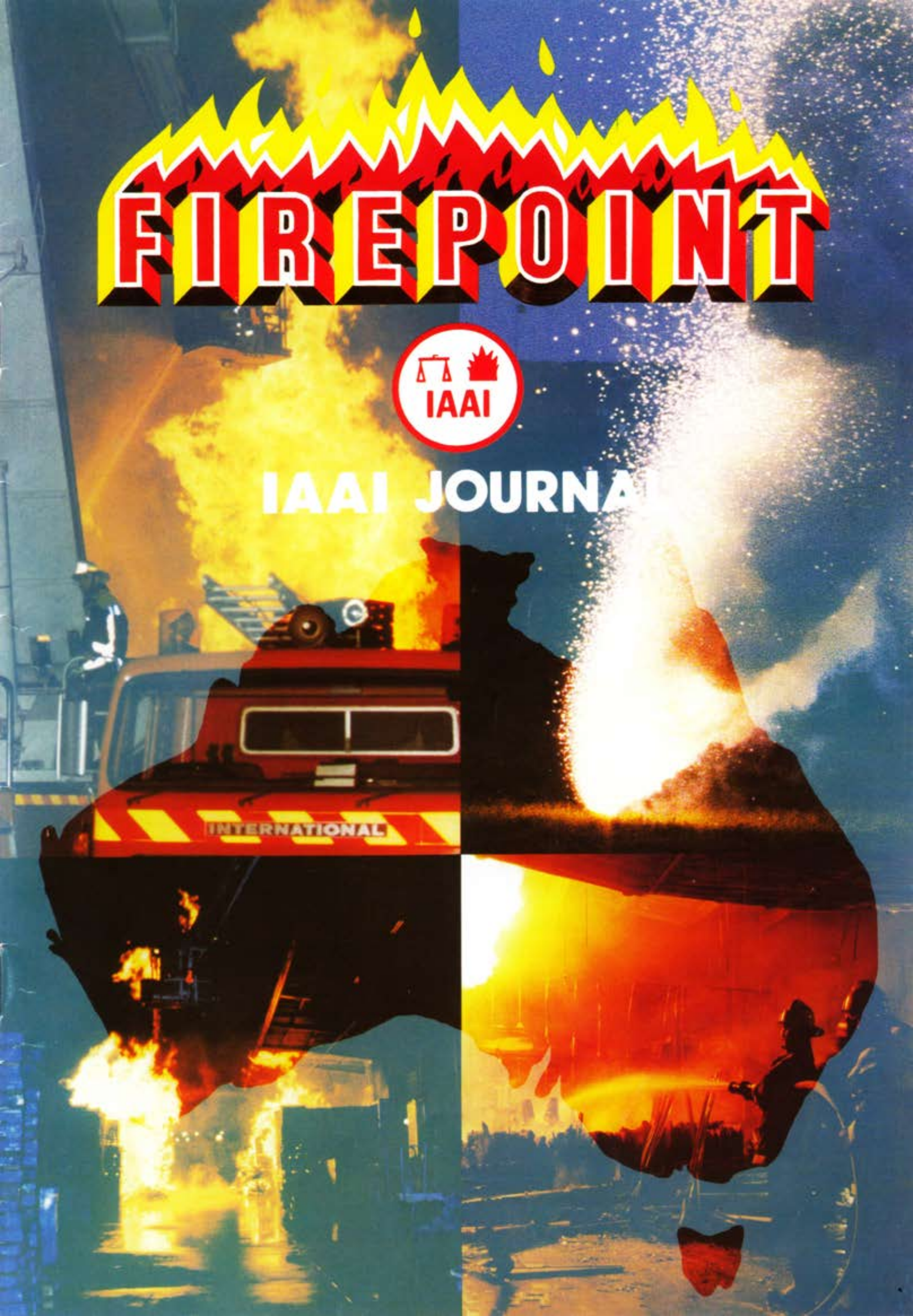


FIREPOINT



IAAI JOURNAL



Firepoint

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FIREPOINT: IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR FEES FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, PLEASE DO SO NOW.

