

FIREFAX

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ISSUE 2

FROM THE DESK OF



Kim Shepherd
PRESIDENT

When I assembled the February edition of the Firefox, I could not have predicted or even guessed what our world would look like right now, just three months later. I have been prosecuting criminal cases for over 16 years. My job has always been filled with stress, uncertainty, and to some extent, chaos. The difficulties and chaos that I am facing now as a prosecutor are brand new and are presenting me with different challenges than I have faced in the past. For those of you who do not know, all jury trials in Iowa have been suspended until, at the earliest, July 13th. Criminal cases in my county are continuing to be charged, pled,

and sentenced, but at a substantially slower rate than before the Covid-related shutdowns. And as you can guess, crime has not stopped, so our cases are continuing to pile up, both new and old. What this means for me, with the large caseload I have, is when July 13th hits, it will be as if a dam has burst, and I will have to process an enormous amount of cases, either through trial or plea, in a very short period of time. I am preparing as best I can for when that time comes, but with so much uncertainty, preparing is difficult.

I imagine we are all dealing with our own issues and challenges right now. While some of us are overwhelmed, others seem to be stuck in a holding pattern of sorts, watching, waiting, and wondering what will happen next. I have been using this time of slow-down to reflect, assess, and attend to things that often got pushed aside during the busyness of my pre-Covid life. I have also appreciated the extra time with my teen-aged children, who used to be extremely busy individuals with school, work, sports, music, and various school-related activities. Now they are home every night – such a treat!

As is the case with many meetings these days, the IAAI International annual meeting was held by Zoom phone conference. New officers were elected, and we said goodbye to Jim Kuticka as a Director for the IAAI International Board. Jim has worked with our Chapter for many years as a liaison. Jim's term of office expired, and we thank him for his years of service to us and to the Board. In other news, IAAI International is creating new opportunities for virtual training, to be held on the third Thursday of each month, with the first being held on May 21. Credit hours will be available for those needing certification. See the IAAI International website for more details. www.firearson.com.

We are in the process of making plans for the September seminar to continue as scheduled in Cedar Rapids. We will let you all know right away if that changes. We have rescheduled the Lunch and Learn previously scheduled for April 14 to June 30, at the Cedar Rapids Fire Department Central Station, with an option to attend by video conference for those who are unable to be there in person.

In other good news, our Chapter website is once again up and running at www.iowaiaaichapter.org. Thank you to Dan Roberts for the countless hours he spent researching, designing, creating, and executing our new website.

As always, if you have any suggestions for ways the Chapter can assist everyone, particularly in these challenging times, do not hesitate to let me or any one of the other Board members know.

Thank you all for your continued dedication and service to your respective communities - stay safe!

FROM THE DESK OF



Mark Dooley

SECRETARY/TREASURER

The importance of an annual physical

The importance of an annual physical cannot be understated. But just as important, please follow up with any abnormalities. It just might save your life. In February I received an annual physical through my employer. I only had one abnormality, a trace amount of blood detected in my urine during a simple dip test. Because I was aware of the high propensity of bladder cancer with fire investigators, I called my primary physician the next day and scheduled a follow up appointment. When I met

with my doctor, she stated that trace amounts of blood in the urine could be a sign of many benign issues. Dehydration, over exertion during exercise, a kidney stone, or even an infection. I was persistent in my demands that I be evaluated by a urologist due to the high propensity for bladder cancer in my chosen career field. She agreed, scheduled another short, non-invasive test and recommended a urologist. When I met with the urologist's clinic, they performed a couple of common examinations and I was scheduled for a CT, contrasting CT and cystoscopy. The CT was easy from a comfort level, the cystoscopy, not so much 😊. Both procedures identified a polyp growing inside my bladder and a surgery was scheduled. The urologist stated that he had not had a case where the polyp was not larger. He was amazed that it was discovered so early.

The surgery was a same day procedure, and the urologist explained to me in my pain medication induced stupor that it was successful. The surgery was 30 days after my annual physical. Now we just had to wait for the pathology report. The pathology report came back that the polyp was cancerous, but the surgery had removed all the polyp and the cancer had not spread from the polyp to my bladder. I still require some simple follow up procedures, but he stated that I no longer have cancer. This article is written to share my personal experience, not to seek any attention. It does not address the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. As I stated in the opening, the importance of an annual physical cannot be understated. But what I wanted to bring to light is the importance of following up

on any abnormalities discovered in your physical. It just might save your life.

FROM THE DESK OF



David Miller

DIRECTOR OF INSURANCE

Hello, IAAI Iowa Members! If I haven't already had the opportunity to meet you – allow me to introduce myself. I have attended chapter functions and classes since 2002, and was elected as the Iowa IAAI Director of Insurance at the September 2019 meeting. I started my career in insurance investigations in December of 1989 and started my work with fire investigations in November of 2002, when I joined Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. A key theme and closely held value throughout my career has been the importance of education and training. Taking responsibility for your own education and sharing your knowledge with others is a critical component of career growth and the continued growth of our industry.

