

# The Investigator



## I.A.A.I. Illinois Chapter News

**2014 - Winter**  
***www.il-iaai.com***

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### **President's Perspective**

*By Greg Gurney, IAAI-CFI, CPCU*

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and safe Happy New Year. We have some exciting changes in our training schedule this year.

Our Northern Zone Conference has been re-named the Terrence Hoyle Continuing Education Training Seminar and will be held in March. Terrence Hoyle was a past president and one of the original 10 CFI's; he strongly supported education and training for our members. The registration form for the Terrence Hoyle Continuing Education Training Seminar is printed in this newsletter.

The Buxton/Mazzonne Conference is the one constant. It will remain at the same location as last year and remain in May. The Buxton/Mazzonne conference flyer will be in the spring newsletter. And, of course all registration forms are available on the website, [www.il-iaai.com](http://www.il-iaai.com). The website is a great spot to get the most up-to-date information,

The Annual Training Conference and meeting will stay in Champaign, but will be at a different hotel and have a different format this year. We are focusing on hands-on training and the conference will start on Sunday Sept. 7 and run through Wednesday Sept. 10. The hotel this year will be the Hilton Garden Inn. (across street from old location) This is going to be a great year for the Chapter. Plan on attending one, or all of the conferences.

The Annual IAAI Training Conference will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada the week of April 13 – 18, 2014. Information about the conference and speakers can be found at the IAAI website, [www.firearson.com](http://www.firearson.com). Joe Mazzone is running for re-election for Director and has the support of the IL Chapter Board.

Voting is easy, convenient and is the responsibility of each member. The Illinois Chapter has had a strong showing in past International elections, but we can do even better. I would like to see everyone who is a member of the International and the Chapter vote in this year's election. Let's show off the strength of the Illinois Chapter.

If you know someone on your department or company who is engaged in the prevention and control of arson in the state, and is not a member of the chapter, please encourage them to become a member. Make it a point this year to ask one person and offer to be their sponsor. Membership benefits include: The Investigator; IL-IAAI's quarterly newsletter, Annual Training Conference providing cutting edge training in fire investigation, regional training conferences, Expert Witness Testimony Course, reduced member rates on training conferences, membership only merchandise, representation of members interests in the IAAI, networking with other fire investigation professionals, and exposure to employment opportunities via The Investigator.

Make it a great year.

**BE FIRE SMART AND STAY SAFE**

## NORTHERN ZONE REPORT

Northern Zone Director Chris Ward, IAAI-CFI, IAAI-ETC, CFEI

Greetings from the Northern Zone. I hope you and your families had a blessed and safe Christmas and New Year. Well it's time to get back to business and the IL Chapter has been very busy working on a very exciting 2014. Please take a few minutes to check out the website and Facebook page to see the upcoming training events for 2014.

Since it's a new year, it's that time again to start making resolutions for a new year. I ask all of you to attempt to try to take advantage of one of the many training opportunity's we have scheduled for this upcoming year. It is lining up to be a great year with some world-class instructors coming to Illinois. I also challenge each of you to promote the chapter by spreading the word to some of our young investigators to get them involved and understand the importance of our profession. As an organization we are only as strong as our membership, so please pass the word and let's get some fresh young faces to get involved in our chapter.

This year's Terrence Hoyle Northern Zone Continuing Education Seminar is scheduled for March 28-29 in Mokena, IL. We are hosting Barry Grimm and Chris Elrod to instruct a "Down & Dirty Hands on Practical Vehicle Fire Investigation Class. We will be burning an unprecedented 30-35 vehicles in preparation for this great class. Class is limited to the first 110 registration and is anticipated to fill very quickly so please do not delay in registering for this great class. Please check the newsletter and website for details on this class.

Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you at one of our many seminars



## CENTRAL ZONE REPORT

Central Zone Director John Knapp, C.F.I.

Greetings from the Central Zone. The past year has been busy with training opportunities throughout the state, which I hope you have had the opportunity to attend. Please check the chapter website at [www.il-iaai.com](http://www.il-iaai.com) for further details of available training.

The Central Illinois Fire Investigators Association (CIFIA) is pleased to announce the speakers and topics for the 2014, 23rd Annual Fire Investigation Conference to be held March 21, 22, and 23, 2014 at the Stoney Creek Inn, East Peoria, IL. This year, there will be an added segment of instruction.

