

THE 33rd ANNUAL FIRE MUSEUM SEMINAR
“Preserving What Our Visitors Come to See”

A Project of the Fire Museum Network (FMN) & the Houston Fire Museum (HFM)

October 25-27, 2024

Houston, Texas

The **2024 Fire Museum Seminar** will be hosted by the **Fire Museum Network (FMN)** and the **Houston Fire Museum, Inc. (HFM)**, a 501-c-3 educational facility quartered in the 125-year-old and freshly-preserved former Houston Fire Department (HFD) Station No. 7 (a.k.a. “Old 7’s”). The seminar will be held **October 25-27 in Downtown and Midtown Houston** and includes a field trip to a privately-run fire museum near Waller, Texas, about 45 minutes from HFM.

Plan to travel in by Friday the 25th. If you are driving, you will be happy to know that the host hotel, **The Whitehall**, is providing rooms for our group for \$169 per night plus tax, single or double occupancy, that also **includes nightly valet parking** (tipping extra). Note full hotel details below. You will get your first visit that evening to the **Houston Fire Museum facility just eight blocks from our host hotel** where an **Open House and Reception** should give everyone that feeling of “Houston Hospitality.”

On Saturday the 26th, we plan to visit the **Edmonds Fire Museum**, a private museum with a spectacular ensemble of HFD antique fire rigs and memorabilia, the vision of its late founder William “Butch” Edmonds, himself a career member of HFD. We plan to pick up some genuine Texas Barbecue for lunch on the return trip as well as visit **HFD “Old 6’s,” on Washington Ave.** near Downtown, a former HFD firehouse beautifully preserved by owner Tom Hair of Axiom Public Relations.

Sunday the 27th will be **presentation day** with **five speakers lined up** to discuss topics including historic firehouse preservation, risk management for museums, exhibit development in the digital age.

Each night will provide ample opportunity to meet old and make new friends who share the same passion for preserving the history of firefighting in America that you do.

For those planning to fly in, **Houston has two major airports, Bush Intercontinental** (airport code **IAH**) and **Hobby Airport** (code **HOU**). About 20 miles due north of Downtown, Bush is the larger by far, is a hub for United Airlines, but also offers service by American and Delta as well as numerous “discount” airlines. Hobby is about 10 miles southeast of Downtown and is dominated by Southwest Airlines with service as well by American and Delta. Taxis and ride-share vehicles are available at each airport. One-way (airport to our host hotel or vice-versa) fares are generally **less than \$50 plus tip**.

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Back to the hotel, attendees will be able to utilize The **Whitehall's courtesy van** which is available for **rides and pickups to local restaurants within the Downtown and Midtown areas** for the price of a tip to the driver each way. So a huge selection of fantastic meal purveyors is easily within reach and return. HERE IS SOME MORE **HOTEL INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED TO KNOW:**

Host Hotel is the WHITEHALL HOUSTON HOTEL - 1700 Smith St - Houston TX 77002

- Toll-free hotel number (may book direct this way) 855-318-8945

- Website (or book online) - TheWhitehallHouston.com.

- Give agent or enter online this **Group Booking Code: 2410HOUSTONFIRE**

- Nightly group rate - **\$169 + tax** (Good Oct 24-28 but nights of Oct 25, 26, and 27 would be needed for full seminar program)

- Rooms offered are either one King or two Queen beds; either are at same price stated above

- Group Rate also includes nightly valet parking for one car per room; additional car is \$40/night

- **The room block expires 10/4/24 or 3 weeks before start of event, after which rates may/will go higher & not include parking**

- **ANY room booking can be cancelled up to 48 hours before 3 PM of arrival date** (i.e. 3 PM 2 days before checkin) **so book now** with confidence that if you need to cancel, you can up to 2 days before event.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The museum is housed in a 125-year-old building without an elevator. Seminar presentations will be held on the 2nd floor with closed-circuit TV fed to seats on the ground floor for those preferring not to climb the stairs. We will ask you to provide on the Registration Form the likely number who plan NOT to take the stairs during the seminar.

