



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

Federal team to help investigate Salt Lake fire

Meanwhile, a man was arrested at the scene for allegedly impersonating a firefighter who claimed officials made a huge mistake regarding his intent. "They had no right to arrest me whatsoever. I wasn't doing anything illegal..."

<http://www.deseretnews.com>

FEMA Coffee Break Training - Fire Investigation Series:

ICAC Public Entity Members: Bomb Arson Tracking System

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

Arson Trials

Crivitz couple sentenced in tavern fire

"But I can't ignore it was mail fraud, piggybacked on arson." he said, adding that by removing property, they made "it pretty clear you knew or were confident an arson was going to occur."

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com>

Pennington Gap woman, children sentenced in attempt to burn own home

According to Lee County authorities, there were several attempts to burn down the trailer, the first occurring on the same day as the property foreclosure.

<http://www.timesnews.net>

Case Law

People v. Watson

The prosecution points out that defense counsel raised NFPA 921 during his cross-examination of expert. However, he did not refer to any specific provisions of the standards... thus, there was no testimony or other evidence that expert's analysis fell outside professional norms. Moreover, any implication from counsel's questions alone that expert had somehow failed to comply with the standards could not be considered by the jury. Counsel is not an expert and the jury was properly instructed that the attorneys' statements were not evidence. Defense counsel's failure to present available expert testimony to rebut Pelot's methodology and conclusion was a key factor in defendant's convictions, as was his failure to object to four prior convictions that were admitted in error. In sum, but for defense counsel's failure to present Larkin's expert testimony and to object to the admission of defendant's prior convictions, there was a reasonable probability that defendant's trial would have resulted in a different outcome.

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

News/Interest

EKU Professor and Harper College Professors Featured on Website Among Nation's "Top 15 Arson Investigation Professors"

Greg Gorbett, associate professor in Eastern Kentucky University.

<http://www.prweb.com>

Sam Giordano professor at Harper College.

<http://www.dailyherald.com>

Fire Reports

Arson in America underreported

Arson is much more common than is reported by the U.S. government, the ABC15 Investigators found in a yearlong national investigation with Scripps Howard News Service.

<http://www.abc15.com>

Associate Member Profile

Columbia Southern University. Columbia Southern University offers completely online accredited degree programs, open enrollment, with a flexible learning style designed to accommodate your life. Choose from associate, bachelor, master, or certificate programs in a variety of fields including Fire Science, Emergency Services Management, Organizational Leadership, Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Occupational Safety and Health, and more.

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