Starting on Friday afternoon at 2:00pm, Mr. Jeff Knauer from the Illinois State Police will present "Computer Evidence Recovery". This will be an additional 2 hours of instruction in a time slot we have never tried before. In the usual Friday evening time slot, we are pleased to present the first segment of instruction by Mr. Jamie Novack. Jamie will begin on Friday evening with a presentation on "Gas Explosions". You may have seen presentations on gas explosions, but Jamie gives it his own touch. On Saturday morning, we welcome Jamie Novack back with an all day presentation on "Flashovers, Unusual Fire Patterns, and Electrical Fires". Once again, all topics that have been talked about, but not the way Jamie will present them. Sunday morning, the presentation will be by Mr. Todd Metzger from Schaefer Engineering. Todd's presentation will be a discussion of "Cellulose Insulation Fires". Adjournment will be as always, noon on Sunday, with certificates available at that time. More information about the conference with registration information, and about the CIFIA can be found at the CIFIA web site, [www.CIFIA.org](http://www.CIFIA.org).

As you can't miss in each issue of this newsletter there are numerous opportunities throughout the state (and country) for continuing education. Whether or not you choose to attend the Illinois Chapter sponsored seminar or seminars which are held in the Northern, Central, or Southern Zones, I suggest that you try to plan ahead to attend at least one or two. Not only will you find that the instruction is more that what would meet expectations but you will discover that the networking possibilities and information sharing with other agencies will be as advantageous. Last but not least I suggest you visit [CFItrainer.net](http://CFItrainer.net) as a wealth of information available to you. Until next time, be safe!

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## SOUTHERN ZONE

*Southern Zone Director Cory Reeves*

*I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do.*

–Leonardo da Vinci

Yes, we are quoting again. It seems to me that Mr. da Vinci was saying that learning and gaining knowledge is not enough, we are not done there...as important as it is to learn; we must use what we learn and share that knowledge with others. The IAAI and its network of Chapters, including our great and advancing Illinois Chapter, is about just this; gaining knowledge, learning and providing opportunities to share and learn more with our members and as many in our fire investigation community as possible.

2013 was an outstanding year for our Chapter and we promoted the opportunity for more training than ever in the past. On behalf of the Southern Zone, Directors Curt Graff, Mike Presson and I, would like to thank President Gurney and the Staff of the Training and Education Committee for the vision and hard work. Go for it in 2014 as well!

If I can, a note about what is going on: planning, planning, planning. The Southern Zone annual seminar The Buxton/Mazzone Training Conference is well on the way to completion. We are at the same hotel, Four Points Sheraton, Fairview Heights, IL 319 Fountains Parkway Fairview Heights, IL 62208, Hotel Reservations -800-368-7764 Hotel Front Desk 618-622-9500. The flyer should be out by the time this is published and registration should be well under way by this time as well. The dates are May 15 and 16, 2014. **SAVE THESE DATES AND BE THERE!!!**

We are also planning on some other training opportunities with other agencies in different parts of the Zone...look for additional information in the near future. If anyone has ideas for training in your part of the Zone give any of your Directors a call or email and we will do our best to help get it started in discussions with the T&E Committee. We do need input from our members of what your needs of training are so we can help.

In relation to this, at the Illinois Chapter Annual meeting last year, we held Meet your Directors and Officers nights. Several Southern Zone members attended this

and offered ideas and were very pleasant to meet. I want to make a “Shout Out” to the Fire Chief and Firefighters of the Carbondale Fire Department who met with us and have begun sharing training ideas. We are hoping to have an opportunity for the Chapter to work with them in providing training for Fire Investigators in their area.

### **Midwest Fire Consulting Group**

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Curt Graff, IAAI-CFI

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## NEWS FROM OSFM

By Chris Valentine  
Illinois State Fire Marshal/Arson Division

Greeting from OSFM Arson Division, I hope everyone had a very save and appy holiday season.

2013 was a busy year for the OSFM Arson Division. In 2013 the Division of Arson investigated 1,044 incidents and there were 220 canine assisted cases. 328 of those incidents were deemed incendiary and 46 of them were closed with arrests. The annual report will be out soon and can be found on the State Fire Marshal website.

Our canine calls were up this year although we are down two canines. Greg Vespa will be going to Maine in March/April 2014 to meet and train with his new partner. This will bring us up to six canines throughout the state.

