

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.

Fire/Arson Investigations

"Unprecedented" \$170,000 Reward Announced in Downtown LA Apartment Inferno

The Dec. 8 fire at Da Vinci Apartments, a wood-frame structure under construction, left investigators with about 75,000-square feet of debris to search through before determining the cause was arson. "I've been doing this for 25 years, and I don't recall a reward this high," said agent Carlos Canino, of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. "It's unprecedented because of the magnitude of this fire."

www.nbclosangeles.com

Troy arson task force investigates fires

The city's new arson task force has 10 suspects in its investigation of 13 deliberately set fires that have lit up Lansingburgh since July, officials said Monday.

www.timesunion.com

Arson Trials

Defense claims prosecutorial misconduct in arson trial

Attorneys for alleged arsonist Gregory Potter want Judge Steven Houran to dismiss the charges against their client with prejudice, due to what they claim is prosecutorial misconduct.

www.fosters.com

Arson trial resumes Tuesday: Witnesses recalled argument with Potter

A man who lost his mattress and bedding almost two years ago, after Gregory Potter allegedly set them on fire, took the witness stand Friday morning at Potter's arson trial.

www.fosters.com

Students: Potter was drunk and rude before fires were set

Gregory Potter was drunk and rude during a social gathering in Durham just moments before he allegedly set five multiunit structures on fire nearly two years ago, according to a woman who testified on Wednesday afternoon for the state.

www.fosters.com

Arson detective testifies in Potter trial

Daly, who led the investigation, testified about inconsistencies in where Potter said he was during five apartment house fires in Durham in the early morning of Feb. 2, 2013.

www.ledgertranscript.com

After fires, friends told Potter to get an attorney

Alleged arsonist Gregory Potter told Fire Investigator Keith Rodenhiser of the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office that he intended to revisit the University of New Hampshire after allegedly starting five fires close to campus, but was advised by friends that he should obtain an attorney instead.

www.fosters.com

Judge: Cell phone picture not admissible evidence

Prosecutors in the Gregory Potter arson trial will not be able to admit evidence of a picture he deleted from his cell phone showing a fire he allegedly started two years ago at 4 Smith Park Lane in Durham.

www.fosters.com

Jury deliberates in Potter arson trial

A defense attorney told the jury during closing arguments Thursday morning in Gregory Potter's arson trial that his client is not guilty and has fallen prey to speculation. Deputy County Attorney Alysia Cassotis, who presented her closing argument after Harrington, said that Potter's behavior during a recorded audio interview with investigators on Feb. 13, 2013, confirms his guilt.

www.fosters.com

Potter guilty of starting 5 fires in Durham

Former Peterborough on-call firefighter and EMT Gregory Potter was found guilty on five charges of arson and three counts of criminal mischief for the fires he set in Durham on Feb. 2, 2013.

www.fosters.com

Case Law

STATE V. HANSEN

Criminal case where evidence was found sufficient beyond a reasonable doubt that Hansen intentionally aided Torres in profiting from a felony. Torres testified that Hansen bought household goods for him as payoff for starting the fire. A rational trier of fact could have found that Torres, by receiving the household goods, profited from committing arson and that Hansen, by purchasing the household goods, intentionally aided him in profiting. So, the evidence is sufficient to support Hansen's conviction for aiding the consummation of a felony

scholar.google.com

News/Interest

Worst Insurance Fraud Scams of 2014

An arson case qualifies as one of the worst insurance fraud scams of the past year according to the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud.

www.claimsjournal.com

Associate Member Profile

Brown & James, P.C. - Brown & James has an experienced first party Arson/Fraud Practice Group. The lawyers in the Arson/Fraud Practice Group represent and advise insurers through all phases of first party arson/fraud claim investigations. They routinely conduct examinations under oath and provide recommendations on conducting objective and thorough claim investigations. They also routinely defend insurers in first party arson/fraud litigation. The firm has offices in Missouri, Illinois, and Arkansas. For more information, please contact Bob Brady or Jon Morrow at 314-421-3400, or visit www.brownjames.com

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