



Quick Notes is an ICAC communication that will give you quick, timely links to recent news items impacting arson prevention, investigations, litigation and training. We trust that Quick Notes will be an easy way for you to remain current in news concerning arson control.

Events



ICAC Fire & Arson Investigation Seminar

February 24-26, 2014
Omni Charlotte Hotel-Downtown
Charlotte, NC

There is still time to register! Don't miss this cutting-edge annual training seminar, with topics geared toward claims personnel, defense attorneys, independent adjusters, SIU personnel and fire investigators. **Register now!**

Fire Investigations

Insurance fraud operation across South Florida nets 22 arrests

Twenty-two people were charged in a fraud scheme that bilked insurance companies out of \$7.6 million by intentionally setting fires or causing floods in homes. The multi-agency investigation was called Operation Flames and Floods.

<http://www.miamiherald.com>

Fire Investigators, Surveillance Footage ID Serial Arsonist

A hefty insurance payout is a common motive for arson, as claims investigators well know. But sometimes other factors are at play. In fact, a serious compulsion may have led to a suspicious fire at a Florida gas station on Jan. 26.

<http://www.propertycasualty360.com>

FEMA Coffee Break Training - Fire Investigation Series:

**Fire/Arson and Explosion Investigation Curriculum:
Interviewing/Interrogation: 10 Common Indicators of Deception - Part 2**

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov>

Arson Trials

Couple gets five years in prison for mail fraud

The couple pled guilty as part of a plea agreement that stated they mailed the claims to two insurance companies, and in submitting forms to start the claim process as well doing an inventory of the loss and gathering purchase receipts.

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com>

Pine Township man opts for unusual defense in arson case

Christopher Battishill took the unusual approach Monday of not only representing himself at trial on two arson charges, but also wearing his bright orange jail garb rather than the street clothes worn by most defendants.

<http://www.nwitimes.com>

Judge declares mistrial in arson case; defendant had acted as own attorney

<http://posttrib.suntimes.com>

Case Law

Abney v. Badger Mutual Insurance Co.

Although Badger does not cite decisions from this circuit, Badger's argument is amply supported by decisions from other circuits. At least five circuit courts have specifically concluded that it is improper to admit evidence of non-prosecution or acquittal of criminal arson charges in a civil insurance case.

<http://scholar.google.com/>

Colorado District Court Analyzes National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 921

The Court found that Allstate had no reason to question the validity of the origin and cause reports provided by the Clifton Fire Department and the private investigator. It was apparently undisputed that the opinions contained in the Clifton Fire Department report were reached by relying in part on NFPA 921. Ultimately, the Court concluded that although it was reasonable for Allstate to rely on the origin and cause reports, those reports fell short of establishing that Mr. Sipes intentionally set the fire.

<http://www.natlawreview.com>

News/Interest

NFPA 921, Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigation

The 2014 edition of the Guide is now available (the first NFPA standard to be published in color). NFPA 921 is the premier document in the world today that provides guidance and recommendations as to the proper methodology to follow and the science to apply to the investigation of fire and explosion incidents.

<http://nfpatoday.blog.nfpa.org>

Associate Member Profile

Forensic Fire Analysis, LLC - Forensic Fire Analysis was founded in 2005 by an experienced and motivated team of fire investigators and fire protection engineers. Forensic Fire Analysis, LLC is your single source for fire expertise. We offer the best practices in fire scene origin and cause determination, case evaluation, fire modeling, and engineering analysis. Forensic Fire Analysis, LLC combines scientific methodology with sound investigative judgment, which we deliver with value and integrity.

www.forensicfireanalysis.com

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