



Keeping you Knowledgeable, Safe, and in Compliance!

Ernest A. Emerson
Fire Protection Resource Library

A Volume From the Library

Arson Detection as a First Responder

The motives for committing arson are varied and oftentimes, complex. But whether the arsonist does it for profit, or to instill fear, or due to a mental disorder, or out of sheer curiosity, the motives may not be as important as the means.

While it is an arson investigator's job to analyze the fire scene, it is often a first responder's keen eye that brings them to the scene in the first place. Knowing what clues may reveal themselves in the aftermath of an arson fire can lead to the prosecution

of dangerous criminals and scofflaws.

Recognizing a point of origin, signs of accelerant, and the subtle differences in other indicators can help a fire fighter distinguish fires that are set accidentally and those that are set purposefully.

The loss of life and property due to arson is a burden to the fire service and the community as a whole. Educating fire fighters to the evidence that points to arson is the first step to stopping these offenders from causing future damage.

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Visit us at the William B. Travis Building:
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Additional Resources:

- [National Arson Awareness Week](#)
- [TX Fire Marshal's Office - Fire Investigations](#)

Training Videos Listed below are some of the videos available from our lending library on this subject.

FIRE INVESTIGATION

AV11-2512 Length: 28:00

Format: DVD

This training program presents the investigation of fires. It covers fire behavior, the role suppression activities play in fire spread, how to search the scene for point of origin, tools required, fuel sources, the source of ignition, interviewing hints, and documenting the investigation. This 1995 program has been transferred to DVD format. A guide book accompanies the DVD. (c2002) [COPY 2](#)

FIRE ORIGIN & CAUSE DETERMINATION PART 1: INTRODUCTION TO FIRE INVESTIGATION

AV09-2374 Length: 30:00

Format: DVD

Arson is an ongoing problem that firefighters in this country must deal with on a semi-regular basis. In this post-Sept. 11, 2001, era, it is important to be extra cautious at every single call, and this is especially true at an arson scene. In this, the first

of six FETN shows on arson investigation, we present the factors one must take into consideration when conducting an arson investigation. (c2009)

WILDLAND FIRE INVESTIGATION

AV08-2249 Length: 30:00

Format: DVD

The U.S. Forest Service reports that incendiary fires typically constitute one-fourth to one-third of all fires on protected federal, state, and private lands. This course provides the information and techniques necessary to investigate a possible case of wildland arson. This course covers the eight common accidental causes of wildland fires, identifies the three intentional causes of wildland fire, and discusses the important tasks to perform upon arrival at a wildland fire including how to recognize the area of origin. A study guide accompanies the program. (c.2007)

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

AV11-2471 Length: 12:00

Format: DVD

Three teenagers tell how their lives were changed by fire. THIS DVD ONLY PLAYS ON DVD PLAYERS, NOT ON COMPUTERS.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: FOUR YEARS AFTER

AV11-2472 Length: 8:00

Format: DVD

The three teenagers from 'In Their Own Words' are back 4 years later to discuss how they are doing now and what has transpired in the past 4 years. This program is designed for students grades 7-12. The purpose is to help students gain an understanding of the motives and issues that can lead to firesetting and to look at the consequences of firesetting for the firesetter, his/her family and the community. (2002) THIS DVD ONLY PLAYS ON DVD PLAYERS, NOT ON COMPUTERS.