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What's Inside:

**EXPLORING THE RELEVANCE AND
RELIABILITY OF WITNESS STATEMENTS
IN THE SCIENCE OF FIRE INVESTIGATION**

*Photo Credit: Motor Vehicle Fire Investigation
City of Newport Beach Fire Station 7
Trace Lawless
January 21, 2019*

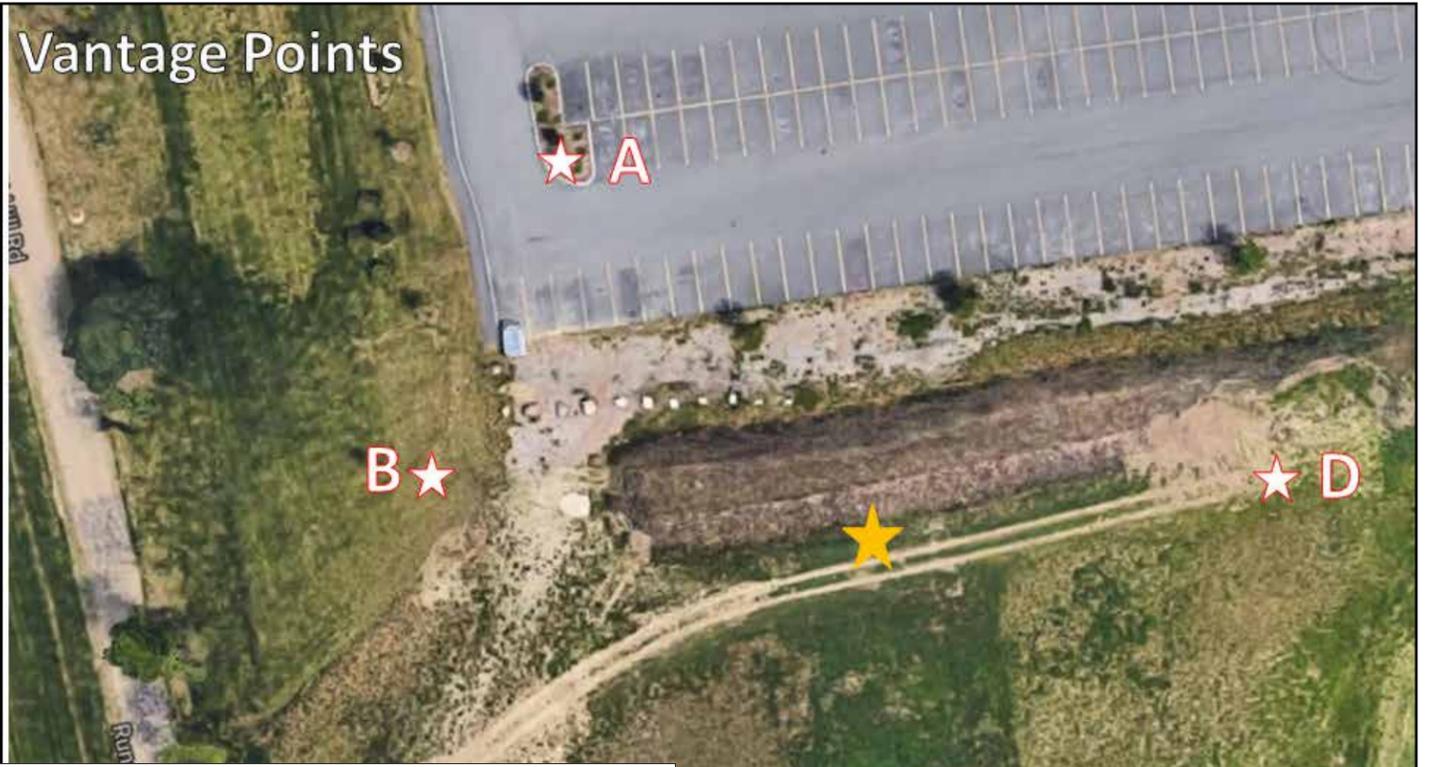
Exploring the Relevance and Reliability

of Witness Statements in the Science of Fire Investigation

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Vantage Points



ABSTRACT

Information provided by witnesses is regularly used in the analysis of fire events to determine origin, cause, and cause classification; however, there is often dispute over the "scientific" value of this information. A "witness statement" is a common tool used in fire investigation. New research is being conducted to explore the relevance and reliability of witness statements in the science of fire investigation.