In closing, we at the Office of the State Fire Marshal hope 2014 will be a safe, healthy and prosperous year for all of you. We hope to see many of you at the upcoming Illinois Chapter conferences throughout the state. If the Division of Arson Investigation can be of any assistance to you, please call us at 217-782-9116 or to request an investigator call the Arson hotline at 1-800-252-2947.



## INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

Joe Mazzone

**FIRST RESPONDER'S DVD** - The IAAI has developed a First Responder's instructional DVD that teaches fire, police and EMS how to make critical observations and take important preservation actions as they discharge their first responder duties. These observations and actions are crucial to the success of the subsequent fire investigation of the scene. This video is not just for investigators, so show it to the line officers and firefighters and to the cops, too.

The cost is \$5 each for the first four DVDs, a little less for larger orders. You can call the IAAI office, 800-468-4224 or e-mail [IAAI@firearson.com](mailto:IAAI@firearson.com) to order. Additional details are available on the IAAI website. You might recognize some Illinois Chapter members in the program.

**WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS** - Don't forget to register early and make your room reservations for the IAAI International Training Conference at the Rio in Las Vegas April 13-18. Great instructional program for investigators of all skill levels, old and new friends to greet and maybe we'll all come home rich. Just don't bet the farm.

**PHOTO CONTEST** - Too late for this year, but when you're at some good fires; think about entering the photography contest. There are separate awards for arson and accidental categories. Details are published in most issues of the Fire and Arson Investigator and on the IAAI website. You must be an International member to submit entries.

Notes from December President's Conference call:

- Bob Ray is the new Training Manager for the International 2014 ATC will have a conference app for smart phones.
- There is a Fire Investigation and Arson Enforcement group being formed by ATF.
- Cancer screening through Firefighter Cancer Organization is being explored by the IAAI.
- There are currently 11 Enhanced Chapters
- last quarter saw 300 net new members.
- New look to International website is coming, will be integrated with CFI Trainer.net
- The Courtroom testimony/expert testimony class is being rewritten
- A new class for 2014-15, Arson for Attorneys class being developed and coordinated with ATF
- Enhanced Chapters profit sharing being looked at for IAAI classes held in a state
- CFI Trainer.net survey results; IAAI will not remove "Arson" from name

**Cory W. Reeves, CFI**



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## Training and Education Report

*T/E Co-Chair Chris Ward, IAAI-CFI, IAAI-ETC*

2013 was a very busy year for the Illinois Chapter of the IAAI. I am very proud to announce that in 2013 we provided our members with over 125 hours of tested continuing education. Your chapter training and education committee has been busy laying out a foundation of training for 2014 and the future. There are numerous opportunities you will find throughout the state. I encourage all of you to make an attempt to attend one of the many training opportunities we have scheduled.

During our travels up and down the state we have heard one clear message. The membership has requested more hands on style trainings to be offered. We have HEARD YOU LOUD AND CLEAR. Our focus and mission is to provide the membership with the continuing education you want and can afford. We have had great success with working hand in hand with the IAAI. We are currently in discussions with the IAAI to bring three IAAI 8-hour classes to Illinois. We are planning that one class will be held in each zone in 2014.

Also one major change for 2014 is the location of the ATC in Champaign has changed. We are moving to the Hilton Gardens Conference Center. Rooms will be split between the Hilton Gardens and Homewood Suites. Please make arrangements early to reserve your registration and rooms to attend.

Please find listed below the dates of upcoming class throughout the State of Illinois:

- Will, Cook, Grundy Fire Investigation Task Force Seminar March 3-6 2014
- N.I.T.A Loyal Law School IAAI Courtroom Testimony Class March 11-12, 2014
- Central Illinois Fire Investigators Association March 21-23 2014
- Terrence Hoyle Northern Zone Seminar-Vehicle Fires (Barry Grimm) March 28-29 2014
- Buxton / Mazzone Southern Zone Seminar Fairview Heights, IL May 15-16 2014
- IAAI 8 hr. Class TBA June 2014 Northern Zone
- IAAI 8 hr. Class Evidence Collection Certification IFSI (Central Zone) June 2014
- Annual Training Conference Champaign, IL September 7-10 2014
- IAAI 8 hr. Report writing and CV's Southern Zone Oct/Nov 2014

As always the T/E committee is always looking of new ideas and fresh faces, if you are interested in assisting or have ideas please feel free to reach out to us.

Take Care and Stay Safe

T/E Co-Chair Chris Ward 815-405-5491

T/E Co-Chair Mike Presson 618-401-4991

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## In the News.....

