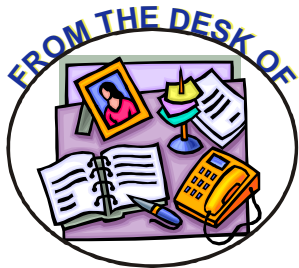


FIREFAX

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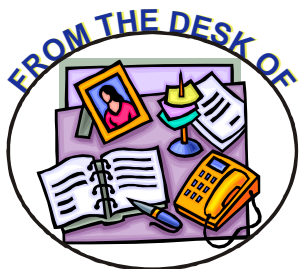
ISSUE 2



Becky Nelson
SECRETARY/TREASURER
FIREFAX EDITOR



The 27th Annual Investigation Seminar and Annual Meeting is fast approaching and I am looking forward to it. Please remember to get your registration form submitted for the early bird saving. For those of you unable to attend the seminar, please fill out the form and submit it to me with your annual dues. I look forward to seeing each of you this year in West Des Moines and I always enjoy the opportunity to network.



Jeff Hutcheson
PRESIDENT



Greetings from Council Bluffs! I trust everyone had a safe and sane Independence Day and you are happily (or not so happily) back at work. Plans for our 2009

AGM are progressing rapidly and we have a first-class line-up of speakers and subjects, including some of our own members. Since it is the Annual General Meeting, we will also be conducting our normal business on Thursday. This is an important function of our organization and I would like to see 100% attendance. On Wednesday will open nominations for Officers so if you would be interested in serving the Membership in a leadership position please let someone know so you can be nominated. You will find a list of openings elsewhere in this newsletter. We have received a few scholarship applications and the scholarship committee is reviewing these now.

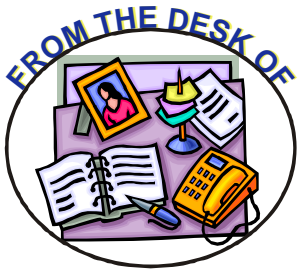
If you have not yet registered, I encourage you to do so soon. The room block will be held until September 1st and the AGM registration price will increase on August 15th.

I had the pleasure of attending the International meeting in Arlington, Texas in May. Although there was a wide selection of seminars and topics, I still believe that we present an equal or better Seminar right here in Iowa. I did attend the Chapter President's session while there which is a great opportunity to meet other Chapter Presidents and share ideas and concepts. One of the main topics this year was the new Educational Foundation. Watch the International magazine for more information on this subject. Thank you for allowing me to attend this year's International meeting.

See you in September!



**27th Annual Investigation
Seminar and Annual Meeting
September 29 – October 2, 2009
See Seminar Info on p. 7 & 8**



Zack Spykerman
DIRECTOR OF
INSURANCE



Greetings to all!! I hope everyone is having a great summer and enjoyed their Fourth of July.

On June 11th the chapter sponsored live burn cell training that was conducted at Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company (GMRC). This training was conducted for individuals from the various departments within GMRC, individuals from the GMRC member mutuals and the Grinnell Fire Department. This year the training at GMRC focused on more than just showing how quickly an 8x10 room can flashover and focused on how a sprinklered room can save lives and property (even in an accelerated fire). Additionally the training showed how openings such as doorways can affect heat patterns and smoke lines of demarcation in adjoining rooms.

There were four scenarios utilized in three cells. The first cell was a living room and the fire in this room was incendiary with a flammable liquid being applied to a couch with foam cushions. This cell was equipped with a live sprinkler that had a fusible link set for 165 degrees. After the fire was ignited the sprinkler activated with in twenty seconds and contained the fire for approximately five minutes before the fire was completely extinguished by fire department personnel. The end result of having the room sprinklered was that it preserved the irregular shaped pattern on the carpet that was from the flammable liquid and minimized the damage to the majority of other contents in the room. This room was then allowed to cool and all contents and carpet were removed and replaced with similar contents and carpeting. The cell was then ignited again in the same sequence as before with the same flammable liquid, however this time there was no live sprinkler. The end result was rapid flashover of the room and extensive damage to all contents in the cell, along with destruction of any irregular patterns that might have been present on the carpet. The two burns in the first cell demonstrated how beneficial residential sprin-

klers can be for everyone involved with a fire in a home.



