



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Apollo 1 (AS-204) Fire Collection

2017

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Apollo 1 (AS-204) Fire Collection
Identifier:	NASM.2017.0029
Date:	(bulk 1960-2002)
Creator:	Needell, Allan A.
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (1 box)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Allan Needell / Space History, Transfer, 2017

Preferred Citation

Apollo 1 (AS-204) Fire Collection, Accession 2017-0029 , National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

On January 27, 1967, a fire broke out at 18:31 EST, in the cockpit of Apollo Command Module 012 while the "Block I" (Earth orbit capable) spacecraft sat atop an unfueled Saturn 1B rocket on launch pad 34 at Cape Canaveral, Florida. The system was undergoing a manned test in preparation for the scheduled Apollo 204 mission (now universally referred to as Apollo 1), the first scheduled manned orbital test of an Apollo Block I spacecraft. The three astronauts aboard, Virgil I. Grissom, Edward H. White, and Roger B. Chaffee, were killed by asphyxiation. In addition to the heartrending loss of life, the tragedy threatened to derail the United States' ambitious program to meet President John F. Kennedy's challenge to land a man on the Moon and return him safely to Earth before the end of the decade.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a cubic feet of copies of material gathered by Allan Needell on the Apollo 1 fire. Material was gathered from magazines, reports, memorandums, letters, and the Congressional Record.

There is also a folder of photographs taken on October 26, 1998, of the opening and inspection of the Apollo 204 Capsule container at the NASA Langley Research Center.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Apollo 1 Mission
- Apollo Project
- Astronautics
- Manned space flight

Types of Materials:

- Photographs
- Publications

Names:

- Chaffee, Roger B. (Commander)
- Grissom, Virgil I.
- White, Edward Higgins, 1930-1967