An Oak Lawn man, Arunas Samoska, was charged with two counts of aggravated arson and one of residential arson in relation to an explosion January 11, 2014. Prosecutors said Samoska had poured gasoline throughout his house when vapors ignited causing the explosion. The incident caused damage to several other homes in the area. No one was reported injured.

In a January 10, 2014 press release the OSFM raised awareness about winter fire risks, especially with the use of space heaters and fire places as alternative sources to heat homes.

Nearly half of all home heating related fires occur between the months of December and February, according to the National Fire Safety Association. "This is very dangerous time for fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.

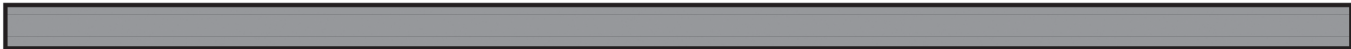
During this rough winter it is imperative to remind the public of the proper use of space heaters and other ways to stay warm," said State Fire Marshal Larry Matkaitis. "Although space heaters provide heating, they could also bring major safety concerns if adequate safety precautions are not followed."

In Illinois in 2012, 67 home fires were caused by alternative heaters and 67 other fires were linked to chimneys and fireplaces. The OSFM recommends giving heating equipment three feet of space between the device and anything that can burn, including people. It is also important to make sure there is adequate overhead clearance for space heaters.

**International Association Arson Investigators**  
**Illinois Chapter**  
**Annual Terrance Hoyle**  
**Fire Investigation Continuing Education**  
**March 28 - 29, 2014**  
**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**



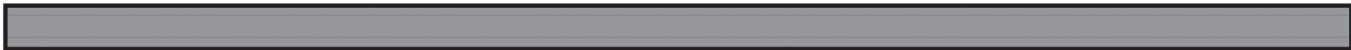
**Registration Form**



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ORGANIZATION/  
COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_



To register, print and send the registration to:

Amy Beasley  
 Midwest Fire Consulting Group  
 P.O. Box 1096  
 Murphysboro, IL 62966  
 Fax: 618-687-4805  
 Phone: 618-687-4900  
 E-mail - abeasley@midwest-fire.com

Registration Fees:

- Member Cost \$75.00  
 Non-Member Cost \$90.00

*Cancellations subject to 50% fee if received after February 28, 2014  
 No Refunds will be made for any cancellations received after March 14, 2014. Substitution of registrants will be allowed only with prior notification of substitution.*

For more information, please call

Chris Ward - 815-405-5491  
 Craig Burgess - 630-364-0933  
 Tom Wegner - 708-774-9741

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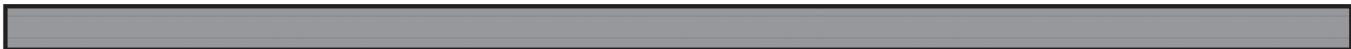
\*Please make checks payable to IAAI.

***Class size limited to the first 110 students. Walk-In registrations will only be permitted if the class size does not exceed 110 participants. No exceptions will be made.***

***Coffee and Donuts will be provided both days. Participants will provide their own lunch accommodations.***

Proper attire to perform origin and cause investigations is encouraged for the 2nd day, hand-on, portion of the class. We encourage you to bring your camera and lap tops to assist you in documenting your vehicle for your class presentation.

The subject matter for this class may be considered advanced in nature. It is recommended that all participants, especially those with limited vehicle fire investigation experience, review NFPA 921, "Motor Vehicle Fires" and/or complete the CFITrainer.net module. "Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires".



Disclaimer: No liability is assumed by the IL-IAAI for changes in program content, speakers, or venue. The speaker's presentation and content of his program is the responsibility of the individual instructor and not necessarily endorsed by any of the persons or organizations associated with this seminar. The IL-IAAI reserves the right to cancel, alter, or substitute any class or instructor without advanced notice.

**Class Location:**

Pipe Fitters Local Union 597  
 Training Center  
 10850 W. 187th St.  
 Mokena, IL 60448

8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

**Local Hotels:**

Hilton Garden Inn  
 18335 S. LaGrange Rd.  
 Tinley Park, IL  
 708-429-2266

Country Inn & Suites  
 18315 S. LaGrange Rd.  
 Tinley Park, IL  
 708-560-9300

Government rates are offered at the above hotels.