Jeff Pauley, IAAI-CFI, CFEI, MIFireE, Chair, Health & Safety Committee

health & safety Committee Update

Providing the latest in fire investigator health and safety information to our members.

Welcome to the Health and Safety Committee's new page. Going forward we will have a page in each issue dedicated to updating our members with the latest information on this important subject.

The committee's purpose is to promote fire investigator health and safety knowledge, awareness, discussion, and action among members of the IAAI, its chapters, and the fire investigation community in general. The committee is comprised of 10 fire investigators representing the public and private sectors and is supported by a five-member advisory panel of subject matter experts.

An important step in our work occurred when the IAAI Board of Directors issued the resolution shown on the right supporting the committee's efforts and a culture change initiative regarding better fire investigator health and safety. Please take a moment to read this important message.

Now that the first edition of the best practices white paper has been published, one of our primary focus points for the coming year is starting the process

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) was formed to inform and educate its members on the latest research and information regarding health and safety information and effective fire investigator practices;

Whereas, the Health and Safety Committee of the IAAI, was established to promote fire investigator health and safety knowledge, awareness, discussion, and action among members of the IAAI, its chapters, and the fire investigation community in general by providing health and safety practice guidelines;

Whereas, it is the duty and responsibility of the IAAI to inform and educate its members on the latest research and information regarding health and safety information and best practices; and

Whereas, the executive board of the IAAI supports a culture change initiative regarding better fire investigator health and safety, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) shall:

1. Adopt a position of supporting, enhancing and educating its members on the latest research and information regarding health and safety information and best practices throughout all its activities, efforts and publications;
2. Urge every committee to incorporate, where practical, health and safety information and activities utilizing information provided by the Health and Safety Committee and approved by the executive board;
3. Urge each chapter to embrace and educate its members on fire investigator health and safety matters through their activities, efforts, and publications, utilizing information and best practices approved and provided by the IAAI; and
4. Urge every member to follow the health and safety best practices as outlined in the IAAI Best Practices White Paper.

Adopted by the IAAI Executive Board September 7, 2018

W.T. Moylan
William T. "Bumper" Moylan
IAAI President 2018-2019

OP-ed



IAAI welcomes member input - for technical review or non-technical consideration

Leadership in the fire investigation

By R. Rullan

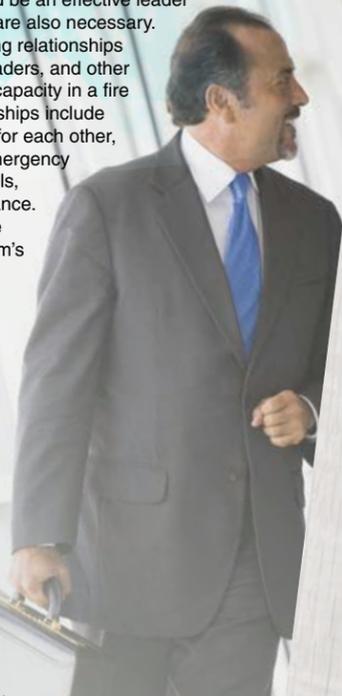
Leadership is not a position, it is a process.

The fire investigation scene can be a complex, multi-discipline event that requires care coordination and strong leadership. The fire investigator tasked with leading a fire investigation must be confident enough in their skills to be able to display a strong command presence and be an effective leader on the fire ground. Strong relationships are also necessary.

A fire investigator must develop strong relationships with peers, management, community leaders, and other individuals who may be involved in any capacity in a fire investigation. The fruits of these relationships include the ability to work together and achieve for each other, prior to the fire event. The time of the emergency is not the time to sit and discuss protocols, philosophies, and standards of performance. The time of the event is time for effective action. A strong leader will know the team's abilities, shortcomings, and needs. This leader will create synergy, allowing for a product that reflects the collective, and produces a thorough, safe, and efficient fire investigation.

The fire investigator must continually work on their leadership skills as one might as an investigator or firefighter on the floor. A complex fire scene is usually commanded by a ranking officer, and the fire investigator must have the skills necessary to effectively lead the officer, based on the needs of the scene and the needs of the investigation, so that all may work together and achieve the overall goals of the organization.

Make no mistake about it; a fire investigator must be a leader in the fire scene. This leadership must not be



global member news

Motor Vehicle Fire Investigation January 22 - 24, 2019 City of Newport Beach Fire Station 7, Newport Beach, CA 92660



Instructors: Trace Lawless, Chris Ellis & George M...