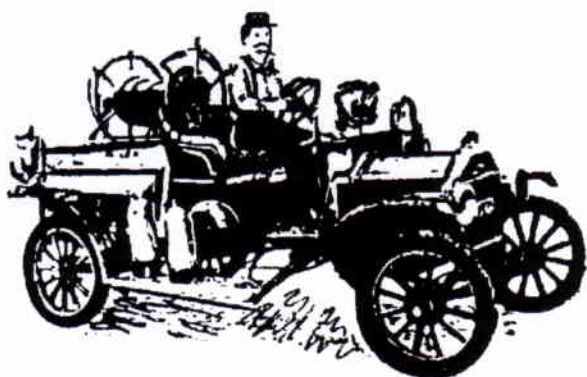
EDITORIAL

In August, for the first time, The New Zealand Chapter of the IAAI will join with the New South Wales, Queensland and Victorian Chapters in Sydney to jointly offer an educational conference.

It will be a unique opportunity to gain education and training, and to meet with people throughout our two nations with similar interests.

Don't miss this event. Program details are included in this issue.

Wal Stern



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AAFI2010

15-17 August 2010 • Citigate Central Sydney

Registration is Open!

The AAFI 2010 Local Organising Committee is pleased to announce that registration is now open and online via the AAFI 2010 website (link to www.aafi2010.com).

See www.aafi2010.com to view the official Conference website.

The latest program can be found online at www.aafi2010.com/program.htm

Convenor's Invitation

On behalf of the Organising Committee for the Australasian Associations of Fire Investigators Inaugural Biennial Conference, I warmly invite you to AAFI 2010. Australasian Associations of Fire Investigators incorporates the QAFI, NSWAFI, VAFI and FIANZ. Let me encourage you to make the journey and be part of this inaugural event. You may sample the AAFI experience at an excellent venue in a unique city that is complimented by the world's finest natural harbour and the magnificence of its ocean beaches. The Fire Investigators Conference has been planned to provide each of you with an unforgettable experience underpinned by humour, hospitality and friendliness.

AAFI 2010 will facilitate the exchange of knowledge regarding the Black Saturday Fires, Australian search and rescue dogs, wildfires, disaster victim identification, K9 accelerant detection, dog handling and investigating electrical fires.

AAFI 2010 is an opportunity to showcase Australia's capabilities in advancing the investigation of fires, analysis of evidence, and search and rescue efforts. It's a forum that brings together representatives involved in fire investigations from police services, fire services, and other regulatory agencies, private investigators, as well as those associated with analysis of the evidence gathered. Additionally, those who use the evidence gathered for further actions, such as police prosecutions of criminal activities, or fire services or other regulator agencies with legal prosecution provisions; criminal and civil legal representatives, loss adjusters, insurance firms, and governments for improvements in safety requirements.

The program enables us to learn from experts, to expand our professional network and to update us on the latest advances in fire investigation, gathering of evidence, legal prosecution, and search and rescue technology. The exhibition enables us to see and feel the latest products and advancements in investigating fires as well as providing a forum in which to mingle with our industry peers. Also, AAFI2010 is an opportunity to promote fire investigation as a professional pursuit worthy of engagement by young Australians. Venture to Sydney for an unforgettable Fire Investigators experience!

Mark Black, AAFI 2010 Organising Committee

Conference Venue

The Conference will be held at the Citigate Central Sydney in the heart of Sydney's central business and shopping district.

Sydney is without doubt one of the most beautiful cities in the world with a reputation for friendly people, a cosmopolitan lifestyle, wonderful shopping and world-class entertainment. Our magnificent harbour, renowned Opera House and sunny beaches combine to make Sydney a unique destination and a city of sophistication and fascinating variety.



