



Special Edition: Arson Trial

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:
NFA 1033/921



An ICAC Event | December 10, 2014 | 3:00 pm EST

IMPROVING FIRE INVESTIGATIONS WHILE GIVING MORE AMMUNITION TO TRIAL ATTORNEYS: A FRESH LOOK AT THE 2014 EDITIONS OF NFA 1033 AND 921

Presented by Rick Hammond & Terry-Dawn Hewitt



In 2014, and for the first time in sixteen years, the NFPA published in the same year new editions of both NFPA 1033 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator and NFPA 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations. While the changes in the new editions of these industry standards have tremendous potential to improve the quality of fire investigations, they also provide additional ammunition to attorneys wanting to challenge investigators in court. In this webinar, two fire attorneys will share their insights into the most significant of these changes from a litigation perspective.

In this webinar, you will learn:

- How NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921 are directly relevant in challenging the qualifications and reliability of expert evidence under Daubert and state equivalents;
• Revisions in the 2014 editions that effectively merge NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921, together making them more powerful than ever in the hands of skilled trial attorneys;
• Implications of the expansion of NFPA 1033's infamous "list of 13" minimum knowledge requirements to a "list of 16;" and the correlation between this "list of 16" and NFPA 921, which together raise the bar for fire investigators;
• The heightened standing that both NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921 give to ASTM standards, making these standards mandatory for a reliable investigation.

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

Arson Trials

Horse Cave federal arson trial starts

"The accused designed the fire to prevent an impending inventory and financial audit of the Horse Cave Dollar General Store," Assistant U.S. Attorney Joshua Judd wrote in a notice filed in August of intent to introduce evidence of mismanagement at the store that included theft of cash and store inventory.

www.bgdailynews.com

Deputy fire marshal testifies in arson trial

Hours after Debra Fowler Kessinger was interviewed by a deputy state fire marshal about a fire that destroyed the Dollar General store she managed, Kessinger called the investigator at his home to report that she believed the blaze was an attempt to silence her for being a drug informant.

www.bgdailynews.com

Former colleagues testify in arson case

When she managed the Dollar General store in Horse Cave, Debra Fowler Kessinger improperly prepared the store's daily earnings for deposit, stored inventory in the break room against company policy and failed to prepare the business for an upcoming audit, four former colleagues testified Tuesday.

www.bgdailynews.com

Electrical failure ruled out in arson case

An investigator who looked into the 2011 fire that destroyed the Horse Cave Dollar General store found it could not have been accidentally caused by electrical failure, according to court testimony Wednesday.

www.bgdailynews.com

Investigators testify in federal arson case

Two federal investigators recounted their interviews with arson suspect Debra Kessinger during the fourth day of her trial in U.S. District Court.

www.bgdailynews.com

Kessinger convicted of arson

Debra Fowler Kessinger, who managed the Horse Cave Dollar General store when it caught fire in 2011, was found guilty Friday of intentionally starting the fire.

www.bgdailynews.com

Associate Member Profile

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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