

International Association of Arson Investigators

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 20, 2008

Val Martin
President
808 357-0497
martinv001@hawaii.rr.com

Scot Seguirant
Vice President

Thomas S. Santos, III
2nd Vice President

Robert Cravalho
Secretary
808 529-3286
rcravalho@honolulu.gov

Steve Whiting
Treasurer
808 271-4362
whitngs002@hawaii.rr.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chapter
Newsletter 1

Auto Fire 1 & 2

IAAI Code of
Ethics 2

Chapter
Membership
Info 2

Hawaii Chapter Newsletter



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2008. I would like to make this forum open to any IAAI Hawaii member who has an idea or experience that they would like to share. Please keep in mind that it may not be a good idea to discuss specific items that may be involved in a civil or criminal mat-

ter. Email me any questions you have.

I am also looking for a member to help set up a chat room where general questions could be discussed. If you have any experience in this area, please call me.

If you do not want to be on the group email list, no problem. Please contact me and I will remove you. If you are serious about fire investigations, it is very rewarding to be a part of the International Association as well as the Hawaii Chapter. Go to

www.firearson.com for more info.

I would like to ask everyone to think of ideas and send me information for articles that we can publish in the newsletter. If you have photos, we can publish them with your article. Remember this is open to every member of this chapter and if you don't share your experience and findings we will never know what is out there that may be important to us.

Val Martin
President
martinv001@hawaii.rr.com

Auto Fires — The Energy of the Sun

This is a very recent fire that happened about 6 weeks ago in Wailuku, Maui. The owner of the vehicle had two glass water jugs full of filtered water in the back seat of this small 4 door car. The car was facing east in the morning sun. He walked to his car about 11am from his apartment

and noticed that a haze was in the interior. He had no idea a fire had occurred until he opened the locked vehicle. Smoke billowed out and he called the fire dept. Fire fighters found a 8" diameter hole in the back seat and helped extinguish it. After examining the vehicle, it was

View of how the two gallon water bottles were placed in the rear seat of the vehicle.



Auto Fires - The Energy of the Sun - continued



View of rear seat after the removal of the two gallon water bottles

Determined that the fire began from the sun being magnified by the glass bottle. Also, the seat belt buckle appeared to have been burning slowly. It was a slow fire since no oxygen was available. The owner of the ve-

hicle is a fitness instructor and does not smoke. We have heard of similar stories happening when people hang glasses from the rear view mirror. Glenn Solem said that one of his friends hung glasses regularly and it took a while before he realized that the burns in the upholstery were not from cigarette butts. The owner was not

going to submit anything to his insurance company. Stories like these are worth sharing. Please let me know if you can send in an article.

Val Martin & James Blando
Maui Fire Department
Fire Prevention Bureau
780 Alua Street
Wailuku, Hawaii
96793

When investigating a fire you should always remember the code of Ethics... Please read and refamiliarize with the code.

IAAI Code of Ethics

- I. I will, as an arson investigator, regard myself as a member of an important and honorable profession.*
- II. I will conduct both my personal and official life so as to inspire the confidence of the public*
- III. I will not use my profession and my position of trust for personal advantage or profit.*
- IV. I will regard my fellow investigators with the same stan-*

- dards as a hold for myself. I will never betray a confidence nor otherwise jeopardize their investigation.*
- V. I will regard it my duty to know my work thoroughly. It is my further duty to avail myself of every opportunity to learn more about my profession.*
- VI. I will avoid alliances with those whose goals are inconsistent with an honest and unbiased investigation.*
- VII. I will make no claim to professional qualifications which I do not possess.*

- VIII. I will share all publicity equally with my fellow investigators, whether such publicity is favorable or unfavorable.*
- IX. I will be loyal to my superiors, to my subordinates, and to the organization I represent. I will bear in mind always that I am a truth-seeker not a case maker; that it is more important to protect the innocent than to convict the guilty.*

Chapter Membership Information

On the front page you will see the new officers contact information. Please feel free to contact any of us with any questions or concerns you may have during the year. I would like to keep this newsletter active so I will need your support. My goal

is to keep all members up to date with what is happening in our chapter. Please send us your current information, i.e. phone numbers, email address, and mailing address so we may keep an up to date list of our members. Once I receive this informa-

tion I will send it as an attachment with the next newsletter.



Knowing your limitation can bring you home safe after your shift.