



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.

Fire Investigations

Report: Chesnee homeowner masterminded arson plan

Freeman told investigators that they talked about him "burning her house so she could get the insurance money." The deputy noted in his report that the discovery of the cat meant that the person "who entered her residence had knowledge of her family."

<http://www.foxcarolina.com>

Victim: Chesnee cat abducted by fire-setting burglars

Spartanburg County deputies said they have arrested two people accused of breaking into a Chesnee home then setting it on fire - and the victim says they also stole their cat for a few days

<http://www.foxcarolina.com>

FEMA Coffee Break Training - Fire Investigation Series:

Fire/Arson and Explosion Investigation Curriculum: Use of Social Media in Arson Investigations

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

Arson Trials

Gay Overland Arson Trial

Follow the course of this Canadian arson prosecution for a series of fires and alleged fraud that took place between 2005 and 2011 including five counts of arson, three counts of fraud over \$5,000 and one count each of uttering a forged document and counselling another person to commit arson.

Woman faces numerous arson charges

<http://www.saultstar.com/2011/12/21/woman-faces-numerous-arson-charges-updated>

Second person charged in arsons

<http://www.saultstar.com/2012/03/06/second-person-charged-in-arsons>

Five weeks set aside for arson trial

<http://www.saultstar.com/2013/09/25/five-weeks-set-aside-for-arson-trial>

Arson trial begins

<http://www.saultstar.com/2014/01/06/arson-trial-begins>

Case Law

PENNSYLVANIA COURT ANALYZES EXPERT OPINIONS

Ultimately, the court concluded that MBIC's expert testimony, reports and opinion were reliable pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 702. The expert clearly stated in his rebuttal report and his deposition that his analysis followed NFPA 921..

<http://www.natlawreview.com/>

For the opinion, see <http://docs.justia.com>

News/Interest

Arson hotline fights fires, but needs more tipsters

The Texas Arson Hotline, a 22-year-old underused tool could help fight the crime. Officials are once again encouraging citizens to give it a ring.

<http://kxan.com/>

Surveillance video captures puppy store arson

Surveillance video that captured people setting fire to the Prince and Princess Puppies and Boutique store on South Rainbow in Las Vegas on Jan. 27.

<http://www.fox5vegas.com>

Web/Book Report

State insurance fraud bureaus

Fraud bureaus are state agencies that detect, investigate and prevent insurance scams. All bureaus invite citizens to phone in hot tips about suspected scams. Some bureaus also let you report scams from their websites.

<http://www.insurancefraud.org>

Associate Member Profile

Brown & James, P.C. - Brown & James has an experienced first party Arson/Fraud Practice Group. The lawyers in the Arson/Fraud Practice Group represent and advise insurers through all phases of first party arson/fraud claim investigations. They routinely conduct examinations under oath and provide recommendations on conducting objective and thorough claim investigations. They also routinely defend insurers in first party arson/fraud litigation. The firm has offices in Missouri, Illinois, and Arkansas. For more information, please contact Bob Brady or Jon Morrow at 314-421-3400, or visit

www.brownjames.com

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