**Cost of Attendance:**

Member Fee—\$75.00  
 Non-member Fee—\$90.00

**For More Information**

Chris Ward—815-405-5491  
 Craig Burgess—630-364-0933  
 Tom Wegner—708-774-9741

[www.il-iaai.com](http://www.il-iaai.com)

## Advanced Vehicle Fire Investigations “Down and Dirty”

*This hands-on and interactive vehicle fire class will feature a live burn and subsequent investigation. Students will be shown the very latest techniques used to determine the origin and cause of vehicle fires, including burn pattern analysis within the various vehicle compartments.*

*This class will also cover vehicle system failures and recalls, stolen vehicles and owner give-up as well as safety issues on the fire scene. Additionally, an overview of NFPA 921, Chapter 25 will be held and classification of causes will be discussed.*

*A team based interactive, hands-on, fire investigation will take the group through origin and cause, evidence collection, handling and preservation, and report generation with a final team presentation. 25—30 vehicles will be burned for this advanced class and the student to vehicle ratio will be 4 –5 students per vehicle.*

*Proper attire to perform origin and cause investigations is encouraged for the 2nd day, hands-on portion of the class. We encourage you to bring your camera and lap tops to assist you in documenting your vehicle for the class presentation.*

**Instructors:**

**Barry Grimm, IAAI Director**  
**Chris Elrod, Wilmington, NC Fire Department**

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**Barry Grimm—IAAI Director**

*Mr. Grimm spent 37 years as a police officer/detective in Middletown Township, NJ working major crimes and performing forensic work to include fire/ arson origin and cause determination. He has also served his community as a fire fighter and eventually rose through the ranks to serve as Chief Officer for the Middletown Township Fire Department.*

*Mr. Grimm is an instructor for ATF at the NFA and has also instructed at and for NFA since 1985. He has been a subject matter expert for NFA, ATF, and IAAI. Mr. Grimm was part of the development team for the present ATF/NFA fire arson course, which has been running since 2007.*

*Mr. Grimm is presently involved with IAAI in the development of two soon to be released courses. In May of 2013 he began a term as the International IAAI Director.*

**Chris Elrod—Wilmington, NC**

*Mr. Elrod holds a bachelors of Science in Fire and Safety Engineering Technology, specializing in arson investigations from Eastern Kentucky University. He has over 30 years of experience and has investigated several thousand fires throughout his career. He has worked in both the public and private sectors.*

*Mr. Elrod is a certified fire investigator with the State of North Carolina and through the IAAI. He has testified as an expert witness in criminal arson prosecutions as well as product liability and defect investigations.*

*Mr. Elrod has presented for numerous agencies in the area of vehicle fire investigation, and instructed at numerous individual workshops for insurance companies throughout North Carolina. He is currently employed as a Captain of the Wilmington, NC Fire Department and assists in developing multi-agency investigation task forces. He has also been used as a resource and assistant in vehicle investigations for ATF and NC State Bureau of Investigations.*

*This is an advertisement for the IL-IAAI Training Conference. If you wish to have your name removed from our mailing list and no longer receive notices of upcoming conference dates please, [click here](#).*

## Insurance Angle

By John Cunningham & Adam Field



### DENIAL OF AN INSURANCE CLAIM IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT; THE STAKES MAY BE HIGHER THAN YOU THINK

Because claims of vexatious and unreasonable delay are routinely included by plaintiffs who file breach of contract claims following the denial of a first party insurance claim, the exposure under Section 155 is an important consideration that can affect litigation strategy and resolution. An insured who prevails on a breach of contract claim against his or her insurer is generally limited to recovery of his or her “contractual damages”—i.e., the amount that is due under the policy. Other damages, such as punitive damages and attorney’s fees, cannot usually be awarded. However, under Section 155 of the Illinois Insurance Code, an insured may recover extracontractual damages where an insurer has vexatiously and unreasonably failed to fulfill its obligations under the policy. Specifically, the law allows the insured to recover reasonable attorney’s fees, other costs, and “an amount not to exceed any one of the following amounts:” (a) 60% of the contractual damages; (b) \$60,000; or (c) the excess of the contractual damages over the amount, if any, the insurer offered to pay in settlement of the claim prior to suit being filed. 215 ILCS 5/155.

