners including the USFA, FEMA, DHS, and the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation. For any materials that the NFHC chooses not to accept, they will give recommendations to the donor as to other options and alternatives available to protect the integrity of personal intellectual property.
  - B. The Federation of Fire Chaplains (FFC) agrees to:
    1. Coordinate closely with NFHC on providing information to family, heirs and executors of estates on how to preserve personal papers, anecdotal information, and other forms of documentation developed over an individual’s lifetime.
    2. FFC agrees to provide training information to chaplains about how the NFHC can provide services to family, heirs and executives of estates with respect to the disposal of items that may not have been designated as part of estate planning.





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C. Both organizations agree to provide linkage on their website to cross reference.

6. **ADMINISTRATIVE.** The original copy of this MOU will be maintained by the National Fire Heritage Center with a copy on file with the Federation of Fire Chaplains. There is no requirement for status – progress reports from either party.

7. **POINTS OF CONTACT.**

**NFHC**

**Ronny J. Coleman, President**  
8866 Saint Anthony Court  
Elk Grove, CA 95624  
916-689-5363  
[ron@fireforceone.com](mailto:ron@fireforceone.com)

**NFHC**

**Wayne Powell**  
11628 Simmons Road  
Taneytown, MD 21787  
(240) 344-7390  
[Wayne.Powell@marriott.com](mailto:Wayne.Powell@marriott.com)

**FFC**

**Dr. Ed Stauffer**  
Chaplain Director  
P.O. Box 437  
Meridian, TX 76665  
(254) 435-2256  
[chapdir1@aol.com](mailto:chapdir1@aol.com)

8. **OTHER PROVISIONS.** Nothing in this Agreement is intended to conflict with current laws, regulations, or directives of the National Fire Heritage Center or the Federation of Fire Chaplains.

If a term of this Agreement is inconsistent with such authority, then that term shall be invalid, but the remaining terms and conditions of this agreement shall remain in full force and effect.





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- 9. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Agreement shall be effective on the date of the last signature by the parties.
- 10. **MODIFICATION.** This Agreement may be modified upon the mutual written consent of the parties whenever required.
- 11. **TERMINATION.** The terms of this Agreement, as modified with the consent of both parties, will remain in effect upon agreement of the parties. The Agreement may be extended by mutual written agreement of the parties. This Agreement may be terminated with 30 days notice in writing by either party.

12. **APPROVAL.**

For the NFHC

Signature on File at the NFHC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronny J. Coleman, President  
National Fire Heritage Center

\_\_\_\_\_  
August 30, 2011

Date

For the FFC

Signature on File at NFHC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Ed Stauffer, Chaplain Director  
Federation of Fire Chaplains

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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## **Laura Yanes Talks to NFHC**

For Manhattan photographer Laura Yanes, for nearly 10-years has been conducting project to take portraits of firefighters nationwide. The project began as a show of her gratitude for the sacrifice that New York City's bravest made on September 11th.

"These men and women have risked their lives every day before 9/11 and every day after. And it wasn't just on that single day and it's really important, I think, to say thank you," Yanes said in a 2002 interview.

Yanes has been featured as a New Yorker of the Week in 2002, when she had snapped over 2,000 portraits of New York City firefighters. After receiving calls from fire departments in other states, Yanes decided to take the project cross-country in 2006.

"I think I've been to about eight states now and photographed a total of 18,000 firefighters," says Yanes.

As the 10th anniversary of 9/11 approaches, Yanes returned to the city to mark the solemn occasion by visiting with some old friends and with local firefighters.

"It's been wonderful to walk into a station again after five years and to still be welcomed and to still feel the warmth that I felt then," says Yanes.

To see portraits of over 7,000 FDNY firefighters Yanes photographed, visit [firefighterarchive.com](http://firefighterarchive.com).