Sponsorship and Exhibition Launch

AAFI 2010 is an opportunity to showcase Australia's capabilities in advancing the investigation of fires, analysis of evidence, and search and rescue efforts. It's a forum that brings together representatives involved in fire investigations from police services, fire services, and other regulatory agencies, private investigators, as well as those associated with analysis of the evidence gathered. Additionally, those who use the evidence gathered for further actions, such as police prosecutions of criminal activities, or fire services or other regulator agencies with legal prosecution provisions; criminal and civil legal representatives, loss adjusters, insurance firms, and governments for improvements in safety requirements.

The program, exhibitors and sponsors all enable the delegates to the Conference to learn from experts, to expand professional networks and to receive updates on the latest advances in fire investigation, gathering of evidence, legal prosecution, and search and rescue technology. The Conference will also preview the latest products and advancements in investigating fires as well as providing a forum in which to mingle with our industry peers. In addition, AAFI2010 will provide an opportunity to promote fire investigation as a professional pursuit worthy of engagement by young Australians.



Why Sponsor and/or Exhibit at AAFI 2010?

- Sponsoring and/or Exhibiting provides an excellent opportunity to promote your organisation, to support your brands and to maintain a high profile among specialists before, during and after the event.
- Conference delegates are keen to improve their knowledge. Aligning your organisation with this educational experience demonstrates your commitment to assisting delegate development on a personal level.
- Your representatives can mix informally with professionals from around Australia and the region.
- Your organisation's involvement, commitment and support of the Conference will be widely acknowledged leading up to and during the Conference.
- Your organisation will benefit significantly from exposure to an interested, relevant and influential audience in an informal, but educational, environment away from the competition of everyday distractions.

For further information about AAFI 2010 please contact:

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Program

Day 1 Monday 16 August 2010

9.00 Opening Address

Commissioner Greg Mullins AFSM
NSW Fire Brigades

9.15 Interaction with all organisations/parties involved in the path of investigations

A/Assistant Commissioner Mark Sweeney
NSW Police Forensic Services Group

10.00 Black Saturday Bushfires in Victoria I

Detective Inspector Paul Hollowood
Victoria Police

10.30 Morning Tea

11.00 Black Saturday Bushfires in Victoria II

Detective Inspector Paul Hollowood
Victoria Police

12.00 Disaster Victim Identification

Superintendent Doug O'Loughlin
Victoria Police

12.45 Lunch

1.45 Search and Rescue Dogs Australia

Julie Cowan
SARDA

2.30 K9 Accelerant Detection Dog Handler

NSW Fire Brigades

3.15 Afternoon Tea

3.45 Investigating the Tonga Riots and Fires

Ken Legat
Fire and Origin Cause Investigator IAG New Zealand

TBA

John Doherty
John Doherty Solicitors

Day 2 Tuesday 17 August 2010

9.00 Insurance Considerations from Scene Examination

Greg Kelly
Greg Kelly and Associates

9.45 TBA

John Price
Financial Ombudsman Service

10.30 Morning Tea

11.00 Investigation of Fatal Fires

Ross Brogan
Charles Sturt University

11.45 Interviewing Techniques

A/Professor Tracey Green
Charles Sturt University

12.30 Lunch

1.30 Fatal Motor Cruiser Explosion

Senior Constable Lynden Blackley and Detective Senior Sergeant Andrew Kerr
Victoria Police Water Police Task Force Phoenix, Victoria Police

2.15 Fire Scene Management and Coordination

Craig Farrant
New Zealand Police

3.15 Afternoon Tea

3.30 The Truth? - You can't handle the truth! Cognitive biases and their effects in fire and explosion investigation.

Jim Munday
Fire Forensics

4.15 TBA

Richard Woods
ACT Rural Fire Service

5.00 Conference Close

Please note that the program is subject to change.

THE WORLD OF ARSON PROFILING

Taylor Pallaton

What is Arson Profiling one might ask?