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SEMINAR SCHEDULE (times & topics subject to change)

NO apologies here for military time; firefighters have to know it, so should fire museum folks

FRI., OCT. 25

- 1500 – 1800 Hotel Lobby > REGISTRATION DESK staffed
- 1530 - 1800 Hotel Lobby > Hotel VAN SHUTTLE for hotel guests to HFM
- HFM's address is 2403 Milam St. if you prefer taxi or ride-share
- 1530 - 1630 HFM > HFM's Board & Staff hosts WELCOME & OPEN HOUSE
- FMN's Board meets 1600-1800 in private room at HFM
 - Guests at HFM may ride Hotel Van back any time it offloads at HFM
 - Please remember to TIP driver EACH time you use the Hotel Van
- 1630 - 1800 HFM hosts "FIREHOUSE RECEPTION" (Board meeting concurrent)
- 1830 HFM > Last VAN returns to hotel – Dinner (on own) & Networking

SAT., OCT. 26

- 0700 – 0845 Hotel Restaurant (2nd floor) > Breakfast & Networking (on own)
- 0730 – 0830 Hotel Lobby > REGISTRATION DESK staffed
- 0900 – 1000 Charter BUS > to EDMONDS FIRE MUSEUM, WALLER TX
- 1000 – 1130 Tour: **THE EDMONDS FIRE MUSEUM**
- 1145 – 1245 Depart for A SPECIAL TEXAS SHOPPING SPREE
- 1245 – 1345 LUNCH: TEXAS BARBECUE on the ride back Downtown
- 1345 – 1445 Tour: **HFD "OLD 6's," now headquarters of AXIOM Public Relations**
- 1500 – 1630 HFM > **FMN Members' Meeting & "Tell Us About Your Museum"**
- 1630 – 1700 HFM > Hotel VAN SHUTTLE to hotel – Dinner (on own) & Networking

SUN., OCT 27

- 0700 – 0845 Hotel Restaurant (2nd floor) > Breakfast & Networking (on own)
- 0830 – 0900 Hotel Lobby > Hotel VAN SHUTTLE assembled guests to HFM
- 0915 – 1030 HFM > **Topic: Preserving "Old 7's": The Logistical Challenges**
- 1030 - 1145 HFM > **Topic: Preserving "Old 7's": The Financing Roller Coaster**
- 1145 – 1300 LUNCH (Catered at HFM)
- 1300 - 1415 HFM > **Topic: Risk Management for Fire Museums**
- 1415 – 1530 HFM > **Topic Operating the World's Largest Fire Museum**
- 1545 - 1700 HFM > **Topic: Developing the Exhibit Plan for Fire Museums Today**
- 1700 – 1730 HFM > Hotel VAN SHUTTLE to hotel – Dinner (on own) & Networking

MON., OCT 28

- 0700 – 1100 Hotel Restaurant (2nd floor) > Breakfast & Networking (on own)

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REGISTRATION FORM

Any more than 2 persons of same address and affiliation, please copy/use additional form(s).

FMN or HFM member(s) attending: Total Number (Category A) _____

1. _____ EMAIL _____ CELL # (____) _____
2. _____ EMAIL _____ CELL # (____) _____

FMN or HFM NON-member(s) attending: Total Number (Category B) _____

1. _____ EMAIL _____ CELL # (____) _____
2. _____ EMAIL _____ CELL # (____) _____

A single affiliation & mailing address must be useable for ALL attendees above; please provide here:

Affiliation _____ Mail address _____ ZIP _____

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The museum is housed in a 125-year-old building without an elevator; seminar presentations will be held on the 2nd floor with closed-circuit TV fed to seats on the ground floor for those preferring not to climb the stairs. Provide number of persons NOT planning to use stairs: _____

COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION PURCHASE

Enter **Total Number (Category A)** from above: _____

- If payment is received **BY 9/30/24**, then **per person** fee is **\$150 X (A#)** _____ = \$ _____
- If payment is received **AFTER 9/30/24**, **per person** fee is **\$185 X (A#)** _____ = \$ _____

Enter **Total Number (Category B)** from above: _____

- If payment is received **BY 9/30/24**, then **per person** fee is **\$180 X (B#)** _____ = \$ _____
- If payment is received **AFTER 9/30/24**, **per person** fee is **\$215 X (B#)** _____ = \$ _____

Additional **deductible donation to HOUSTON FIRE MUSEUM, INC** (a 501-c-3 org.) = \$ _____

Enter Total Amount Payable _____ **(sum of all \$ above)** = \$ _____

Payment method (check one) _____ check _____ cashier check _____ credit card

- Cash is not accepted for pre-registration but will be accepted at on-site registration at "B" prices
- **CREDIT CARD INFO:** Brand (circle one) AX MC Visa # _____
Name on card _____ Expiration ____/____ Sec code _____
Billing address of card _____

IF PRINTING & MAILING THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT, PLEASE SEND TO:

"Houston Fire Museum, PO BOX 541535, HOUSTON, TX 77254"

FOR OFFICE USE: Date rec: _____ Payment rec: \$ _____ Method: _____ By: _____