## **FEATURE ARTICLE - Making History Safe**

*By Chris Marrion PE, FSFPE  
Background*

Fires and other natural, as well as man-made, disasters continue to destroy our cultural heritage. These events result in loss of both tangible and intangible aspects of *Spirit of Place*. For instance, fire in recent years has induced great losses in not only buildings (La Fenice Opera House, Windsor Castle, Troitsky





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Cathedral, Le Manège Militaire de Québec et al.), but also ships (Cutty Sark, UK), bridges (Kapelbruk Bridge, Switzerland) and monuments (Namdaemun Gate – South Korea).



*Le Manège Militaire de Québec after a fire started during rehabilitation efforts.*

In recent work at a 300 year old Buddhist Monastery in Mongolia that has very limited water, unreliable power, no Fire Department closer than 2 hours away, Temples open to the elements, and weather conditions that reach negative 40F in the winter, the author found himself going back to basic principles of fire protection to begin addressing these challenges in further protecting the Monastery. Herein is a brief overview of a performance-based approach to protecting historic structures and their irreplaceable artifacts that helps address the numerous challenges these facilities present, and some of the ways this approach was applied to this historic Monastery.

## **The Approach**

There are two ways often used to develop a disaster mitigation plan with regards to fire: prescriptive or performance based. The prescriptive approach uses building and fire codes. However, this approach at times has limitations, particularly for protecting historic structures and irreplaceable contents. For instance, when addressing these types of structures and their contents, it is important to gather pertinent information reflecting the unique heritage characteristics of the structure(s) and contents, as well as the overall fire safety and heritage related objectives to be achieved and incorporate these into the





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assessment and strategy development. A performance-based approach facilitates the incorporation of these, and allows such items as the following to be taken into account:

- Functional characteristics - being sensitive to, and not impacting the religious ceremonies and traditions that take place (i.e. butter lamps, candles, incense)
- Unique building and construction characteristics, techniques, and materials
- Site characteristics – infrastructure (water, power), remoteness (fire department, supplies), and adverse weather conditions (temperatures, hurricanes, wildfires, lightning area, etc.)
- Other potential hazards and threats (flooding, earthquakes, etc.)
- Local fire brigade characteristics– resources, quantity, notification, training, response time, and unique local fire prevention/firefighting methods
- Local and regional fire protection resources - equipment distributors, manufacturers, suppliers
- Historic fabric and limiting the impact of preservation work on the aesthetics
- Local resources, materials and people and incorporating them into the strategy
- Protecting the Spirit of Place, structure, contents, artefacts , historic fabric in addition to people
- Development of cost-effective, risk-informed, sustainable solutions that embrace local heritage and traditions

In developing a strategy to better capture these unique characteristics, challenges and goals, a risk-informed, performance/holistic approach offers opportunities that allow one to understand objectives, identify credible events/hazards and develop alternatives that include embracing indigenous traditions, as well as more sustainable solutions, and assessing their response using an engineering analysis to assess what can happen. This then allows stakeholders (caretakers, owners, government agencies, insurers, property managers, etc.) to make risk-informed decisions as to how to best protect these one of a kind structures and meet one's disaster mitigation goals.

A performance-based, risk-informed approach involves the steps shown in the following flowchart. In brief, the major steps are similar to those outlined in the *SFPE Engineering Guide to Performance Based Fire Protection Analysis and Design for Buildings*. Other documents also discuss this approach including NFPA 909, NFPA 914, *SFPE/ICC Code Official's Guide to Performance Based Design Review*. This was the approach chosen for the assessment of the Monastery and addressing its unique challenges and needs.





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Performance Based Analysis Approach from *The SFPE Engineering Guide to Performance-Based Fire Protection Analysis and Design of Buildings*

## The Monastery

### Overview

One may imagine there are various fire/life safety challenges of an historic Monastery in the outer reaches of Mongolia. This particular Monastery is one of the very few remaining that were not destroyed by the communists during their religious purges in the 1930's. Currently, the Monastery is one of the main pilgrimage destinations in Mongolia receiving up to 20,000 pilgrims/visitors each year.