Well it can be given numerous titles from Arson Profiling, to Criminal Psychological Profiling, to Classification of Arson by Profiling. However, at the end of the day it is a guide to approaching fire investigation using various categories to achieve an outcome. Classification of crimes including arson can be dated back to Lombroso in the 1870's when he differentiated five types of criminals.

Arson, both in Australia and throughout the western world is a growing concern. Classification Systems, Matrixes and Profiles have been devised by researchers in attempts to fit arsonists into "boxes" - all to make the identification of firesetters and arson crimes easier.

Purpose of Arson Profiling

Arson is a complex crime, and to reduce this complexity one must look at the whole picture. This is usually done by dividing the offence into more manageable parts. Regardless of what figures are used or quoted, arson in Australia alone costs many millions of dollars each year. Fire damage has been estimated to cost Australia \$600M annually. Arson accounts for 30% of this. Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics

The purpose of Arson Profiling is to reduce the complex of crime into more manageable parts so it may be better understood. The ability to categorise arson by profiling on the basis of their motives appeals to many law enforcement agencies, insurance companies, the legal profession, investigators and the like. The use of profiling has increased in recent times in helping with solving crimes and clearup rates.

From a pragmatic viewpoint the FBI classification matrix is used in most fire/arson investigation practitioner's manuals as the guide to arsonists and arson motives. This is the classification model I have used for years in various investigations and which I have found very beneficial. The FBI model was used in a ten year operation of research with the Behavioural Unit of the FBI and a number of investigators.

Whilst profiling arsonists can be difficult, motivation is not easy to classify. For example, juveniles, teens or adults have different motives and agendas. The basic rule is that the offender is usually likely to be male, a loner, live outside the community but enjoy watching their handiwork, some hold respected jobs, others want acknowledgement or recognition, whilst others might be bored or want and need the excitement.

According to Burgess, Burgess, Douglass and Ressler there are seven types of arson. These are:

Vandalism-Motivated Arson.

This arson type is due to malicious and mischievous motivation which results in destruction or damage.

The targets for Vandalism-Motivated Arson are usually educational facilities, residential areas, grass, brush, woodland, and timber being most often the targets of vandalism motivated arsonists. This type of arson often involves multiple offenders who act spontaneously and impulsively.

The typical crime scene for Vandalism-Motivated Arson is the disorganized sort,

where evidence and materials to start the fire are often present at the site.

The typical offender for Vandalism-Motivated Arson are young males between the ages of seven through nine years old, who flee the scene and rarely ever witness the fire they set.

Vandalism-Motivated Arson can be further categorized as follows: Wilful and Malicious Mischief, Peer/Group Pressure and Other.

Excitement-Motivated Arson.

This arson type is prompted to set fires. He/she craves excitement that is satisfied by firesetting; this offender rarely intends the fire to harm people.

The targets for Excitement-Motivated Arson are usually dumpsters, vegetation, construction sites and residential property. Most often the offender picks a target where they can easily watch the fire they set.

The typical offender for Excitement-Motivated Arson can be both loners and multiple offenders.

Excitement Motivated Arson can be further categorized, as follows: Thrill Seeker, Attention Seeker, Recognition – the Hero and Sexual Perversion.

Case Study – an individual sets fires and waits at the crime scene for Fire Brigade to attend, the watching of emergency services gives the offender/s a thrill.

Case Study – a grassland area was continuously set alight at a certain location between the hours of 3 and 4 pm each weekday afternoon. The NSW Rural Fire Service then decided to sit quietly at this location and found that at that location school boys were getting off the

school bus and would start the fires and then go up the hill to watch their handiwork before going home. These young boys were eventually caught one afternoon when NSW RFS did a stint further up the hill.

Revenge-Motivated Arson.

This arson type is in retaliation for some injustice. It can be either real or imagined as perceived by the offender/s. This offence may be a well-planned, one-time event compared with the other categories of arson or may be a serial arsonist taking revenge against society, with little or no pre-planning.

