



FIRE & INVESTIGATOR

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What's Inside:

Fire Origin Pattern Persistence



WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS?

2017

Curious? Turn to page 23 to see.



executive director's view

Deborah Keeler



... if you have a plan and have prioritized what you'd like to achieve, you have a better likelihood of doing it.

It's almost fall, and I'm preparing for another IAAI road trip. I'm fortunate that I really like travel. Travel doesn't seem a burden, but this time feels different. Maybe you have felt the same way. You're not looking forward to with the same enthusiasm. You still haven't registered or made hotel reservations. You need to get bounced

committee news

Kevin Crawford, Chair, Health & Safety Committee

Health and safety

- four groups
- 1 Best Practices
 - 2 Cancer
 - 3 Safety
 - 4 HazMat

The health and safety of all fire service personnel rest, ultimately, with each individual in whatever capacity they serve within the fire industry. Fire investigators, public and private, are no exception to the requirements for being responsible for their own safety. The fire service has in the last several years made great strides forward in protecting firefighters from not only the acute hazards present on the fire ground but also the chronic effects of the less physical hazards such as the precursors of cancer and psychological impacts. There is a myriad of reasons, but often fire investigators are not included in the same protections afforded the line firefighters. Both public and private fire investigators are impacted by the lack of safety concerns.

Many years ago the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) had a committee focused on fire investigator Health and Safety. The current IAAI President, George Coddling, has made a decision to reconstitute and revamp the Health and Safety Committee and has asked me to be the Committee Chair. As an IAAI Director I was thrilled to be invited to take on this challenge and even more excited that the IAAI is taking the lead in fire investigator protection and health and safety, after all, the IAAI is the 'Global Leader in Fire Investigation.'

Over the past several months I have put together a committee of subject matter experts in various fields with a specific focus on health and safety. The new committee consists of four groups; Best Practices, Cancer, Safety and HazMat. There are also several key experts who are lending their expertise to the committee as resources. The focus of the Best Practices group starts with an in-depth look at current best practices as they exist today. Then lend that baseline to the other committees for evaluation and identification of gaps in the current practices of fire investigators.

In the toxic hazards, there is a great increase in hazards presented to the fire investigator in today's fire scene. The Cancer group will spend their time looking at the unseen and long-term injury of the precursors of cancer and, along with the Safety group, other physiologic and psychological injuries not immediately seen or noticed.

After the Cancer, HazMat and Safety groups have completed their studies and findings, they will work with the Best Practices group to formulate a new set of best practice operational guidelines. The group will present these guidelines to the IAAI's Training & Education Committee for formulation into presentations in several different formats including publication in this Journal, a CFITrainer.Net module, a standalone classroom type presentation, and other venues. The committee will work with the various NFPA committees for inclusion of the new findings in the appropriate guides and standards published by the NFPA. The Health and Safety Committee will also share the findings with the IAAI's Advocacy Committee for potential formulation into legislative actions.

The revamped Health and Safety Committee is a significant step forward for the protection of fire investigators worldwide and the coordination and inclusion of fire investigators in both the public and private sectors in the already existing protections for firefighters. As the committee moves forward with its studies and findings, those activities and other safety information will be published in this journal.

You can help the Committee by taking a few minutes to answer a survey to be emailed out to all members, posted on the IAAI webpage (firearson.com) on CFITrainer.Net.

Fire Origin Pattern Persistence

Chad D. Campanell
Senior Special Agent – Certified Fire Investigator
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

and

Steven J. Avato
Deputy Fire Marshal – Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office
ATF Supervisory Special Agent – Certified Fire Investigator (Retired)

Introduction

The determination of a fire's origin and cause, the primary role of fire investigators, can be a daunting task. The observation, collection and analysis of data often occurs in an environment where seemingly small variables, such as whether a door was open or closed, can alter an origin and cause hypothesis. A dramatic pattern on a wall opposite a doorway requires careful thought in order to determine the origin and cause scenario.

In fact, the artifact or pattern within the scene as support is fixed. In the notion that specified fire tests were

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Prior review

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Approach

Live fire testing in support of this project began in January 2011 (and continues to the present.) The authors have participated in over 400 controlled fire tests. Ten facilities of different sizes and ventilation characteristics have been used with dozens of configurations and scenarios having been planned, set up, burned, documented and studied.

One facility consists of eight, identical, one-room concrete buildings measuring 4.1 meters W x 2.8 meters D x 2.4 meters H (13 feet 6 inches x 9 feet 2 inches x 7 feet 9 inches). A single door measuring 0.8 meters W x 2.1 meters H (2 feet 6 inches x 6 feet 9 inches) is located on the long wall.

global member news

IAAI SIGNS IAAI-FIT MOU WITH QUEBEC CHAPTER



IAAI President George Codding signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).



IAAI President George Codding and IAAI Quebec Chapter President Alain Harvey shake hands after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the organizations to facilitate the development of courses and testing protocols to allow membership to challenge the IAAI designation in French.



IAAI Quebec Chapter President Alain Harvey presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Roger Krupp, who was IAAI President when the chapter began its annual conference tradition.

The IAAI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the IAAI's Quebec Chapter at a ceremony on June 15, 2016, at a training conference in Longueuil, Quebec, near Montreal. President George Codding was in attendance along with Past President Roger Krupp, who was invited to return as he had been IAAI President when the chapter began its annual conference tradition.

The MOU permits the Quebec chapter to facilitate its members in fulfilling requirements for the Fire Investigation Technician (IAAI-FIT) designation, by developing and presenting courses in French that are equivalent to the CFITrainer.Net prerequisite modules and proctoring the IAAI-FIT exam in French under carefully defined conditions. The MOU represents an effort to extend the benefits of IAAI membership and certification to fire investigators whose primary language is not English. ■

"The outcome of any project or initiative is best measured by the people we meet and the relationships we form.

By that measure, NFORS has been an incredible success."

Sincerely, Greg and the NFORS Project Team

The transfer of NFORS to NFPA.

Because the IAAI has a seat as a Stakeholder, and as the IAAI representative, I was able to provide guidance as the fire investigation module for the NFORS reporting system was being developed. NFPA has picked up this project and will be a partner to see its expanded use.



We are sure NFPA will continue to grow NFORS with a focus on local volunteer and career fire department needs. Ultimately, we have encouraged NFPA to move toward implementation as soon as possible. It is only through the use of NFORS that local Fire Departments can benefit from the past 4-years effort.

We at EPI are incredibly grateful to our Stakeholder organizations and to the AFG for your years of service to the NFORS project - thank you for your vested interest, time and loyalty. It is our wish that you advise the executive leadership and membership of your organization of this update.

Sincerely,

Greg Mears, MD

Greg Mears, MD