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The journey to the Monastery started in Ulaanbaatar, the capitol of Mongolia. Eight of us were packed tightly in a mini-van. After several hours of driving, we turned right onto an unmarked dirt 'path'. We then proceeded for a few more hours down these unmarked paths through various valleys, mountains and waterways and around numerous herds of goats, horses and sheep. Upon arrival, we met with the Head Lama and engaged in traditional introductory ceremonies. (We were not sure if it was a test, but my colleague had a spider crawling up his jacket when we initially sat down with the Head Lama that we made sure to release back to nature and not kill it.) We soon found that there was no electricity to the Monastery. We were then brought over to the Monk's dormitory where we resided for the 3 days we were there. The first night was interesting to say the least trying to eat and sleep in sub-zero temperatures without heat.

## **The Strategy and Capacity Building**

Work over the next several days involved discussions regarding fire/life safety and various goals and objectives that the strategy is intended to achieve and learning of the specific artifacts to protect, in addition to the Temples themselves and its unique characteristics and craftsmanship.



Surveys and documentation of the numerous Temples then began. This included working closely with the architects and Monks. During initial discussions, one could see there was some room for improvement regarding awareness and knowledge of fire, as well as potential response should a fire start - the closest fire department is over 2 hours away and their apparatus may not readily make it over the 'road' into the site.

Example of interior detail and on-going rehabilitation work

Part of the observations involved looking at ignition sources, and opportunities to use inherent features and local resources in developing the mitigation strategy. With regards to ignition sources, there are





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large numbers of open flames/offerings, as well as a significant quantity of banners (Thangkas, prayer flags, etc.).



These offerings typically involve a top heavy chalice shaped cup with a smaller base filled with melted butter and a wick that is burned. These are placed in the Temples at times in close proximity to the combustible banners. The electrical wiring while less than 20 years old was found to be brittle and cracking likely due to winter temperatures reaching -40F. The wiring also showed signs of overheating and occurrences of small fires/charring at some of the outlets.



Electrical wiring issues and signs of overheating

As the first day progressed it became apparent that there were more immediate needs and actions than just undertaking the survey and discussions, and submitting an initial report of our findings and recommendations to various stakeholders. After refocusing our efforts, we re-prioritized our work and





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developed a four part 'Immediate Action Plan' to begin addressing these immediate needs. Initially, sessions with the top Monks were held to discuss fire challenges, fire behavior, fire prevention and ignition sources, as well as means to help limit/control them (separation distances, containers, more stable bases, etc.). Various walkthroughs with them were then conducted to help point out some of the challenges and potential mitigation efforts.

A brief 'Fire Safety 101' course for the forty or so younger monks (ages 5-15) was developed. Topics ranged from discussing what is fire, to what to do if they find a fire in the Temples or their dorms, to 'stop, drop and roll'.



Fire Safety 101 with the young Monks

The last part involved spending time with the head Monks to begin drafting an Immediate Fire Strategy Plan. This Plan included fire prevention measures as well as detection, notification and suppression, stressing that they were the ones that would be responsible for managing a fire event if one were to occur – but obviously not to the point of putting anyone's life in danger.

In developing this initial Fire Strategy Plan, there are several ways to develop alternatives to meet pre-established goals and objectives.

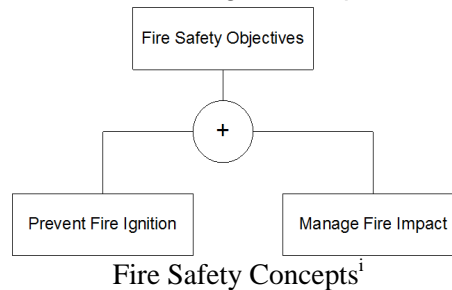


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One useful method was the concepts presented in NFPA 550 – *Guide to the Fire Safety Concepts Tree*, where one can either manage the fire, and/or manage the exposed.



Preventing fire ignition typically involves a combination of measures- limiting ignition sources, separating them from combustible materials, and developing fire prevention plans, while managing the fire's impact can include such fire/life safety components as detection/alarm systems, manual and automatic suppression systems, exit facilities, and structural protection, as well as creating awareness and building capacity locally.

