

FIREFAX

VOLUME 19

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ISSUE 3

Editor's Message

Jeff Hutcheson, President

As your Editor and newly-elected Chapter President, I want to say "Welcome" to this edition of FireFax. It is a little late in getting out to you and that is completely my fault and I will strive to correct this in the future.

Our 2006 Annual General Meeting and Seminar was a huge success. We had 96 people in attendance from five states, not counting our speakers. I am including a summary of the comments from the attendees at the seminar and you will see that for the most part, everyone considered it to be a great seminar. Thanks to Director Spykerman for compiling that information. In addition to a new President, we also have several new Board Members. Dennis Chapman was elected as 1st Vice President, Chris VanVleet, 2nd Vice President, Jess Dunn, Director of Detection, Brandon Hufford, Director at Large, West and State Fire Marshal Jim Kenkel stepped into my unexpired term as Director of Investigation. I would like to congratulate each of these individuals and I look forward to working with them for the next year.

Speaking of next year, the 2007 AGM will be held in Des Moines at the Hilton Garden Inn. Dates are September 18-21, 2007. Also, 2007 will be the 25th Anniversary of the Iowa Chapter's Annual Meeting and Seminar. We will be discussing ideas to commemorate this important anniversary. If you have any ideas, please share them with me at jhutcheson@cbfire.org or any other Board member.

Hope to see you all there.

From the Past President

Mike Brown, Past President

I hope this letter finds you all well, and to those of you who attended this year's seminar in Iowa City, I hope you have gotten caught up on your missed assignments. I know it can be difficult to get away sometimes, and we certainly appreciated your attendance this year. The number of attendees shows that our Iowa Chapter is alive and well, with a commitment to education, training, and fellowship among peers.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the officers and board members who worked collectively to put this year's seminar together. It was truly a team effort and my heartfelt thanks go out to each of them. I would also like to thank all the other members and Past Presidents who pitched in.

This letter is somewhat bittersweet; after serving four years as an officer it is a relief to free up some time to concentrate work here, yet I will miss being involved on the Iowa Chapter board. It was a very rewarding experience and I hope to do it again someday.

As our new officers and directors start a new term, I wish them all good luck. I encourage you all to contact them with educational and training suggestions or anything else for the good of the order. They are going to be working hard in the coming year to offer our membership training opportunities to meet the needs of the Iowa Chapter, and your input is helpful in letting them know if they've met those needs.

I've already marked my calendar for the September 2007 AGM and seminar in Des Moines. I know it will be a great event and look forward to seeing you all there. Until then, stay safe.

From the Director at Large, West

Brandon Hufford, Director at Large, West

Another successful IAAI Conference has come and gone. Each year seems to be fading faster and faster. The benefits of the conference are enormous but once we return to our everyday life, where do the benefits land? Do we take the time to absorb and digest the knowledge and information we gained from the conference? Do we act on the connections and friendships we accrue at the conference? Or do we treat this like most daily activities...attend the activity, accomplish what needs to be accomplished, and then sweep it under the rug as another task completed? I am not saying we all perform this way but society has taught us to check off our daily tasks and move forward to the next task leaving behind what we just accomplished. Do we take the time to reflect and absorb what we just learned or who we just talked to? These are questions that I find myself asking everyday.

My name is Brandon Hufford and I am your new Director At Large, West. I am currently with the West Des Moines Fire Department as a firefighter/fire investigator. I have been a member of the department since May 1994 with my first six years being a volunteer and my previous six years being a full-time firefighter. I became an investigator for the department in October 2001 and then became an IAAI member shortly after. I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa in 1997. Once I graduated from college I started working full time for my families business, O'Callaghan's, Inc. The business is an appliance business that has been in my family since WWII. Being that my father was a volunteer firefighter for WDM for twenty-six years, I became accustomed to the fire industry; that's what led me to where I am today. I am currently married and have two children, ages 5 and 1.

Today, I do struggle with slowing the pace down. I continually battle with myself to absorb what the day consisted of, whether it is work related or family related. Unfortunately, this quick pace can unconsciously become part of an investigation. Do we take the time to methodically perform each investigation to the fullest? Do we take the time to digest what our fire scene is made of? Maybe, if we just would have digested what we learned from our conference months ago, we would be able to confidently eliminate potential causes and find the right cause.

