



Lessons from a Fire in a Natural History Museum

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The Fire

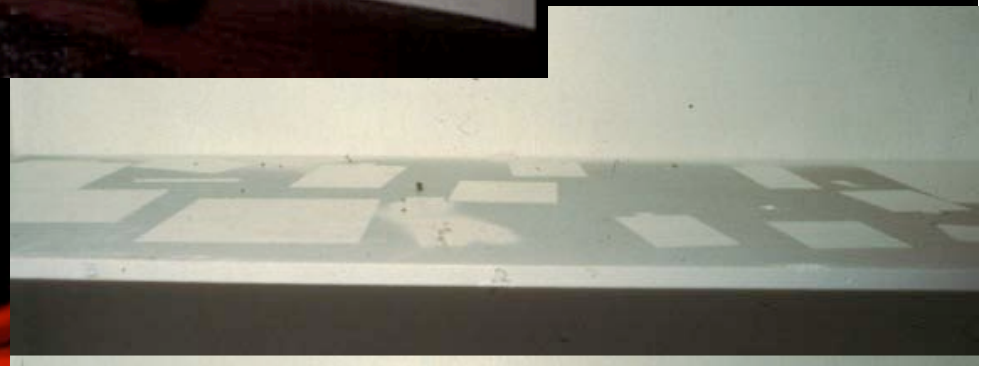
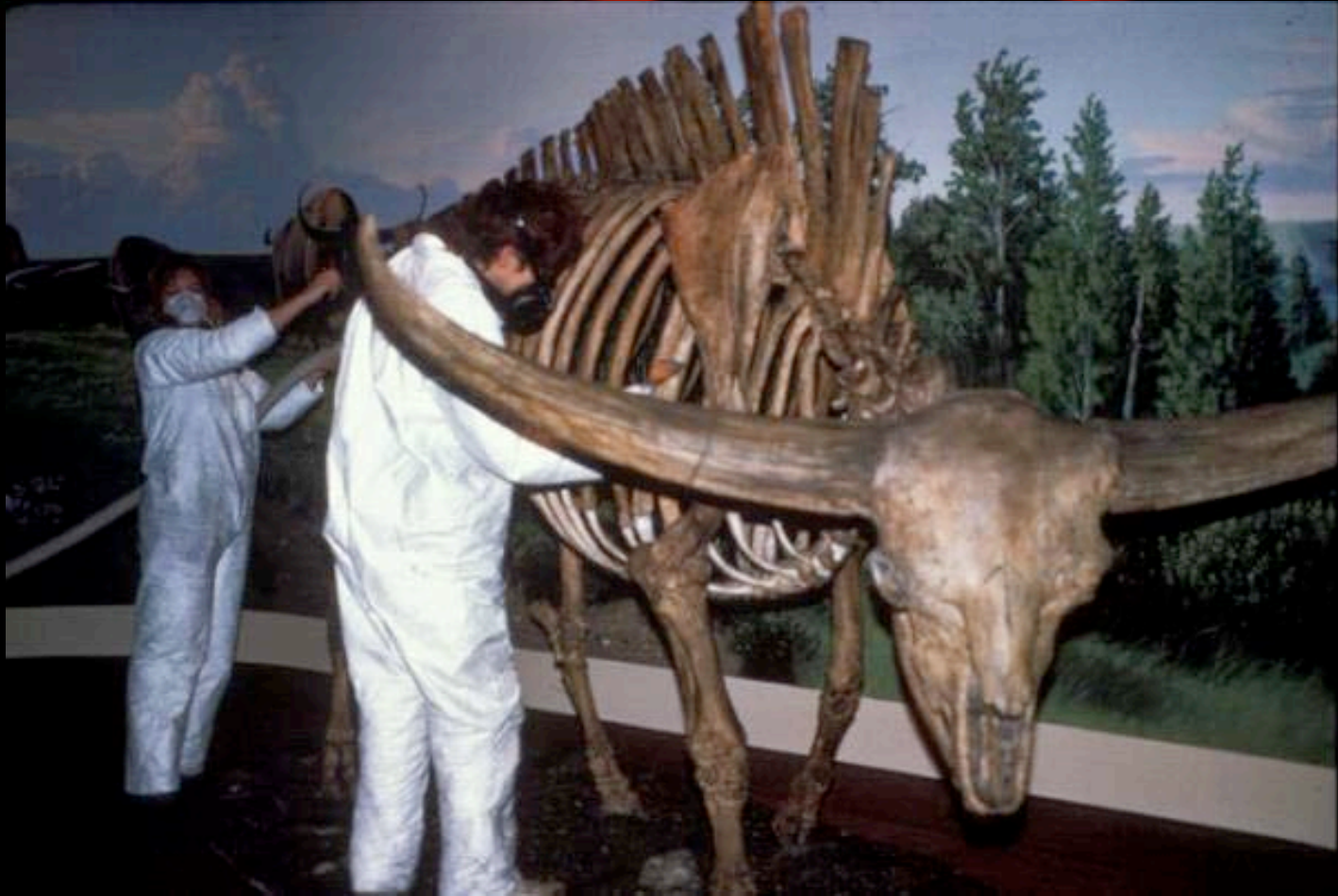


Moose - Northern Forest











Lesson No. 1

- **It helps when the firefighters know and love your museum**
- **Invite firefighters to tour your museum**
- **Host a party for families of firefighters and police officers**

Lesson No.2

- **Construction brings extra hazards**
- **Watch what your contractors are doing**
- **Develop guidelines for contractors working in museums**
- **Know what equipment and materials they will be using**

Lesson No. 3

- **Construction increases the fire risk**
- **Insist on a fire watch**
- **Make sure your fire detection and suppression systems are not compromised**

Lesson No. 4

- **Fire is bad – sprinklers are good**

OR

- **A little water is better than too much or none at all**

Lesson No. 5

- **Consider the fire risk when designing exhibitions and storage layouts**
- **Don't block sprinklers**
- **Don't overheat fluid-preserved specimens**
- **Think twice before designing a labyrinth**

Lesson No. 6

- **Leaky cases mean dirty specimens**
- **If an air-tight case is not a good idea, include filtered holes or use positive pressure from a clean air source**

Lesson No. 7

- Always clean with dry methods before using wet methods



Lesson No. 8

- **Soot is insoluble**
- **Don't try to "solubilize" soot**
- **Try to lift it instead**
- **Oily components will come with the carbon particles**

Executive Summary

- Planning can make a big difference



Thank You



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