



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

2014 ICAC Webinar Series: Top 5 Arson Cases



An ICAC Event | July 22, 2014 | 11:00 am EST

Arson Cases in 2014: The Top 5 Critical Cases Claims Personnel Should Know

Presented by Gerald T. Albrecht

There are a plethora of arson cases decided every year and it can be time consuming to follow each ruling. These cases can contradict others and may be decided based on the specifics of a particular jurisdiction. But, there are 5 Critical Cases claims personnel should know. These cases are the basics and the building blocks for all the others.

- The basic elements of the intentional burning defense in civil litigation.
• The basic evidentiary standards for the admissibility of expert testimony in an arson case.
• The standards for the Concealment and Fraud defense.
• The courts' treatment of NFPA 921 and;
• The interplay of criminal and civil arson cases.

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

Fire Investigations

Fresno rocked by suspicious fires, possibly by serial arsonists

More than 160 suspicious Fresno fires — half of them deemed arson — over the past two months has city fire investigators carefully studying the alarming activity for clues.

www.fresnobee.com

Many Vehicular Arson Cases Difficult to Solve

Washington, D.C.-area fire departments are grappling with hundreds of deliberately set car fires each year, according to a review by the News4 I-Team. A large number of those fires are never prosecuted, while some are never solved.

www.nbcwashington.com

Arson Trials

LP Woman Gets Prison Time for Arson Charges

According to reports, Frye admitted that she indeed started the fire by "igniting a drape in the bottom of a closet," and told police she "hoped to use the \$50,000 [of insurance money] to move to Florida."

For the full story on her trial, the Times Herald story here. To read a fully story by LP Patch dating back to the incident, visit the link here.

Case Law

AFFILIATED FM INSURANCE CO v. LTK CONSULTING SERVICES

Interesting case involving expert testimony and relevance of NFPA 921 as an acceptable guide for fire investigation methodology that courts have often used to exclude expert testimony that fails to comport with NFPA 921 standards when the expert witness explicitly references the guide in reaching his or her conclusions. However, the court goes on to state that an expert's reliance on a methodology other than NFPA 921 does not render his opinions per se unreliable.

http://scholar.google.com

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Jack Ward Fire Consultants, LLC - With over two hundred combined years of fire investigation, fire analysis, special investigation and courtroom testimony experience, Jack Ward Fire Consultants, LLC has the resources to offer you and your clients a quality, professional investigation. From the fire origin and cause determination, to the detailed actions of our special investigators, to providing expert testimony, our consultants utilize state of the art technology, expert techniques, and our proven systematic approach to investigations.

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