The most common target is motivation. In addition to the main motive, for instances, are lover's triangles, landlord/tenant relationships, and employer/employee relationships.

Case Study - In the case of ex-lover revenge fires, the person will usually tend to target something of significance to the victim, such a vehicle or clothing. They also tend to start the fire with the victims clothes or other personal effects.

Other offenders may retaliate against churches, government facilities, universities, or corporations.

Revenge-Motivated Arson can be categorized as follows: Personal Retaliation, Societal Retaliation, Institutional Retaliation, Group Retaliation and Intimidation.

Crime-Concealment-Motivated Arson.

This arson type is a secondary or collateral criminal activity, perpetrated for the purpose of covering up a primary criminal activity of some nature.

Crime-Concealment-Motivated Arson can be categorized as follows as Murder, Suicide, Breaking and Entering, Embezzlement, Larceny, Destroying Records and Fraud.

Case Studies

Main Crime was Embezzlement

Secondary Crime was Fire

The person in charge of the day to day financial [money] decides that they would like more money. He starts to transfer monies into his account and/or make cheques out in cash to themselves or even withdraw cash. So, in order to hide the discrepancies he sets the place on fire.

Even gamblers that use all their monies and want more will do anything to get access to additional funds and then because they can not repay it will set the premises alight.

Companies will set their own buildings alight to hide fraud. For example, a company decides that they would like to introduce a new drug onto the market, but the data tells them that this drug is unsafe and harmful. But the company wants to still sell it regardless. Next thing you know a fire destroys all their records of this.

Profit-Motivated Arson.

This arson type is when a fire is set for the purpose of achieving material gain, either directly or indirectly.

The targets for Profit-Motivated Arson is usually commercial/business related properties which exhibit the least passion of any of the motivations that generate the crime of arson. This type of crime is almost always well planned and the crime scene demonstrates a more organized style because it contains less physical

evidence that would identify the offender/s.

The typical crime scene for Profit-Motivated Arson usually involves more complex devices and it may be evident that regardless of the target items of value are sometimes removed from the premises.

The typical offender for Profit-Motivated Arson is male or female, employee and owner/s.

Profit-Motivated Arson can be categorized as follows as Fraud and further sub-categorized as Insurance, Liquidating Property, Dissolving Business, Concealing Loss, Liquidating Inventory, Employment, Parcel Clearance and Competition.

Case Study

A couple are building their 'dream home' but after they either separate or can no longer afford to build, this 'dream home' mysteriously burns to the ground and then they claim on the insurance. Usually the insurance policy is valued more in monetary value than the actual building.

Extremist-Motivated Arson.

This arson type is committed to further a social, political or religious cause.

The property that is targeted by Extremist-Motivated Arson usually represents what the offender/s belief/s are or are not.

The typical crime scene for Extremist-Motivated Arson are laboratories, slaughter houses, fur stores and abortion clinics, religious institutions targeted by individuals with different beliefs, and individuals targeted by political extremist organizations who want to intimidate racial, religious or political opponents. The crime

scene is almost well organized, and often there is some sort of message left by the perpetrators in the hope of media coverage.

The typical offender for Extremist-Motivated Arson can be either male or female.

Extremist-Motivated Arson can be categorized as follows: Terrorism, Discrimination and Riots/Civil Disturbance.

Serial Arsonists.

This arson type is arsonists who set fires repeatedly. A serial arsonist is involved in three or more separate firesetting episodes with the characteristic emotional cooling-off period between fires. This is the most dangerous type of arson because of the random selection of the victims.

The typical target for Serial Arson is chosen by random but are often unoccupied or abandoned property and the fire happens during the night time hours.

The typical crime scene for Serial Arson is often disorganized and there is usually physical evidence present.

The offender for Serial Arson usually works alone.

Serial Arson can be categorized as follows as Spree Arson and Mass Arson.

