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New Fire Chief Named by City

By LANNY THOMAS

William J. McCrossen, a 31-year-veteran of the department, today was named New Orleans fire superintendent.

McCrossen, who has been deputy superintendent since Oct. 13, 1970, will replace Louis J. San Salvador, who will retire March 1.

"There is no question in my mind but that Chief McCrossen will make an outstanding superintendent," Chief Administrative Officer Richard J. Kernion said in announcing the appointment. "He is a true professional in every sense of the word."

KERNION ALSO announced the appointment of Fred A. Reiser to replace McCrossen as deputy superintendent. Reiser has been deputy for administration.

McCrossen, speaking to newsmen in Kernion's office, said his first project will be to compile a list of changes and innovations he proposes for the department.

Although he would not say if sprinklers in high-rise buildings would be one of his proposals, he "most definite-

ly" thinks sprinklers should be required.

He said he will evaluate all aspects of firefighting. "I'm talking about the whole ball of wax—high-rise buildings and low-rise buildings," he said.

AMONG REQUIREMENTS he may propose for the fire code are pressurized stairwells and an early fire protection system.

McCrossen said he has no information to connect the Nov. 29 Rault Center fire and the Jan. 7 fire and sniping at the Downtown Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge. He knows of no suspects in the Rault fire, he added.

Joseph M. Rault Jr., owner of the Rault Center, said yesterday there is a "distinct possibility" that the two fires may be linked. "As far as I know, this is strictly rumor," McCrossen said.

SAN SALVADOR said he will continue in retirement working for legislation requiring sprinklers in high-rise buildings. San Salvador was appointed superintendent by Mayor Moon Landrieu.

McCrossen has served as operator, lieutenant, captain and district chief. A native of New Orleans, he graduated from McDonogh High School and DeLahanty Institute of New York City. He has studied at Delgado College.

He is a member of the Police and Firemen's Holy Name Society, International Association of Fire Chiefs and the Louisiana State Fire Fighters Association.

Reiser has held the ranks of operator, lieutenant, captain and district chief. He is a native Orleanian.