



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

FEMA Coffee Break Training - Fire Investigation Series:

Fire/Arson and Explosion Investigation Curriculum: Arson Reporting Immunity Legislation

<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.

Undercover cop takes stand in arson trial

<http://www.saultstar.com/2014/01/08/undercover-cop-takes-stand-in-arson-trial>

More undercover recordings to be heard in Overland arson trial

<http://www.saultstar.com/2014/01/09/more-undercover-recordings-to-be-heard-in-overland-arson-trial>

Arson suspect tells undercover officer fires can't be traced

<http://www.saultstar.com/2014/01/10/arson-suspect-tells-undercover-officer-fires-cant-be-traced>

Man pleads guilty, gets 12 months in arson case

<http://www.saultstar.com/2014/01/14/man-pleads-guilty-gets-12-months-in-arson-case>

Garage "set up" with gasoline, judge hears in arson trial

<http://www.saultstar.com/2014/01/20/garage-set-up-with-gasoline-judge-hears-in-arson-trial>

Case Law

UNITRIN PREFERRED INSURANCE COMPANY v. DOBRA

This case deals with the following issues on appeal: (1) whether the trial court erred in allowing the testimony of an expert as to the cause and origin of the fire; and (2) whether that testimony usurped the role of the jury and prejudiced the company during trial.

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

WELLS v. STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY

This case is about the qualifications of a forensic accounting expert in an effort to prove financial motive for arson and whether specialized training on financial motive to commit fraud by arson was needed. Expert was qualified to testify as to Plaintiff's general motive to commit fraud (if any), as well as provide a description of the assets (such as Plaintiff's home and insurance policy) that Plaintiff had at his disposal.

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

News/Interest

Guided by Science

It is now regarded as the premier resource for fire investigations, but when NFPA 921, Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations, first arrived on the scene in 1992, some investigators were rooting for its early demise.

<http://www.nfpa.org/>

CoMotion dances with fire

It's all part of the CoMotion Dance Project's performance of "Fire Speaks the Land." An exploration into the beautifully destructive and subsequent regenerative nature of fire makes it the perfect topic for exploration, especially in the Rocky Mountain region where fires ravage forests every summer.

<http://missoulia.com>

Associate Member Profile

At **Niles Barton & Wilmer, LLP**, the trust of our clients is our greatest asset. In fact, the history of our firm has been built on it. We've earned and kept that trust by finding the right, most practical answers to clients' problems and issues, providing candid advice, keeping them informed every step of the way and being responsive to their needs.

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