So in order to properly classify the crime of arson the Investigator/Fire-Fighter/Police/Prosecutor/POI needs to ask themselves a number of questions, such as information about the victim, the crime scene and the nature of the victim and offender. These questions will guide you towards making a decision on how to best classify the offender/crime.

Once you know everything you can about the victim, then you can arrive to a motive, making it easier to identify the suspect/s.

The main rule when several categories apply for example homicide is that it takes precedence over others, followed by arson/bombing, then sexual assault.

In conclusion, Arson Profiling or any form of profiling/classification is the putting into categories, traits of the crime scene and to make these manageable in understanding the offender/s.

The investigator must be cautious that establishing a motive alone does not constitute proof of guilt. The scientific method must be applied to all information gathered so as to create and evaluate as many reasonable alternative hypotheses before concluding the fire was deliberate or an accidental act. So at the end of the day Arson Profiling is a tool, to assist you in the gathering of the facts and evidence and the analysis of such. Then you can make recommendations or suggestions.

Sources

Douglas, John E.; Burgess, Ann W.; Burgess, Allen G.; Ressler, Robert K. (1997), *Crime Classification Manual: A Standard System for Investigating and Classifying Violent Crimes*

DeHaan (2006), *Kirks Fire Investigations*

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics NSW

Institution of Criminology Canberra

Taylor Pallaton, BSSc(Crim), JP is a semi-retired Criminalist, Private Investigator and Canine Trainer. She is currently Treasurer of the NSW Association of Fire Investigators.



**NSW ASSOCIATION OF FIRE
INVESTIGATORS INC**
(IAAI CHAPTER No.47)

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NSW Association of Fire Investigators President's Message

Hi everyone, and welcome to our latest edition of "Firepoint". Well no doubt many of you have been involved in the investigation of fires that have been associated with the Federal Government's Home Insulation Scheme. Numerous fires have been associated with the installation of insulating material and it again goes to show that the conformance with standards in relation to safety involving either the installation of insulation or the electrical standards need to be adhered to. The obvious risks involved in these matters could be no more catastrophic than the deaths of four people which have been associated with the insulation installation.

Perhaps there is scope for each of the Chapters to either individually or collectively look at some of these initiatives or announcements from time to time, where due to the professionalism of the services involved in our Association and the individual professional members, some feedback prior to disasters might be given to Government representatives or other authority with us being identified more as a reference or lobby group. Perhaps now is

the time to advance our image in the public eye.

I happen to have been invited to an electrical industry leader's conference last year when this program was announced and on the day of that conference, much was said in relation to the difficulties that the electrical industry could foresee and the awareness of delegates at that conference in relation to the perceived threat that was associated with the program, which at that stage was yet to start. Perhaps a Media Release on our collective opinion or safety concerns the general public should be aware of, could raise our profile.

We are now on the downhill run towards the National Conference. We recently received confirmation of support from the New Zealand Association of Fire Investigators and welcome their involvement along with their financial support. After calling for nominations for people to present at the conference, the list of presenters is now available. The topics that will be covered should be finalised in the next short period so that the promotional brochures and website can be finalised. Sponsorship arrangements will be available and the details are currently being

finalised. The collective involvement of the conference committee involving the four chapters has brought the conference to a great position where you and I can be promoting the conference to others.

May I request your assistance in whatever area you are working in to make a commitment to be at the conference yourself. Outside of your own commitment, in order to promote the success of the Associations in the future may I also ask that you recommend the conference and promote it to other people around you. I would also encourage investigators to actively participate in the photographic competition. We are finalising arrangements with a potential sponsor in this area and it will be well worth everyone's involvement to participate in the competition where the two categories being Deliberate and Accidental Fires will see people awarded the winner and runner up prize. Further details will be made available in the future.

Could I recommend you visit the conference website at www.aafi2010.com for further information. As a further note for members of the NSW Association we will have our Annual General Meeting during the conference period. At this stage I would remind you that the various offices of the Association will become available and could I recommend that you nominate for a position on the Executive Committee. Your active participation in the management of the Association is always encouraged. I trust that you have a fantastic couple of months leading to the conference and look forward to seeing you there.

