



CODE FOR FIRE BUFFING

The International Fire Buff Associates, Inc. is an association of many Fire Buff and Fire Fan groups and individuals in the United States, Canada and throughout the World that have banded together to further their ideals on the common ground of promoting the general welfare of the Fire Service and allied emergency services.

The International Association is in no way to be considered or construed as being a regulatory agency. Its sole function is to further the cause of Fire Buffing by bringing together members of the various groups in annual conventions, regional meetings and in print by disbursing information, ideas and other data through the medium of our official magazine "TURN OUT", our official web site <http://www.ifba.org> and through e-mail, notification networks and discussion groups.

In order to assist interested parties in forming and organizing a group of Fire Buffs, Fire Fans, Sparks or whatever you wish to call our avocation, the International Fire Buff Associates, Inc. has prepared the following suggestions as an aid to persons wishing to establish a formal group or for those individuals interested in becoming and associate member.

FIRE BUFFS WHAT AND WHO THEY ARE

The term Fire Buff is not defined in Webster's Unabridged Dictionary; however, to the estimated more than 50,000 Buffs in the United States, most of whom are freelance and do not belong to an organized group or club, Mr. Karl Detzer came closest to explaining our avocation when he wrote in the *Baltimore Sun*.

"Fires to us are not mere spectacles. They are demonstrations of strategy and tactics, for behind the apparent confusion at any "working fire", there is generalship. A real buff can tell at a glance just how the battle lines are drawn. The placement of hose lines and ladders, the use of high pressure turrets and water towers, the location of windows being smashed with axes - all these are clues to what kind of fire it is, where it is centered and how the job of extinguishing the blaze is progressing."

The above would indicate that today's Fire Buffs are basically students of the science of Fire Fighting together with an active interest in a host of other activities designed to aid and promote their local Fire Departments.

Contrary to general public perception, that the average Fire Buff is a youngster who never grew up. We take great pride in numbering among our compatriots, the following, whose motives or sanity has never been questioned.

George Washington
President of the United States
U. S. Grant
President and Civil War General
Justice and Mrs. Oliver Wendell Holmes
United States Supreme Court
Fiorello LaGuardia
Mayor, City of New York
Dr. Arthur Fiedler
Conductor, Boston Pops Orchestra
Dr. Harry Archer
Famous New York physician, who at 82 estimated he attended
some 20,000 fires;
John Patton Marshall
Boston University School of Music
Lester Watson
Boston Broker
Sir Winston Churchill
Prime Minister of England

PURPOSE

The purpose of a Fire Buff organization in any community should be the banding together of a group of individuals sincerely interested in one or more of the following activities:

1. To promote the general welfare of the Fire Service and allied emergency services in their particular area.
2. To advance and promote among members the exchange of ideas and experiences, the discussion of subjects and cultivation of friendly social relations among those interested in the science of Fire Fighting, Fire Prevention and related emergency functions.
3. To act as citizens' public relations group for the Fire Department. An interested and enlightened citizenry becomes the strongest bulwark against unfair criticism of any emergency service agency, whether paid or volunteer.
4. To furnish, maintain and/or operate a Canteen/Rehab Service for the Fire Departments, Public Safety and allied emergency services at fires or other incidents.
5. To render such aid and assistance at fires or disasters, other than actual fire fighting if so desired, that may be required or requested by the Fire Department Officer in

charge.

6. To preserve and maintain the history of the Fire Service by various means such as a museum or compiling a history or preserving visual history.

Watching your department control and extinguish a fire under a difficult situation certainly can only bring admiration and confidence that the Fire Department has again met the challenge of man's greatest enemy... and friend.

ORGANIZATION

It is a most fortunate Fire Buff Organization that, in its formative stage has the approval and sanction of the local Fire Department and its top officials. Most groups in existence today have had to earn, over a period of years, whatever measure of approval they now enjoy.

Generally, Fire Buff Groups are the result of the work of individuals who are sincerely interested in and respond to Fire Service activities on their own volition.

Individuals in rural areas with an interest in the Fire Service that are not in a community with an established I.F.B.A. group may be interested in becoming an associate member of the I.F.B.A..

The experience of most organized Fire Buff Groups is that it takes a number of informal meetings to determine if there is enough interest among prospective members to sustain a formal or working Fire Buff organization.

At this point, it may be advisable to determine which of the many fields of Buffing that the prospective organization is interested in pursuing.

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