A clear majority of Illinois courts have interpreted Section 155’s penalty provision to mean that the amount of extracontractual damages must be the lesser of the three options. See, e.g., *Nelles v. State Farm Fire & Cas. Co.*, 318 Ill. App. 3d 399, 401-06 (1st Dist. 2000); see also *Cramer v. Insurance Exch. Agency*, 174 Ill. 2d 513, 520 (1996). In other words, for a \$10,000 insurance claim, the maximum penalty is \$6,000, exclusive of costs and attorney’s fees, under the current statute.

This is not, however, the interpretation of the statute adopted by the Fifth District Appellate Court. In *Millers Mut. Ins. Ass’n of Illinois v. House*, an automobile insurer sought a declaratory judgment as to the limits of a policy’s uninsured motorist coverage. 286 Ill. App. 3d 378, 380 (5th Dist. 1997). At the time it filed the declaratory judgment action, the insurer did not dispute that the policy provided at least \$40,000 in coverage. *Id.* at 387. Because the insurer delayed paying the insured the undisputed portion of the claim, the court affirmed a finding that the insurer’s conduct was vexatious and unreasonable. *Id.* at 387. Nevertheless, the insurer argued that, pursuant to an earlier version of the statute, the maximum statutory penalty allowed was \$10,000 (25% of the insured’s recovery). *Id.* The Fifth District

rejected this argument and held that the statute authorized the trial court to assess damages in an amount pursuant to any of the three options, regardless of which was the least amount. *Id.* at 388. The court purported to reason that “the legislature specifically left the choice of the three categories of [statutory penalties] up to the trial court.” *Id.* Therefore, the court affirmed an award of \$25,000 in statutory penalties damages pursuant to Section 155. *Id.* at 382, 389-90.

Although it has been rejected by a number of other appellate districts and federal courts, *Millers Mut. Ins. Ass’n of Illinois v. House* remains binding precedent in the Fifth District. Accordingly, insurers should take heed and carefully consider the risks before denying a claim that could be brought in this venue, as a \$10,000 insurance claim in the Fifth District could potentially allow the court to award \$60,000 in statutory penalties, plus attorney’s fees and costs.



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## Photos from the past . . .

### 2004 Mazzone Seminar Rend Lake



*IL Chapter merchandise*



*Jennifer Seidler on evidence*



*Reception*



*Charlie Caldwell talking to his dog*

### 1980 Greater Egypt Seminar (Illinois Chapter)



*Dwight Elliott Chief Investigator Fire Marshal*



*Sam Cobb, Norfolk VA Chief Investigator*



*IL Chapter display*

### Snap shots from IAAI Advanced Fire Photography Class in Belleville IL, November 2013



## Electrical Information *By Richard Kragh*

Since I finished the first section, I have had a chance to reflect on what may have influenced the interest to take a closer look at electrical fires. First, during the early 70s, there was a shortage of copper for wiring leading to the use of aluminum. The problems with aluminum wiring did not manifest themselves until late in the 70s. Secondly, the late 70s and early 80s saw a marked increase in electronic devices for use in the home. Many of the new appliances were designated for use in kitchens. In some cases these may have been marketed without sufficient testing or understanding of potential failure modes.

### Chapter 2 Definitions

**Control Centers.** The individual compartments are sometimes called buckets. In most of the newer units, the bucket can be moved in and out of its compartment. Also included in MCC's are a flexible metal conduit that goes by several names: Armored Cable (Type AC) and BX. The difference is that AC has a thin aluminum bonding strip which enhances the operation of the circuit protective device. In a similar manner, the circuit protective devices for the various major portions of facility are grouped together in an enclosure called a Switchboard. The individual devices and compartments also called buckets. In an industrial and some commercial facilities, the E'-series of drawings pertain to the entire electrical system of the facility.

In the MCC, you can have both starters and contactors. Contactors are nothing more than large relays. Generally, they are used to turn on big banks of lights like for a parking lot. A starter is nothing more than a contactor with overload protection for the motor it controls. Most of the terms are well defined. Some confusion can be had identifying similar products such as Type NM(ROMEX), SE(service entrance) and UF(underground). All are different and have different uses and limitations. The polymer sheaths of the cables are stamped with the type. They are generally all rated at 600 VAC. Rather than copy existing definitions, I recommend that you use those provided in Chapter 1 of the current National Electric Code (NFPA 70) and NFPA 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion

**Investigations.** The scheme is that in a facility, the switchboard controls the MCC's which controls a specific machine. There are terms that are particular to the electrical trade. For example, in most industrial settings, the motor starters and protective devices for the motors are grouped into enclosures called Motor. Transformers and panels containing the logic for the machine it is associated with. If the circuit protective device associated with the motor circuit is included in the compartment was the starter, it is called the combination starter.