I have been very fortunate to work for a company that believes in educating and investing in their employees; ensuring they have access to the continued training needed for our profession. I am a firm believer in certifications as well as

practical experiences to apply your knowledge. Together, these serve as valuable knowledge tools that drive learning and discovery, help demonstrate expertise and credibility, and these tools can be continually built upon.

As investigators, we have to take personal responsibility to ensure that we have the most current and relevant certifications, training, practices and methodologies to do our jobs well. As you grow in your fire investigation career, it is imperative that you continue to educate yourself and more importantly, share your knowledge with others. Much of the expertise in our industry is developed over time, through hands-on education, practice, and learning from others. Sharing knowledge creates opportunity to learn from others with different experiences and perspectives and allows those sharing to articulate their knowledge in order to prepare to testify to a judge or jury. It's a "win-win" scenario.

Part of sharing your knowledge with others is participating in classroom settings. I had the privilege to fill-in as a speaker at the September class dealing with NFPA 1033. While I received a few good comments, I also received a few comments that criticized the class participation. As the instructor, I understand the value of feedback, good and bad, because that is how I learn what works and what does not. As an instructor and continued learner, I also believe that class participation is critical to help everyone in the class. I encourage you to participate and believe we need to be

more comfortable talking about what we do and how we do it. If you cannot talk about your practices and methodologies for investigations with a group of friends in a classroom, it is going to be difficult for you to talk about it for the first time in front of a judge, jury or when sitting through a deposition.

I can tell you from my experience, there is a difference between having "book" knowledge and being able to articulate your message in a concise, understandable format. Your experience and knowledge needs to shine when you are on the stand in a court of law. You should prepare for it from the first day of your career and from each investigation. Whether you are in the public or private sector, there are groups you can get in front of to share your knowledge and refine the articulation of your methods. IAAI offers the IAAI-CI (Certified Instructor) and NAFI offers the CFII (Certified Fire Investigation Instructor) and as your career grows, I would encourage you to pursue one or both of these designations.

Tracking your training and education with your Curriculum Vitae (CV) is important so that you have all of your training and education in one place. In addition to tracking the training and education classes that you complete, you should also track any classes you instruct. This is important to show you have gained the knowledge on a subject, and you are also able to articulate the information well to others. I encourage everyone to focus on continuing their education

and to learn to share knowledge with others in your departments and throughout our industry.

I hope everyone is staying safe during these crazy times, and I hope to see everyone in September at the Marriott in Cedar Rapids.



LUNCH AND LEARN
JUNE 30, 2020
CEDAR RAPIDS FD
Central Fire Station

SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATIONS:

Reynold C. Hentges

Memorial Scholarship

Applications accepted by mail or email. See website for application form.

www.iowaiaaichapter.org

IN MEMORIAM



**Willard "Bill" Hanson
1947-2020**

Willard "Bill" Hanson, who was born on October 17, 1947 in Ft. Dodge, Iowa to Otto and Ruth (Rink) Hanson, passed away at his home in West Des Moines, Iowa on April 20, 2020.

Bill grew up in Eagle Grove, IA and graduated from Eagle Grove H.S. in 1966 before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corp where he honorably served his country from 1968-1971. Bill earned an Associate's Degree from Iowa Central Community College in 1971 before completing his Department of Justice (Police Officer) Course at Mira Costa College in California. Bill was Chief of Security for Winnebago Industries and Iowa Lutheran Hospital before becoming Adel Chief of Police in 1974. He remained with the Adel Police Department until 1996 when he became a Special Investigator for Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company until his retirement in 2005.

Bill married Sandy Durham on June 21, 1997 in West Des Moines. He loved his animals dearly; which have included over

the years, Fang, Buddy, Hogan, Toby and Duncan. He loved gardening, collecting guns and taking cruises. He adored his grandchildren and loved spending time with them.

Bill served as President of the Iowa Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (1993-1996) and was voted a Life Member in 1998.

Bill is survived by his loving wife Sandy; daughters Krystal (Mike) Walker and Nicole (Sean) Kavanaugh; step-son Jim Frazier; grandsons Noah, Logan and Anthony; sister Barbara Hamilton; favorite niece Andrea (Rod) Andrew; grandnieces Haley (Alvin) Post and Sydney (Troy) Sjaardema; great-grandnephews Harper and Emmett; his fur-baby Hawkeye and numerous good friends. Bill was preceded in death by his parents; brother Steve (Beverly) and sister Marjorie Lynn.

A private family service was held April 24 with private interment services at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Adel. Bill's service can be viewed anytime at Ernst Funeral & Cremation Services, Waukee, Iowa Facebook page.