Above and Below: The first cell was a living room and the fire in this room was incendiary with a flammable liquid being applied to a couch with foam cushions. Above sprinkler. Below no sprinkler



The second cell was a double cell with two of the 8x10 cells being placed together and a doorway placed in the common wall the cells shared. The reason for the double cell in the scenario was to show how smoke and heat extend into other rooms from the room of origin. The two rooms were a bedroom and a dining room with contents in both rooms being similar to those found in most homes. The scenario consisted of an accidental fire with only the bed and bedding being ignited without the use of a flammable liquid. The fire was allowed to extend throughout the bedroom with a large amount of smoke and heat also extending into the dining room. This caused defined patterns showing the smoke and heat extension from the bedroom through the doorway into the dining room.



Above and Below: The second cell was a double cell with two of the 8x10 cells being placed together and a doorway placed in the common wall the cells shared.



The last cell was a laundry room scenario with a simulated dryer fire from lint build up being the cause. The contents of this cell consisted of a washer, dryer and other contents typically found in a laundry room such as clothing and plastic laundry baskets. The electric dryer used was running at the time of the fire. The fire was ignited with a fire starting paste on the dryer lint that was in and around the foil dryer vent tube behind the dryer. The fire extended upward from behind the dryer similar to a typical dryer lint fire and ignited a bamboo window shade and other combustibles including a plastic laundry basket. This fire however began to lose intensity as it consumed the available fuel load. The end result of this fire was once again defined burn patterns on the wall and floor in the area of origin, along with burn patterns on the backs and sides of the appliances.



Above: The last cell was a laundry room scenario with a simulated dryer fire from lint build up being the cause.

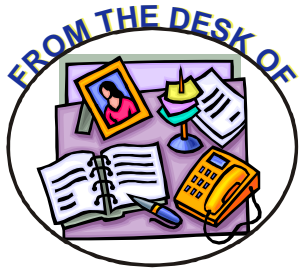
Additionally all of the cells were wired with a thermocouple tree which took temperature readings at four different levels from floor to ceiling level in the room. The temperature readings gathered from each scenario will be available at www.iowaiaaichapter.org under the Firefax tab on the left side of the page. The information is in a graph in an Excel file. The burn cells also had energized outlets, extension cords and appliances in all the cells. This allowed for information to be gathered on the effects of fire on energized components during a fire.

Lastly I would like to thank everyone who helped with the burn cell training as it is very advantageous to be able to observe different scenarios and gather information during and after the fire to further study the effects of fire.

Everyone have a safe summer and I hope to see you all at the Annual Training seminar in September at the West Des Moines Marriot.

Congratulations!

*Congratulations to Tim Pettit
 Senior Field Investigator, EMC Insurance.
 Tim is our newest IAAI-CFI. Way to go Tim!!*



Bob Burns
**PAST PRESIDENT/
LIFE MEMBER**



Dear Fellow Members:

I am writing this in the latter part of June after Ms. Becky Nelson issued an e-mail to the board members, including the active past presidents that she was in need of articles for the upcoming issue of "FIREFAX". With that request in mind, I thought it would be a good time to take a few moments of your time to share some thoughts from an old past president.

The "old guy" has decided that this would be a very good time to inform all of you that I have decided to "hang up the hand trowel" and become a member of the retired community. As of June 1st, I have passed the "digging of the fire scenes" on to Dave Schrock, a Lt. in suppression with the Moline, Illinois Fire Department. Dave had previously worked as an intern with me and since he already had his IAAI-CFI, I felt he would be a very good asset to the Pyr-Tech family. Although the 1st was supposed to be the magic day, thanks to Past President Clark and Mr. Buxton, I have come out of retirement twice already to be involved in active fire scenes and it is just the end of June. Of course, I was always under the impression that once a person is retired and they do any work after that, the person then becomes a "consultant"; at least that's what I have told Mr. Clark and Mr. Buxton. We will see if that feeling is reflected in the paycheck.