I am not trying to relay a negative message; rather, I am challenging those of you who are similar to me in nature. I need to constantly step back and realize the benefits of what I learned and the knowledge I gained through talking to you, my colleagues. I need to utilize all the assets gained through each IAAI conference and incorporate them effectively into my investigations. I need to build on each year to make myself a better investigator. We all need the continual training and the continual conversations with each other. I am going to do my best in my term on the Board to keep the communication lines open throughout each year and make each one of us better at what we do. I look forward to serving on the Board for this organization and I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to serve you better! You can reach me by email at: brandon.hufford@wdm-ia.com or by phone (515) 710-7381. Take care.

THANK YOU
2006 Seminar Sponsors!

Onsite Engineering & Forensic Services Inc.
Pyr-Tech, Inc.
Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company

Central States Fire Investigations Corporation
Independent Forensic Investigations Corporation

R. C. Hentges Scholarship

In 1997, the Iowa Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators created the R.C. Hentges Scholarship Program in honor of Reynold C. Hentges, 1st President and Life Member of the Iowa Chapter when it was reorganized in 1983.

The program is funded by the Iowa Chapter and is awarded to a student that is entering an accredited college within the State of Iowa that is majoring in the Fire Service, Law Enforcement, Legal (prosecution), Fire Protection Technology, Fire Protection Engineering or Insurance (investigation) professions.

Each year the Chapter offers two scholarships. Each scholarship is \$500.00, to be paid one-half each of the first two semesters.

All applications and references must be submitted to our office by July 1st. If you have any questions, contact our Scholarship Committee Chairman, Bob Burns at (563) 243-2414 or any Chapter Officer or your community college. Feel free to download the application and reference form by from our website www.iowaiaaichapter.org.

Mail completed form to:

**Iowa Chapter IAAI
PO Box 177
Malcom, IA 50157**

JOHN CHARLES WILSON SCHOLARSHIPS

New Address for College Scholarships

Applications for the \$500 and \$1,000 John Charles Wilson Scholarships (including the \$1,000 Robert J. Doran Scholarship) are now available on line at www.firearson.com. Simply click on the Educational Foundation page. Applications must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2006.

Applicants must be an IAAI member in good standing, an immediate family member of an IAAI member or be sponsored by a member in good standing with the IAAI. Student membership will meet this requirement.

Scholarships are available for students enrolling in the next scheduled semester at a two- or four-year accredited college or university offering courses in police or fire science, including fire investigation and related subjects.

The number and amount of the awards given are recommended by the Educational Foundation Scholarship Committee with approval by the Foundation Board of Directors.

Scholarships for the 2007-2008 school year will be announced by early June 2007.

Applications should be mailed to:

IAAI Educational Foundation, Inc.
c/o Judy B. Van Heest
P.O. Box 1988
Montgomery, AL 36102-1988

News from the CPSC Product Recalls

For more recalls visit www.cpsc.gov

Black & Decker Recalls Blower/Vacuums for Fire Hazard

Name of Products: Black & Decker BV4000 Type 1 Blower/Vac

Units: About 272,000

Manufacturer: Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc., of Towson, Md.

Hazard: A loose connection between the blower/vac and an extension cord can cause overheating, posing a fire hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: Black & Decker has received 187 reports of smoking, melting and/or fire near the blower/vac's plug, including one report of a fire extending beyond the unit. Black & Decker has received seven reports of minor burns, none of which required medical treatment.

Description and Models: This recall involves Black & Decker model BV4000 Type 1 blower/vacs. The model and type number are printed on a name plate on the right side of the unit. The blower/vacs have an orange housing and a black blower assembly.

Sold at: Home center, hardware and discount stores nationwide from April 2004 through July 2005 for about \$70.