**Iowa IAAI
Fire Investigation
SEMINAR &
ANNUAL MEETING
September 8-10, 2020
CEDAR RAPIDS MARRIOTT**

BOARD POSITIONS OPEN FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR:

President

1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

Secretary/Treasurer

Director of Insurance

Director of Prosecution

Nominations will be accepted by mail, email, and from the floor at the annual meeting. See website for nomination form.

www.iowaiaaichapter.org

RECALLS

Product recalls

(<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls>)

and Underwriter Laboratories (<https://www.ul.com/>) detailing a variety of faulty products that are a fire hazard, to name a few:



Name of product:

"Wireless Power" Reclining Furniture

Hazard:

The lithium-ion batteries used to power the "Wireless Power" reclining furniture can overheat, posing a fire hazard

Remedy: Repair

Recall date: April 2, 2020

Units: About 2,300

Polaris vehicles



Name of product:

2019-2020 Ranger XP

Hazard: The fuel line can be misrouted above the bracket that protects the fuel line from a clutch belt failure, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

Remedy: Repair

Recall date:

April 16, 2020

Units: About 7,000



2018 - 2020 Ranger XP

Hazard: The clutch belt can break and damage the secondary clutch and the fuel line, posing a fire hazard to the rider.

Remedy: Repair

Recall date: April 16, 2020

Units: About 80,000



Name of product:

Camino Floor Lamps

Hazard: The lamp's on/off foot switch can overheat, melt or catch fire, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy: Refund

Recall date:

March 5, 2020

Units: About 800 (In addition, about 22 units were sold in Canada)



2019 PRO XD and 2020 Ranger Utility Vehicles

Hazard: The seat belts on the vehicles can fail, posing an injury hazard to the user if they were to be in a collision or tip-over incident.

Remedy: Repair

Recall date:

April 16, 2020

Units: About 10,100 (In addition, 400 units were sold in Canada)



Name of product:

ASSO and ASSOS Sonoma wall fan heaters

Hazard: An internal part of the heater fails to meet flammability performance requirements, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy: Replace

Recall date: April 2, 2020

Units: About 3,600



Name of product:

Grower's Edge Vaporizers

Hazard: The vaporizers can overheat, and the vaporized materials can pose a burn risk if spilled or cause a fire if they fall onto a combustible surface. The Deluxe model vaporizer also poses an electrical shock hazard if a consumer touches a small copper piece at the base of the vaporizer while in use.

Remedy: Refund

Recall date: March 19, 2020

Units: About 60,000 (In addition, about 340 in Canada)



Name of product:

Kawasaki MULE PRO off-highway utility vehicles

Hazard: Debris can ignite on the vehicle's exhaust manifold; and frozen water can block the breather hose allowing oil to leak, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy: Repair

Recall date: March 19, 2020

Units: About 72,000



Name of product:

Honda EB2200i, EU2200i, EU2200i Companion and EU2200i Camo Portable Generators

Hazard: The portable generator's inverter assembly can short circuit with the presence of salt water. This causes the unit to smoke or catch fire, posing fire and burn hazards to consumers.

Remedy: Repair

Recall date: March 17, 2020

Units: About 340,000 (about 200,000 units were previously recalled in 2019)



Name of product:

Line 6 Relay G10 Digital Wireless Guitar Systems and USB Charging Cables

Hazard: The lithium-ion battery can overheat and the battery cover can separate with force, posing fire and injury hazards.

Remedy: Refund Repair

Recall date: March 12, 2020

Units: About 82,000 (In addition, about 4,700 units were sold in Canada)



Name of product:

Thule Sleek Car Seat Adapters

Hazard: The plastic brackets on the car seat adapter can break, posing a fall hazard to infants.

Remedy: Refund Replace

Recall date: March 19, 2020

Units: About 1,430 (In addition, about 116 in Canada)



Name of product:

Commercial-Grade Tamper Resistant Duplex Receptacles

Hazard: A manufacturing error within the receptacles could lead consumers to incorrectly force the plug into the receptacle, causing the plug blades to overheat, posing a burn risk to the consumer.

Remedy: Refund Replace

Recall date: April 9, 2020

Units: About 685,000



Name of product:

Children's pajamas and robes

Hazard: The children's garments fail to meet the federal flammability standard

for children's sleepwear, posing a risk of burn injuries to children.

Remedy: Refund

Recall date: March 5, 2020

Units: About 12,000 (In addition, about 300 were sold in Canada)



Name of product:

Kichler 52-inch LED Indoor Ceiling fans

Hazard:

The irons (arms) that hold the ceiling fan blades can detach during use, causing the blades to fall, posing an injury hazard.

Remedy: Replace

Recall date: March 12, 2020

Units: About 38,900 (in addition, about 3,160 were sold in Canada)



Name of product:

Lenox 2.5 Quart Tea Kettles

Hazard: The tea kettles can expel hot water during use, posing a burn hazard to consumers.

Remedy: Refund

Recall date: April 8, 2020

Units: About 56,000

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

**This edition of Firefax was presented by
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