As a result of my decision, I need to express my HEART FELT THANKS to a few individuals that got me to a place I would not have been without their assistance. First and foremost on the list would be Retired Special Agent Dick Ward (Chapter Life Member). Many years ago he took a rookie Fire Marshal with the Clinton Fire Department under his wing and taught me the ways of the world in fire investigation. For that I'm very thankful and really proud that he was my teacher. The next person I feel I should talk about is Alan Clark, a Past President and also Life Member. During my early years as a board member and the years I served as your president, he and I became very good friends. During his years of serving as the Chapter Secretary he was a lot of help to me as your President during that time. He was also responsible for me connecting with Bill Buxton of Pyr-Tech and extending my investigation career

by moving into the private sector. As you might guess, another person I need to thank is Bill Buxton for taking a chance with me as an investigator for his company. Over the years we have developed a very sincere friendship, to the point that sometimes we act more like brothers than as a boss and employee. As an employee of Pyr-Tech, the Burns Bunch has really been treated very well. Those gentlemen were a tremendous help in getting me to this stage in life. Thanks guys.

Next on the list would be all the past and present members of this fine Chapter. Without the hard work and dedicated efforts of the membership for all these years, we would not have become the outstanding Chapter of today. With that said, I cannot begin to list each of these individuals by name, however, in my opinion it was a total group effort for all these years. For some of the senior members out there, we can remember the days when we hoped and prayed that we could cover the cost of putting a seminar together. Today, we still have the same concerns, but there is a cushion in the bank to cover the expenses. That did not happen overnight; it resulted from all the hard work of a lot of past and present members. For the sake of the Chapter, please keep up the good work.

Over the many years of my association with the Chapter, I have been fortunate to become acquainted with many individuals that work in this profession. Most of these people are super and will be considered my friends for the rest of the time I get to hang around. Also traveling with Mr. Buxton, otherwise known in some circles as Miss Daisy, I have been introduced to many fine people throughout the United States. All those friendship cannot and will not be forgotten.

To the present membership I would offer you this, get involved for the betterment of your Chapter. Input from you to the present and the future boards can only continue to make this organization one of the best in the International. It is really too bad the International has become so darn political that it is driving out some of the membership. Please do not let this happen to our Chapter.

In closing, once again let me say to all of you, thank you for all your assistance and the memories from all the years I have been involved with the Chapter. It has been one hell of a ride! Although I will miss the daily grind of the fire scenes and working with my friends, I will not miss the time spent in front of the darn computer doing the information and photo stuff needed for the file.

If you are in the neighborhood do not hesitate to call, maybe we can have a cup of coffee or glass of ice tea together. Besides that would be a good excuse for me to take a break from Mrs. B's "honey do" list of projects she has waiting for me that is over 40 years old.

Keep up the good work and be safe.

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS
IOWA CHAPTER INC.
MINUTES**

June 19, 2009

I. Call to Order:

A regular meeting of the Officers and Directors of the Iowa Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators was called to order at the Iowa DPS Lab, Ankeny, Iowa, pursuant to the notice given to all officers and directors in accordance with the bylaws.

II. Roll Call

Roll call of officers and directors

Jeff Hutcheson – President (absent)	Brandon Hufford – Director at Large, West (absent)
Chris Van Vleet – 1 st Vice President	Zack Spykerman – Director of Insurance
Dennis Chapman – 2 nd Vice President	Mark Crooks – Director at Large, East
Becky Nelson – Secretary/Treasurer	Jess Dunn – Director of Detection
John Kraemer – Director of Investigation (absent)	Sean O'Brien – Director of Prosecution (absent)

Chris Van Vleet, 1st Vice President presided and Becky Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

III. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

1. Travelers Insurance can no longer support the needs of the Chapter due to Chapter not having direct physical property. Policies were examined through IMT and United Fire & Casualty. Motion by Director Crooks, 2nd by Director Dunn to accept United Fire & Casualty as recommended by Secretary/Treasurer Nelson as our new CGL Carrier. Motion unanimous.

2. New members:

- a. Terry Olsen, Winnebago Mutual
- b. Brian Zahn, Boone Fire

1) Motion by Second Vice President Chapman, 2nd by Director Crooks to accept new members. Motion unanimous.