Given the limited resources, both at the time and likely in the very near future, it was important to look at what was onsite that could be readily used. A large part of this initial strategy was therefore based on preventing ignition and fire prevention. This included controlling/reducing ignition sources through such means as creating specific locations for butter lamps, stabilizing their bases, containing them if they tipped over, separating them from combustible materials and limiting their size.





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The 'manage fire impact' part of the strategy then included looking at how to hasten detection through more frequent tours of the Temples by the Monks when there were fires, butter lamps, candles, or incense burning. For notification, it was proposed for the interim period to look at using conch shells. They use these to signal the start of chanting and meditation sessions and morning wakeup calls, and are thus tuned in to hearing them. There were also discussions regarding the potential of walkie-talkies or air horns, or fixing the existing Monastery bell in the future. Regarding suppression, various options including water, sand and wool blankets were discussed. There were existing shovels, sand buckets, etc yet these were behind a locked gate and no key was readily available.



Regarding the use of wool blankets, as Mongolia has numerous goats/sheep and some of the finest cashmere in the world, it was quite readily available. The latter two could be easily located within each Temple. Due to a very limited water pump capacity, consideration was given to storing water in buckets, as well as the potential of using a small storage tank on wheels that had been discarded in a remote area on the property.

Sand, buckets and shovels in locked compartment





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Detect



Notify



Respond



Suppress

The need for further training and use of extreme caution and not putting oneself in danger was significantly stressed. The initial proposed strategy also called for designating a leader or "Fire Chief" and starting to look at responsibilities to lead fire prevention, training and the initial fire brigade response.

The last part of the immediate needs was looking at how to better protect the young monks in the dormitory. This work included training, developing procedures (i.e. closing doors, etc.), and initial

layouts of a smoke detection system. Work regarding the more detailed strategy for this project continues on.

## Creating Awareness and Advocacy

Concerted efforts by the stakeholders were made to create further awareness on fire safety while we were there. For instance, upon returning to UB for instance, we presented a course on fire safety at one of the main Museums to a variety of stakeholders. This was in part due to a recent fire in one of the museums that destroyed a significant portion of the art in storage. Throughout the day various television stations and reporters came in to record parts of the course and conduct interviews. This was then broadcasted to help create broader awareness of the need for fire safety, and the pro-active work the various Ministries, US Ambassador, Mongolia's Arts Council and others were undertaking, and that we are thankful to for being a part of.

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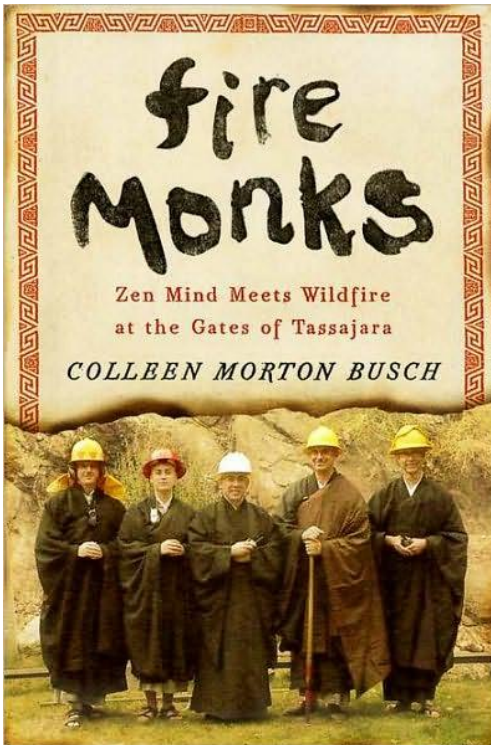
## Boston Website

If you want to get a better insight into the past of the Boston Fire Department, visit the following website  
[http://www.bpl.org/online/govdocs/boston\\_fire\\_department.htm](http://www.bpl.org/online/govdocs/boston_fire_department.htm)





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## **FIRE MONKS**

Rodney Slaughter, NFHC Director

In June of 2008, lightning strikes across California, from the Trinity Alps in the north to Santa Barbara in the south, ignited over 2,000 fires. This statewide emergency became known as the “Lightening Siege.”

