

FIRESTORM, THE NUCLEAR MAN

FIRST APPEARANCE FIRESTORM #1 (March 1978)

STATUS Hero REAL NAME Ronnie Raymond

OCCUPATION Adventurer BASE JLA Watchtower, the Moon

HEIGHT 6ft 2in WEIGHT 202 lbs EYES White HAIR Flaming

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Flight; can rearrange the atomic and molecular structure of inorganic matter.

UNDERSTANDING THE HERO FIRESTORM is far from a straightforward proposition. Brought into being as the synthesis of two individuals, Firestorm later went through a number of alternate fusions whereby varied combinations of people united to create a single champion. The original Firestorm came about when college student Ronnie Raymond and physics professor Martin Stein fused into one superpowered “nuclear man” in an explosion at the Hudson nuclear facility. In their flame-topped Firestorm form, the two could fly and rearrange matter at the molecular level. Ron remained in control of Firestorm, while Martin hitchhiked along as a disembodied consciousness and took an advisory role, his scientific brain providing the complex atomic calculations needed for Firestorm’s advanced powers.



MARTIN STEIN *The professor found his calling as a fire elemental.*

ELEMENTAL WARFARE

Operating out of Pittsburgh, Ron and Martin made an efficient team against the likes of Killer Frost (see KILLER FROST II) and BLACK BISON. The Russian hero POZHAR later clashed with Firestorm above the Nevada desert. When a nuclear missile struck the two combatants, Ronnie and Pozhar merged into the second incarnation of Firestorm. Controlled by the amnesiac mind of Martin Stein, this Firestorm eventually learned that it had been fated to become Earth’s fire elemental—but only with Martin as host. Ronnie and Pozhar had apparently been unnecessary roadblocks in the Earth spirit Gaea’s plan. After Firestorm’s involvement in an “elemental war” involving SWAMP THING (earth), NAIAD (water), and RED TORNADO (air), as well as the addition of another Russian, Svarozhich, to the mix, Firestorm fissioned off the superfluous personalities to become the “correct” Firestorm—a fire elemental, controlled by Martin Stein alone.

Yet this wasn’t the end of the Firestorm saga. While the fire elemental Firestorm flew off to the edge of the universe,

FROST AND FIRE
Normally a bitter enemy, the villain Killer Frost was hypnotized into loving Firestorm during the Crisis.

Ron Raymond drifted into alcoholism and discovered that his super-heroic past had given him a form of leukemia. Searching for a cure, he discovered that the Firestorm powers had been written into his genetic structure. Now disease-free and active as a super hero once more, the Ron Raymond Firestorm (exhibiting the classic look and powers) served with EXTREME JUSTICE and the POWER COMPANY before joining the current lineup of the JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA. The Martin Stein Firestorm remains active in the cosmos. **DW**

RESIGNING ISSUE *Firestorm left the Power Company in a clash over the team’s corporate values.*

BURNING UP *Ron Raymond’s reacquisition of the Firestorm powers led to a spot on the world’s greatest super hero team. Recently, a young man named Jason Rusch has emerged as the possible inheritor of the Firestorm title.*

KEY STORYLINES

- **FIRESTORM, THE NUCLEAR MAN #90 (OCTOBER 1989):** The Elemental Wars kick off, signaling the increasing complexity of this super-hero title.
- **EXTREME JUSTICE #5 (JUNE 1995):** Raymond regains his Firestorm powers, and the Martin Stein fire elemental drops in for a visit.
- **JLA #69 (OCTOBER 2002):** Firestorm joins the Justice League of America while the original team is trapped in the ancient undersea world of Atlantis.