3. Chapter bank report:	Starting balance	\$8911.21
Deposit \$100 dues/\$116 Chapter rebate		\$216.00
Deposit from IA/NE Seminar		\$6,497.68
Withdraw for CD		(\$3,000.00)
Withdraw for CD		(\$3,497.68)
USPS (Mailing/Postage Seminar brochures)		(\$396.00)
Alan Clark (reimburse for phone conference)		(\$16.72)
USPS (Post Office Box fee for one year)		(\$44.00)
United Fire (New insurance policy for one year)		(\$518.00)
Travelers (close out insurance policy to date)		(\$113.00)
Ending Balance	CHECKING	\$8,039.49
	CD	\$3,000.00
	CD	\$3,497.68
	CD	\$5,360.96
<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>\$19,898.13</u>

IV. 2009 Seminar

1. Opening speakers are all confirmed with exception of US Attorney.
2. Need test questions/answers from speakers for test.
3. Confirmation done for all hotel rooms for speakers.
4. Final planning for the lunch menu is tabled until next meeting and will be conducted by Planning Committee following meeting.
5. Director Spykerman and Director Hufford will get together in near future to order merchandise for candy store.
6. Motion by Secretary/Treasurer Nelson for herself and Director Spykerman to have the authority to negotiate with Paw Marketing an item for the registration giveaway. Price around \$15 and not to exceed \$20. 2nd by Second Vice President Chapman. Motion unanimous.
7. Director Hufford is working on West Des Moines Fire sponsoring a night on the town, which will follow Tuesday's B-B-Q.

Minutes (Continued)

8. Secretary/Treasurer Nelson will work on getting post cards to mail to seminar registrants acknowledging their registration and asking them to gather door prize giveaways from their local businesses.
9. Discussion as to what cost would be for registrant who only can attend Tuesday night class. Motion by Director Spykerman that cost for Tuesday night class only to be \$25.00. This will not include yearly membership dues or any meals. 2nd by Secretary/Treasurer Nelson. Motion moved with one opposed.
10. Secretary/Treasurer Nelson will order tags for Officer/Board Members that will identify them, as well as tags for speakers.
11. Chapter has 16 people registered for seminar as of this date.

V. Old Business

1. Director Crooks stated he is not getting good feedback from potential participants of a Lunch and Learn regarding the task force concept. Director Dunn offered to talk at the Lunch and Learn on Evidence Collection and DCI standards. Lunch and Learn tentatively scheduled for August 27th with the time and location to be finalized by Director Crooks.
 - a. Director Crooks will provide Secretary/Treasurer Nelson the names of the individuals from the area that are to be invited to the Lunch and Learn and formal invites will be sent.

VI. New Business

1. Chapter has received two scholarship applications. Upon deadline for applications the ones received will be sent to active Past Presidents who are on the scholarship committee for review and recommendation.
2. Director Spykerman spoke about training and live burns to Grinnell Mutual, which the Chapter Co-Sponsored. GMRC Special Investigations built four burn cells. Burn cell #1 was furnished with a single active sprinkler head and was burned and then refurbished with like items and burnt again so participants could see the effects of the fire with and without the benefit of a sprinkler. Burn cell #2 and #3 were built together with an open doorway. #3 contained a bedroom, where the fire originated and it was allowed to extend into cell #2, which was a dining room, showing the effects of fire extension. Burn cell #4 was a laundry room where the fire originated in the dryer vent. Training was well received and GMRC appreciates the Chapter's support in issuing certificates to the participants for the training.
 - a. The Chapter will retain on its data base the participants names for the training that is Co-Sponsored.
3. Director Spykerman and 1st Vice President Van Vleet will work on transferring the videos from the 2008 conference onto CD. Some registrants from the 2008 seminar have requested copies, which will be sold for \$5.00 each.
 - a. Secretary/Treasurer Nelson will send a letter to each seminar attendee from 2008 conference that previously paid for the CD and inform them of the complications in getting information transferred and thanking them for their patience and understanding.
 - b. Director Spykerman will investigate the possibility of transferring this video information onto the website for members to view once it is compiled.

