



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.

Arson Awareness Week

Arson Awareness Week starts Monday

Each year during the first full week in May, the U.S. Fire Administration works to raise awareness of arson and provide individuals with strategies to combat it in their community. This year, Arson Awareness Week starts Monday and ends May 10 and focuses on vehicle arson

- Neighbor Newspapers - Arson Awareness Week starts Monday
USFA Site - www.usa.fema.gov

Events

2014 ICAC Webinar Series: Expert Witness



An ICAC Event | May 15, 2014 | 3:00 pm EST

One Dimensional vs. Two Dimensional Experts: Knowing the Difference Can Help You Avoid Costly Pitfalls in Selecting and Instructing Experts

Presented by Terry Dawn Hewitt and Rick Hammond.

Expert witnesses are the lynchpin of fire and explosion cases. If an expert is insufficiently qualified or performs poorly in the heat of litigation, even a most promising case can sour quickly. In many fire cases, the insurance claims handler or SIU supervisor are under severe time pressures to hire one or more experts for a given case, often without the help of the attorney who will ultimately handle the case.

This webinar will help you to distinguish between a one-dimensional expert who appears to have all of the requisites of an expert with sufficient expertise in his or her field; and a two-dimensional expert who not only has the requisite expertise, but has developed a crucial second dimension - the skills necessary to testify effectively. This webinar will provide:

- Examples of cross-examination techniques that can defeat even very knowledgeable one-dimensional experts at depositions or trial;
Strategies that two-dimensional experts use to deflect such techniques; and
A checklist for selecting and instructing two-dimensional experts.

Register

\$40.00 ICAC Member | \$60.00 Non-Member

Fire Investigations

Two men indicted in insurance fraud/arson scheme

National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) data revealed that a previous insurance claim included \$15,000 for a vehicle claimed to struck by lightning. Subpoenaed cell phone records revealed that the two had spoken to each other several times immediately before and after the Tahoe was reported stolen.

www.timesnews.net

Citizen video aided investigation

A citizen video of a Muskegon Heights house fire on Easter Sunday has aided investigators in determining the cause of the fire: Arson.

www.mlive.com

Case Law

DARBY v. THE NEW YORK TIMES

This is an opinion dealing with defamation arising from a news story arising from the fire at the Texas Governor's mansion a few years ago. It is a long opinion, and deals mostly with newspaper liability issues, but does a good job of examining the necessary elements of defamation when allegations of arson are involved.

http://scholar.google.com

News/Interest

From England: Real Crisps supplier profits boosted by arson insurance claim

An insurance payout after a devastating factory fire has given a multimillion pound boost to the Real Crisps maker Manderly.

www.thegrocer.co.uk

Pennsylvania Fraternity Arson Fire Investigated

Fraternity brothers are alleged to have lit "streamers" of gasoline on fire, then douse them with sand. The fun ended when the fire got out control, setting a couch on fire.

www.firehouse.com

Associate Member Profile

IRIS Fire Investigations, Inc. IRIS Fire is continually evaluating our processes and procedures employed during a fire investigation to ensure the most efficient and thorough product is delivered to the client. IRIS Fire understands that the resources and time afforded fire scene investigations are not unlimited. As such, our technology, techniques, tools, and personnel are used to create a product that gives you the necessary information to move your claim processing forward.

www.irisfire.com

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