



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.

Upcoming Webinar

2014 ICAC Webinar Series: Handling a Fire Claim



An ICAC Event | November 13, 2014 | 2:00 pm EST

HELLO---I HAD A FIRE...

The 5 Things Beginning Claims Representatives Should Consider When Handling a Fire Claim

Presented by Gerald T. Albrecht

Fire claims, and particularly those involving intentionally set fires, pose unique and tricky issues for the claims representative. These issues range from the legal and moral battles of Good vs. Evil, to potential Bad Faith disasters (if not handled properly). This webinar will focus 5 things or tools a beginning claim representative should consider when handling a fire claim. We will discuss:

- Origin and Cause Experts;
• Claims Communications;
• Law Enforcement Contact;
• Recorded Statements; and
• The Avoidance of Bad Faith.

Register

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

Fire Investigations

Bensalem man charged in 2010 arson-insurance fraud case

The AG's office became involved after the insurance company denied the insurance claim. A forensic examination of the vehicle determined that the ignition lock assembly was not broken and the car was last operated using a proper key, according to court documents.

www.buckscountycouriertimes.com

Scientific methodology used in arson probe

The ignition source was determined to be an open flame in the bedroom of the apartment. While the defendant claims in the court papers that he lit a candle before walking to Subway and returned to find the burning building, evidence gathered at the scene did not match his statement, the affidavit states.

www.kokomotribune.com

Arson Trials

Prosecutor in 1995 arson case says guilty man convicted

"I find it incredible that an open-air sofa could engulf the house in flames in that time," the prosecutor said. He disputed an argument that a cigarette could ignite a couch in just four minutes stating his knowledge is that a smoldering cigarette would take 45 minutes to 2 hours to ignite a couch "if it ever does."

www.battlecreekenquirer.com

Mother and son convicted of arson insurance scam

Another son living at the house said he could smell a strong odor of rubbing alcohol as they left the house to go on a "spontaneous family picnic." The fire was reported about 20 to 30 minutes later.

www.9news.com

Case Law

FOWLER v. NATIONWIDE

Nationwide argued the circuit court erred in failing to grant a new trial based upon the improper admission of opinion testimony from Chief Wright. Specifically, Nationwide argued the circuit court erred in admitting the Truck Report and Chief Wright's testimony regarding his rationale for completing the report. Nationwide contended this evidence was inadmissible because it contained opinion testimony Chief Wright was not qualified to provide the jury. The court agreed.

scholar.google.com

News/Interest

Arson costs the economy £53.8m Million a week – it's the single most common cause of fire in businesses.

Each week in the UK there are 2,213 Arson attacks, with an average of two deaths and 53 are injuries. Of those attacks 360 Businesses or public buildings are damaged or destroyed. If you consider that after a serious fire 43% of businesses close and 29% close within three years, you ignore the threat of arsonists at your peril.

www.campbellkennedy.co.uk

Arsonists: Who Are They And Why Do They Do What They Do?

RENO, NV - Investigators say the King Fire, now burning out of control in the Sierra west of Lake Tahoe, was deliberately set and they have a suspect. [The suspect's] guilt or innocence and any possible motive will be determined by further investigation and prosecution, but arson is a crime which always leaves the rest of us with a puzzling question: Who are these people and why do they set fires?

www.kolotv.com

Associate Member Profile

Spear, Spear & Hamby, P.C. - Licensed in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and Tennessee, our attorneys provide experienced and aggressive representation across a broad spectrum of legal concerns with a commitment to achieving the most satisfactory results for our clients. Keeping a trained and watchful eye on the legal horizon, we stay abreast of important judicial decisions and trends so that we can furnish confident, knowledgeable guidance to those attempting to navigate the challenges and complexities of law and litigation.

www.richardsonsspear.com

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