



FIRE & INVESTIGATOR

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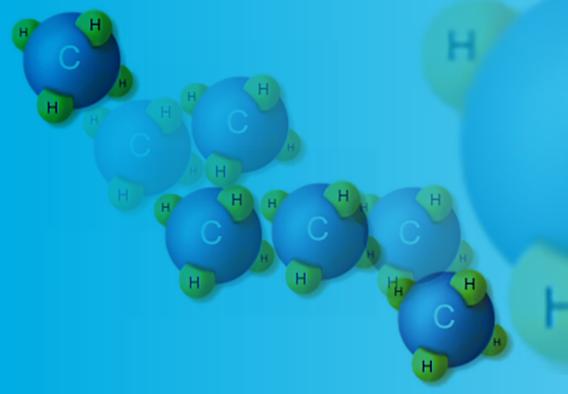
Volume 66

Issue 4

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**Comparing the Response
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Comparing the Response of Portable Hydrocarbon Detectors to Laboratory Analysis of Household Substrates

By: Jamie M. Baerncopt, Forensic Chemist- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Forensic Science Laboratory (ATF)
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Abstract:

Electronic hydrocarbon detectors have been commonly used in the field of fire investigations to aid in the possible location of ignitable liquid residues. These devices alert to the presence of volatile hydrocarbons to indicate a potential sampling location. In this study, the selectivity and sensitivity of two models of hydrocarbon detectors were examined. Sixteen burned and unburned substrates of various types were tested using both hydrocarbon detectors and the results were compared to laboratory analysis. Several substrates known to inherently contain petroleum products were chosen to evaluate the detector response. Since no ignitable liquids were present, a positive result from the instrument indicated the presence of a petroleum product. Both detectors showed numerous false positives. The consistent use of the detectors in the field of fire investigations

COHb Levels in Fire Victims and Origin Analysis An ATF Case Study

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Abstract

The determination of the origin and cause of a fire is a difficult endeavor that requires fire investigators to follow the Scientific Method to reach testable hypotheses as to how a fire started. As part of this process, fire investigators must consider all information available to them in analyzing their developed hypotheses. In recent years there has been an argument put forward in the fire investigation community that a fatal fire victim's carboxyhemoglobin (COHb) concentration is an important factor to consider when determining the origin of a fire. This argument has been argued in Indiana and Texas courts and was recognized by those courts to be newly discovered information. Although the consideration of COHb in any d

Ethical Considerations in the Investigation of Fire Losses

Pre-approved for 3 hours of adjuster ethics continuing education credit in Kentucky and Florida

Everyone needs ethics credits, and the issue of ethics is never clear cut. After hearing criticism of ethics programs being "dry" and "boring," this program was developed and has since been presented across the United States to rave reviews. Unlike other ethics programs, this class is presented in a discussion format using video scenarios from actual fire scene investigations and testimony. You will participate in this class in addressing the issues which arise in the investigation of fire losses. This presentation includes a discussion of this presentation and testimony.

Delivery Time

Social Media

Pre-approved for 1 hour of adjuster continuing education credit in Kentucky and Florida

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The following classes can be added to any one of the above classes at a minimal additional cost, but are not available as a stand-alone class due to the short duration of the programs.

Legal Considerations Affecting Fire Loss Investigation and Litigation – A Civil Defense and Subrogation Recovery Perspective

Pre-approved for 1 hour of adjuster continuing education credit in Kentucky and Florida

...reaching a fire loss from a claim investigation or ...thing that must be maintained is the ...discusses both the similarities ...by an



Washington Wire and Advocacy Committee Update

Washington Wire
Advocacy of The Fire Caucus

Past President Roger Krupp,
Chairman, Advocacy Committee

Despite being in a city that's famous for its usual gridlock, there is a lot happening to keep the IAAI Government Affairs Team and the Advocacy Committee busy:

ATF Update-

As we reported during the IAAI 2015 Annual General Meeting, H.R. 1329, the ATF Elimination Act, was introduced to the House Judiciary Committee by House Representative Jim Sensenbrenner on March 4, 2015. House Representatives Reid Ribble of Wisconsin and Randy Weber of Texas are co-sponsors of this Bill. On March 31, 2015, the House Judiciary Committee referred this Bill to the House Security and Investigations Subcommittee. There has been no further activity on this bill or action by the Subcommittee.

Public Safety Officers Death Benefit (PSOB) - The IAAI and The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) are working together to close a loophole that was created when in 2006, the Department of Justice rewrote the regulations for the PSOB program, including establishing a new definition of "firefighter" that does not exist in the Code. Based on the 2006 re-write, firefighter is now defined as:

- "An individual who –
- 1) Is trained in –
 - i) Suppression of fire; or
 - ii) Hazardous-materials response; and
- 2) Has the legal authority and responsibility to engage in the suppression of fires, as –
 - i) An employee of the public safety agency he serves, which legally recognizes him to have such (or, at a minimum, does not deny (or has not denied) his status as such); or
 - ii) An individual otherwise defined in the definition of firefighter in the Code.

IAAI Director of Governmental Affairs
Steve Austin,

- 2) That a definition of "On-site hazard management" be added, so as to read: "On-site hazard management means providing scene security or directing traffic in response to any fire drill, fire call, or other fire, rescue, or police emergency, and investigating and analyzing fire and explosion incidents." We believe that the re-write will address the issue of non-sworn uniformed fire investigators who are employed by fire departments and potentially may not be covered by PSOB. This definition would also solve the issue of some non-sworn Fire Police Officers being excluded from PSOB. We also support this fix that has been proposed by the NVFC and supported by the National Advisory Committee of the Congressional Fire Services Institute.

Congressional Fire Services Institute

This year the annual CFSI Symposium and Dinner will be held May 3-5, 2016. We have learned Congress will not be in session. If you are planning to attend the event, we will have an IAAI Booth in the exhibit area. We are also proud to help sponsor the CFSI Barbeque with Lion Apparel. For those members attending, we are happy to supply a ticket to the event that takes place the Wednesday night.

NFPA Response