Stay well,
Greg

The US Fight Against Arson

According to the USFA's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), an estimated average of 316,600 intentional fires are reported to fire departments in the United States each year causing injuries to 7,825 firefighters and civilians.

In 2006, 10 firefighters died as a result of arson. In addition to needless injury and death, an estimated \$1.1 billion in direct property loss occurs annually.

If people can become more informed about arson prevention, along with having intervention and treatment programs for these heinous acts of burning, strides can be made in this preventable malfeasance.

Arson robs communities of its valuable assets, lives, and property.

Arson destroys more than buildings; it can devastate a community resulting in the decline of the neighborhood through increased insurance premiums, loss of business revenue, and a decrease in property values.

Victorian Association of Fire Investigators Inc.

Website www.vicfire.com

VICTORIAN COMMITTEE

The Committee has been supporting the National Conference through our suggestions and our representative. We have been working on membership issues and a training program for the year. The committee had a demonstration of the new membership data base. Some of the committee are still working on related outcomes and still working on requests from The Royal Commission which is taking up a lot of their time. A major development has been the resignation of CFA Chief Officer Russell Rees.

VICTORIAN MEMBERSHIP

The committee reports that VAFI has 199 financial members and members are reminded to check renewals have been paid. Communication to the Registrar can be made through the email via fiaoffice@mfb.vic.gov.au. The committee welcomes the following new members: Alex Glennon, Stephen Foster, Chris Linton, Tracy Stuart, Kevin Brown, Sam Spiers, Drew Wilson, Stephen Fall, Christopher Mackie and Ian Cross.

MARCH TRAINING SESSION

On Wednesday 17th March 2010 at the MFB Training College in Richmond, members were treated to a very entertaining and informative training session on Arson: Motive Means Opportunity. Our first speaker was Det. S/C Deb Bennett who discussed the motives for arson, criminal investigative analysis and profiling here and internationally. Some of the items discussed

were reasons, organized and dis-organized, probabilities, and profiling, urban to bushfire arsonists.

Our second speaker was Judy Wright from the Adult Parole Board giving us an understanding of the parole system. This included some background and history of the parole system, structure, jurisdiction and rationale. Both speakers gave excellent presentations and the information was both relative and showed the impact on fire investigation and investigations and the results. We thank both Deb and Judy for their effort and great presentations.

The Training program for 2010 will be:

Winter - Triple Treat

Thursday 3 June 2010

**Spring - National Conference (Sydney)
15-17 August 2010**

VAFI AGM / Wildfire Presentations

23 October 2010

Fire Modelling TBA

The Committee encourage all members to consider attending the National Conference in Sydney in August. Further information can be obtained at the website www.aafi2010.com

VAFI SCHOLARSHIP

A reminder to all members that the offer of the VAFI Scholarship for 2010/2011 (up to \$1,000) for conference/course fees, travel &/or accommodation expenses CLOSES 30 JUNE 2010. Further information can be obtained from the website.

Queensland Chapter

QAFI President's Report

The QAFI held its Annual General Meeting on 31 March 2010.

The AGM was preceded by a breakfast function with Detective Senior Sergeant Tony Clowes giving a presentation on identity fraud.

The outgoing committee of 2009 were thanked for their contribution. The work of **Bernie Nunn, Rowley Ahearn, Gary Nash, Des Ede, Andrew Lundy** – for the time he was able to help, **Bevan Manktelow** and later **Andy Rowan**, and **Brian Richardson** along with valuable input from honorary solicitor **Quentin Ward** and the work of **Tony Libke** and his team has put the QAFI into a strong position.

The AGM agreed to the new constitution for the QAFI and that document has now been lodged with the Department of Fair Trading in Queensland.