Manufactured in: Mexico

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the blower/vacs immediately and contact Black & Decker for a free repair kit.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, consumers can contact Black & Decker at (866) 853-2138 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.blackanddecker.com

Lenovo and IBM Announce Recall of ThinkPad Notebook Computer Batteries Due to Fire Hazard

Name of Product: Rechargeable, lithium-ion batteries used in ThinkPad notebook computers

Units: About 168,500 battery packs (an additional 357,500 battery packs were sold worldwide).

Battery Distributor: Lenovo (United States) Inc., of Research Triangle Park, N.C. and International Business Machines Corp., of Armonk, N.Y.

Battery Manufacturer: Sony Energy Devices Corp., of Japan

Hazard: These lithium-ion batteries can cause overheating, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

Description: The recalled lithium-ion batteries were sold with or sold separately to be used with the following ThinkPad notebook computers: T Series (T43, T43p, T60, T60p); R Series (R51e, R52, R60, R60e); and X Series (X60, X60s). The recalled batteries have the following part or model numbers, which can be found on the battery label:

Part/model number:

ASM P/N	FRU P/N
92P1072	92P1073
92P1088	92P1089
92P1142	92P1141
92P1170	92P1169 or 93P5028
92P1174	92P1173 or 93P5030

Manufactured in: Japan and China

Consumer Contact: Customers should contact Lenovo at (800) 426-7378 anytime or log on to www.lenovo.com/batteryprogram to determine if the battery is part of the recall and to receive a replacement battery

2006 Seminar Survey Results

The following are the average scores for the speakers and topics from the surveys with the highest being 5 and lowest of 1:

Safety and Health Issues: 4.5
Mock Trial: 4.3
Paraguay Inferno: 4.3
Electrical Fires: 4.4
Fatal Fires: 4.2

The following are the average scores for the conference and facilities with the same scale as above:

Conference Relevant: 4.3
Issues hoped were addressed: 4.1
Adequate time for discussion: 4.3
Literature received before conference help to attend: 3.9
Conference facilities were adequate: 4.2

Comments received:

Suggestions for topics or presenters:

Vehicle Fires involving Hybrid cars Vehicle fires Investigation
Case Studies from other agencies and how they made determination
IED updates
Evidence collection, storage, handling, equipment used
Basic O&C in a split format
Arc mapping – contact John Pagels, Pagels Engineering Anoka, MN
Electrical Fire Case studies
Construction practices to prevent fires
Heating equipment/ventilation

Live Burns
Explosion recognition on fire scenes
Clandestine lab fire investigation
Presentation on formal report writing
Gas explosions
Static electricity fires
Fire Service and Law Enforcement working together
Juvenile Fire Acts
Interview/Interrogation

Additional comment/suggestions:

Excellent job by the board
Door prizes should not be first come first served.
Put each ticket on each pile.
Five panel caps with IAAI and Fire Investigator for sale in candy store
Very good conference
Thank you for effort and commitment of the board
Have food for the break on the last day
Wait to give grand prize at end of conference
IAAI leather binder for each participant
Hooded Sweatshirts in candy store
Enjoyed mock trial the most
Call ticket numbers before break and put a ticket on each pile
Climate control was bad and outside hall noise
Tape mock trial to help participants see how they did
Would like to see a commemorative item (possibly beer stein) for 25th seminar
Updated hats in candy store

Standing Committees

As I indicated earlier, we need volunteers to serve on Chapter Committees. Below you will find a list of those committees with some names already filled in. Please, review the list and if something looks interesting, just e-mail me and let me know.

Scholarship

Mark Crooks

Awards

CFI

Terry Smith
Al Brockhohn

Legislative

Doug Rex
Bart Howard
John Kraemer
Jim Kenkel

Training

Terry Smith

Auditing

Ethical Practices, Grievance &

Appeal

Phillip Ray

Communications

Constitution/Bylaws

Membership

Mike Hayman
Jim Dickerson

Nominations

2008 Seminar

Brandon Smith

2007 Seminar

John Kraemer
Mike Brown
Ken Dales
Tony Collins
Bruce McAvoy

25th Anniversary Seminar

September 18-21, 2007

See

Vehicle Fires • Live Burns • 100 A – Path to Working Together

Please, if you have any suggestions for improvements or changes to the newsletter send me an e-mail at: jhutcheson@cbfire.org.

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

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