FVNR means that starter is for a full voltage non-reversing motor. FVR refers to a full voltage reversing starter. There are also part winding starters and multi speed units. Also pay attention to the NEMA ratings of the devices. Make sure they are rated for their environment. For example, explosion proof does not mean they will survive and explosion, it means that have flammable liquids or gases penetrate into the enclosure it will contain the explosion within it. These devices are usually cast-iron with threaded openings using the thread path to cool the gases by the time they escape. When in doubt ask someone at the site.

## EXPERT TESTIMONY CLASS

NITA (National Institute for Trial Advocacy) is offering an IAAI approved expert testimony class on March 11-12, 2014 at the Loyola Law School in Chicago.

Completion of this class along with the assigned class work will satisfy the testimony requirement for the CFI (Certified Fire Investigator) application to challenge the CFI exam.

Cost of the program is \$175 with checks made out to IL-IAAI, checks are non-refundable. Check our website at [www.il-iaai.com](http://www.il-iaai.com) for more details. Space is limited so sign up early. Please call Tom Wegner 708 774 9741 with any questions.

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## John Charles Wilson Scholarship Robert Doran Sr. Scholarship Guidelines:

- Two (2) or more scholarship awards may be granted annually.
- Number and amount of awards given will be determined by the Scholarship Committee with the approval of the Foundation Board of Directors.
- To be eligible, applicants must be a member in good standing of the International Association of Arson Investigators or the immediate family of a member; or applicant must be recommended and sponsored by a member in good standing of the IAAI.
- Applicants must be enrolled or planning to enroll in the next scheduled semester of a two or four year accredited college or university that offers courses in police or fire sciences including fire investigation and related subjects. These courses must be taken in addition to other required subjects.
- Please use application form below. Completed applications should be emailed to: [scholarships@firearson.com](mailto:scholarships@firearson.com) or mailed to:  
IAAI Foundation, Inc.  
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Crofton, MD, 21114
- Applications must be postmarked no later than February 15 of each year. Applications postmarked after that date will not be considered.



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Schedule for 2014**

[www.fsi.illinois.edu](http://www.fsi.illinois.edu)

**Troy FPD – Shorewood, IL**

Module 1 May 12 - 16  
Module 2 May 26 - 30  
Module 3 June 9 - 13

**Galesburg FD**

Module 1 June 23 - 27  
Module 2 July 7 - 11  
Module 3 July 21 - 25

**Orland Park FPD**

Module 1 September 15 - 19  
Module 2 September 29 - October 3  
Module 3 October 13 - 17

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Used electrical test equipment . Contact Rich at: 630-202-8637

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**Central Illinois Fire Investigators Association**  
**Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of even months**  
**Annual March Training Conference**  
*Scholarships [www.cifia.org](http://www.cifia.org)*

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**The Investigator**



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**Newsletter Deadlines:**

**Winter - January 15 \* Spring - April 15**  
**Summer - July 15 \* Fall - October 15**

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## Sears and Kmart Recall Kenmore Oscillating Fan Heaters Due to Fire and Burn Hazards



**Recall date:** January 15, 2014

**Name of product:** Kenmore oscillating fan heaters

**Hazard:** Broken motor mounts can cause the units to overheat, catch fire

and ignite nearby items, posing a fire and burn hazard to consumers.

**Consumer Contact:** Sears/Kmart toll-free at (888) 820-3341 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CT on Saturday, or visit the firms' websites at [www.sears.com](http://www.sears.com) and [www.kmart.com](http://www.kmart.com)

**Description:** This recall involves Kenmore oscillating fan heaters with model number 127.90914310. The model number and Kenmore are printed on a silver sticker on the bottom of the unit. The fan heaters are gray and white, measure about 12 inches tall by 9 inches wide, have two dials at the top for temperature and fan speed and a red on-off button on the front base. Kenmore is printed on the front bottom of the fan heaters.

**Incidents/Injuries:** Sears and Kmart have received seven reports of the fan heaters smoking or catching fire, including two reports of injuries. Injuries include one report of smoke inhalation and one report of a blister to a consumer's finger.

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately turn off and unplug the recalled fan heaters and return them to any Sears or Kmart store for a full refund.

**Sold at:** Sears and Kmart stores nationwide from September 2013 through November 2013 for between \$35 and \$40.