The new committee for the 2010 year is:

President: Brian Richardson
Vice President: Danny Carson
Secretary: Rowley Ahern
Treasurer: Gary Nash

Committee: Des Ede, Bernie Nunn, Gordon Hemphrey, Andy Rowan

The new committee have outlined the training program for 2010 as follows:

- 3 JUNE 2010 – breakfast seminar with 3 Case Studies being discussed.
- 15 – 17th AUGUST – Inaugural Australasian Fire Investigator Associations conference in Sydney
- 28th OCTOBER – one day seminar – electrical fires – with live burns at Whyte island facility.

The QAFI website has been under major revision, most lately by **Des Ede**, and a new version of the site will soon be unveiled. This work has taken some time, partly because the existing site was hacked into, and subsequently closed down by the internet provider.

SAA APPROVALS have agreed to be the QAFI 2010 Sponsor.

Death Penalty for Arson.

In March of 2009, Raymond Lee Oyler became the first person to get the death penalty for setting a wildland fire in the U.S. which resulted in the deaths of firefighters. Oyler, a former auto mechanic, set the infamous Esperanza Fire on October 26, 2006, killing five US Forest Service firefighters, who died battling the wildfire. After a two month trial, Oyler was found guilty of five counts of murder and multiple counts of arson for the Esperanza Fire and 23 other wildfires and was sentenced to death, setting a significant judicial precedent.

Fire Statistics, United Kingdom 2007

- The United Kingdom Fire and Rescue Services attended 804,000 fire and false alarm incidents in the year ending December 2007 . In England, 630,000 incidents were attended
- Total fires fell by 12 per cent to 385,000 for the UK and 14 per cent in England (to 296,000).
- Total fire deaths for the UK decreased by 10 per cent, in line with the long term downward trend to 443, of which 267 were accidental dwelling fire deaths.
- In England there were 339 fire deaths, down by 15 per cent, of which there were 200 accidental dwelling fire deaths.
- Primary fires in the UK fell by 10 per cent to 144,000. Within this, dwelling fires fell by 6 per cent to 53,000 and fires in other buildings - including workplaces and areas where people gather - were down by 6 per cent to 31,000. Road vehicle fires fell by 14 per cent to 51,000.
- Primary fires in England fell by 10 per cent to 118,000. Within this, dwelling fires fell by 6 per cent to 42,000 and fires in other buildings were down by 7 per cent to 26,000. Road vehicle fires fell by 14 per cent to 42,000.
- UK secondary fires fell by 14 per cent to 231,000, while in England they fell by 16 per cent to 172,000.
- Attendances to UK false alarms decreased by 4 per cent to 419,000. Within this there was a 12 per cent fall (to 30,000) in malicious false alarms and a 1 per cent fall (to 271,000) in false alarms due to apparatus.
- In England, attendances at false alarms decreased by 5 per cent to 334,000.

Intentionally Set Structure Fires in the US.

- An estimated 30,500 intentionally set structure fires occurred in 2008.
- Intentionally set fires in structures resulted in 315 civilian deaths.
- Intentionally set structure fires also resulted in \$866,000,000 in property loss.
- 17,500 intentionally set vehicle fires occurred and caused \$139,000,000 in property damage.

Arson Fire Statistics Due to Intentionally Set Structure Fires

Year	Fires	Deaths	Direct Dollar Loss In Millions
1999	72,000	370	\$1,281
2000	75,000	505	\$1,340
2001 ¹	45,500	330	\$1,013
2001 ²	-	2,451	\$33,440
2002	44,500	350	\$919
2003	37,500	305	\$692
2004	36,500	320	\$714
2005	31,500	315	\$664
2006	31,000	305	\$755
2007	32,500	295	\$733
2008	30,500	315	\$866

¹ Excludes the events of September 11, 2001.

² These estimates reflect the number of deaths, injuries, and dollar loss directly related to the events of September 11, 2001.

Source: National Fire Protection Association Fire Loss in the U.S., 2008.