The Lightening Siege also sparked several fires in Big Sur, California. Three of these fires converged on the isolated Tassajara Zen Mountain Center. “Fire Monks” chronicles the true story of how five Zen monks saved their monastery from certain destruction.

The civilian’s point of view for fighting fire and working with an incident command structure is an interesting twist for anyone interested in fire tactics and strategy. The fire, along with the command decision to evacuate and leave the monastery without protection, is what mobilizes the Fire Monk’s into action and makes for an incredibly interesting story.

The Author, Colleen Morton Busch, answers her own rhetorical question: what is it like to meet a wildland fire with minimal firefighter training but with years of practicing Zen Buddhism? The answer should not surprise any of us in the fire service. Long before the fire service became a “profession,” citizens, then and now, form volunteer fire companies to protect their towns and villages. The only difference between volunteer firefighters and the Zen monks is the level of training. The book successfully argues that practicing Zen, is in fact, the perfect training necessarily to confront the situation in front of you.

The chronicle of events that unfolds and how the monk’s world view helped them meet the dangers of a wildland fire forms the foundation for this story. The book is illustrated with color photographs of the wildland area and of the monastery.





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The grit, emotion and thoughts of those involved in this story is reminiscent of Norman Mclean's "Young Men and Fire." In that, like "Young Men and Fire," "Fire Monks" provides a historic record of a specific fire.

## **Dusty Old Closets**

You never can tell what you will find stored away in a dusty old closet, perhaps stashed away in an attic or basement or for that matter stacked up in the garage. I cannot help but wonder how many personal libraries and papers have been unceremoniously dumped into cardboard boxes and spirited away into oblivion. I know this to be true for the very simple reason that I have discovered some of those caches in my career.

Recently, I received a phone call from an individual who was the steward of one such collection. I do not know how many of you will recall Harry Bigglestone? He was among the giants of our industry many years ago. When he passed away, a significant amount of his collection was dispensed among fire museums. But some of the boxes ended up in an individual's possession that was not associated with the museum. Gratefully, this individual has sought out the National Fire Heritage Center as being the potential resting place for Harry's materials.

They haven't come into our possession yet but are on the way. I tell this story for the very simple reason that it could have gone the opposite direction. A friend of a friend knew about the NFHC. A casual conversation turned into a contact. That is the nature of our quest in preserving the perishable. The more we talk about the Heritage Center, the more we are likely to acquire these prize possessions before they are destroyed.

As soon as we get the Bigglestone material, I will provide you with an announcement of what his collection contained. Rumor has it that it is a lot of stuff about the old ISO back when it was called the National Bureau of Fire Underwriters (NVFU).

## **One + One**

What is one plus one? The answer is two. But what if it is one hundred plus one hundred? The answer is two hundred. If we go back to the early days of creating the National Fire Heritage Center we had a





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very small membership. I recall our first meeting at the Frederick County Communications Center and we didn't even take up every seat in the conference room. Our membership has grown significantly since that time. But more importantly, it must continue to grow if we are going to succeed in achieving our mission, goals and objectives.

If you believe in what we are doing as an organization, I would respectfully request that each of you find at least one new member and get them to join the Heritage Center. If each of us acquires at least one new member, we will double the size of the organization overnight. This infusion of membership is going to be critical for several reasons. Some people might think it is about the money, but membership dues do not make an organization stable. What does make the organization stable is participation and commitment by its members. We have a need to grow some membership committees to take on specific projects. We have a need for members to be engaged with our facility in Emmitsburg. We have a need for our members to reach out to local and regional fire museums to keep the communications process wide open.

Look around you. Ask yourself "who do you know that needs to be a member of NFHC"? Ask them to join.

We are rapidly gaining momentum as an organization and as our membership grows that momentum will increase. I am looking forward to your personal support to our organization but I am also looking forward to seeing the names of your friends appear on our expanded membership roster.



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