



Coffee Break Training - Fire Prevention and Public Education

Pioneers in Fire Prevention

No. FM-2013-15 November 14, 2013

Learning Objective: The student will learn about fire protection innovators and their contributions to fire prevention and mitigation.

Ronny J. Coleman is a retired state fire marshal for the state of California. He possesses a Master of Arts degree in vocational education from Cal State Long Beach, a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from Cal State Fullerton, and an Associate of Arts degree in fire science from Rancho Santiago College. He has served in many elected positions in professional organizations, including president, International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC); vice president, International Committee for Prevention and Control of Fire (CTIF); and president, California League of Cities, Fire Chiefs Department. He served on the Public Safety Committee for the League of California Cities for almost 20 years, and he served as Chairman of the Commission on Fire Accreditation International from 1984 to 2005.

He has held professional memberships in many other organizations, such as the IAFC, International Fire Code Institute, Conference of Building Officials, International Code Council (ICC), National Fire Protection Association, and the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE), USA Branch. He was also elected as a Fellow of the IFE by the British Chapter.

In the past, he has served as a panel member on the reconstituted “America Burning” panel and was a member of the U.S. Fire Administration’s Stakeholder Committee. Now, he serves on the Fireman’s Fund National Committee and was recently elected as the first president of a new fire organization called the National Fire Heritage Center, an organization dedicated to preserving the written history of the fire profession in the U.S. He is also the Chairman of the International Accreditation Services, Technical Advisory Committee on the Accreditation of Fire Prevention Bureaus for the ICC.

In 2000, the California Fire Chiefs Association named their annual Fire Chief of the Year Award after Chief Coleman, and recently the Center for Public Safety Excellence announced that it is naming a perpetual trophy devoted to excellence in leadership after him. (This award began in 2010.) In 2011, he received the Mason Lankford Award, which is a lifetime achievement award created by the Congressional Fire Caucus Institute, and recently, he was awarded a special presidential recognition by the president of the ICC for his lifetime involvement in the development of fire codes. His latest assignment is Chairman of the California State Firefighters Associations Volunteer Committee, and he has been appointed to the ICC Membership Development Committee.

In addition, Chief Coleman is a columnist for Fire Chief magazine and Sprinkler Age magazine. He has authored over 19 textbooks for the fire community. His latest endeavor is to co-author a text entitled “Fire Marshal” for Jones & Bartlett Publishers. It is estimated that Chief Coleman is one of the most prolific writers in the fire service today!

Information is supplied by the National Fire Heritage Foundation (<http://nationalfireheritagecenter.org/>).

For archived downloads, go to:

www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/coffee-break/