



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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Fire Investigations

Alleged arsonist's use of children's estate money under investigation

Accused arsonist April Durham has been using money from her two children's heavily litigated estate to pay for the Henry house that she allegedly burned down in an insurance scheme three months ago

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Arson inquiry widens after multiple fires in 3 cities

When a fire breaks out, local authorities are first on scene. Obvious accidental fires can be wrapped up within days by those local fire departments. But when a blaze is considered suspicious, the State Fire Marshal's Office usually takes over.

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Arson Trials

Alleged insurance arsonist set himself alight, court told

A pizza shop owner has been accused of hiring a customer to set fire to his restaurant for an alleged insurance fraud attempt during which the alleged arsonist accidentally set himself alight and suffered major burns, a court has heard.

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UPDATED: Overland decision pushed

Overland is accused of arson and fraud in relation to five fires spanning over six years. She is facing charges of five counts of arson, three counts of fraud, and one count each for uttering a forged document and counselling another person to commit arson.

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[View the previous Quick Notes items on this case in the archive section of the ICAC website](#)

Case Law

IDS PROPERTY CASUALTY v. CRAWFORD

Insured argues that the intentional loss exclusion only applies if her purpose for setting the fire was to damage her home or property. She claims that she set the fire to harm herself, not her house or private property, so the exclusion does not apply.

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News/Interest

Investigators lauded for stopping 2013 arson spree

Fifty investigators whose efforts halted an arson spree that involved 42 fires in Washington and Frederick counties last year were honored during a ceremony Tuesday at the Maryland State Police barrack south of Hagerstown.

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Arson complicates city's efforts to deal with blighted areas

Vacant building fires constitute only a small percentage of structure fires overall. But they are more likely to involve arson, according to a report from the National Fire Protection Association.

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Member Note

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