VII. Good of the Chapter

1. Need Firefax articles from President, Director of Insurance and Past Presidents. Would like articles by July 5th to go to print.
2. 2nd Vice President Chapman was a guest speaker at Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company's Special Investigation's training, where he spoke on Evidence Preservation.
3. Director Crooks talked about new laws coming out regarding Residential Sprinklers. Iowa Fire Marshal's Association is sending a letter of support for the code changes.
4. 1st Vice President Van Vleet attended the International conference in Texas. Stated training was good but feels the Iowa Chapter offers equal quality, if not better, training at a more affordable price.
 - a. International in conjunction with CFI Trainer is putting together a new certification. FIT (Fire Investigation Technician) is being finalized and details will be made available shortly on their website www.firearson.com When certification is finalized there will be a link from the Iowa Chapter's website www.iowaiaaichapter.org
5. Director Dunn talked to MAFIT in May regarding Evidence and DCI standards.
6. 1st Vice President Van Vleet will be teaching at NFA in Maryland on Origin and Cause.

VIII. Adjournment

1. Next meeting will be July 31, 2009, 10:00 AM at DCI.
2. Motion by Director Dunn, second by Secretary/Treasurer Nelson for adjournment. Motion unanimous.

**The 27th Annual
Fire Investigation Seminar
and
Annual Meeting
September 29 - October 2, 2009
West Des Moines Marriott**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

West Des Moines Marriott
1250 Jordan Creek Parkway
West Des Moines, IA 50266

Make your reservations 1-800-228-9290 or 1-515-267-1500
Single - \$94 + tax

Room block will be held until September 1, 2009

Registration for Iowa Chapter members is \$250 prior to August 15, 2009. This includes one year Chapter Membership, noon meal on Wednesday and Thursday, B-B-Q Wednesday night and banquet Thursday night. After September 1, the price is \$280. One-day registration is \$100, does not include Wednesday evening B-B-Q or Thursday evening banquet. Extra B-B-Q or banquet tickets may be purchased for \$35 each.

Send registration form to:

Becky Nelson
Iowa Chapter IAAI, Inc.
PO Box 177
Malcom, IA 50157

All seminar attendees are required to wear their name tags at all seminar activities.

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

2:00 PM	Board Meeting
4:00 PM	Early Registration/Display Room Set-up
5:00 – 6:45 PM	Report Writing – Virginia Barchman, Prosecutor
7:00 – 9:00 PM	Hospitality Suite (Hosted by President Hutcheson)

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

7:00 – 8:00 AM	Registration
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Opening Ceremonies (President Jeff Hutcheson) Nominating Committee Report

Wednesday, September 30, 2009 (Cont'd)

9:00 AM – Noon Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST's) Role in Fires –
Todd Hartzler and Duane Wolf, Independent Forensics Investigations (IFIC)
12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch
1:00 – 5:00 PM Active Fire Protection Systems: What You Want to Know,
Scott Futrell, Futrell Fire Consultant & Design
5:30 – 6:30 PM Section Meetings
6:30 PM BBQ

Thursday, October 1, 2009

8:00 – 10:30 AM Science of Burned Bodies, Elayne Pope,
University of Western Florida
10:45 AM – Noon Annual Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch
1:00 – 5:00 PM Fire Fatalities (Continued)
6:00 – 7:00 PM Social Hour (Cash Bar)
7:00 PM Banquet

Friday, October 2, 2009

8:00 AM – Noon Arson/Bombing Profiling, Ron Tunkel, ATF
Noon Seminar Test
1:00 PM Board Meeting

ELECTIONS

The Chapter has the following positions open for elections.

President
First Vice President
Second Vice President
Secretary/Treasurer
Director at Large – West
Director of Detection

***Don't forget to bring door prize giveaways
from your local merchants!***

*The opinions expressed in this publication are not
necessarily those of the IAAI or the Iowa Chapter IAAI.*

*Please, if you have any suggestions for improvements or changes to the newsletter send me an e-mail at:
bnelson@gmrc.com.*