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What's Inside:

The Evaluation of Beeswax—Coated Hemp Wicks as a Potential Ignition Source

Introducing NFPA 1321 Standard for Fire Investigation Units, 1st Edition Part II

Washington Wire and Governmental Relations Update

The Evaluation of Beeswax—Coated Hemp Wicks as a Potential Ignition Source

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ABSTRACT

As more states legalize medical and recreational use of cannabis (e.g., marijuana), more cannabis-related accessories are becomi

CASE STUDY

Around 3:55 p.m. on a Saturd… lorado, an … pipe while



Figure 1. The remains of a beeswax-coated hemp wick found in the area of origin.

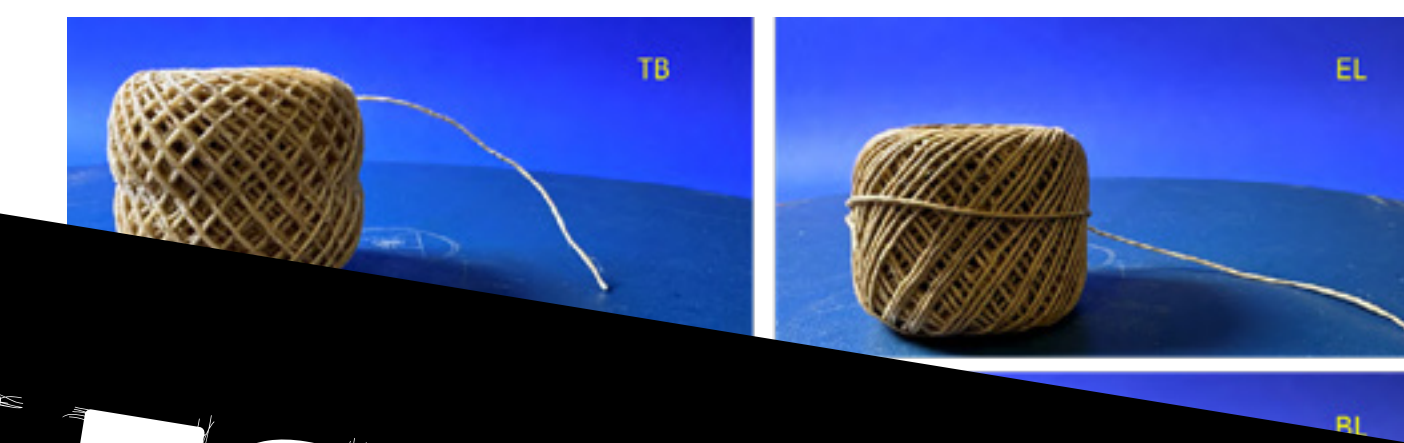
As a result of this investigation, two questions related to hemp wicks as a competent ignition source needed to be evaluated:

1. If a spool of beeswax-coated hemp is … then set down, will the wick continue …
2. Will the flame on the wick burn back … and ignite it?

Regardless of the accuracy of these claims, some cannabis users are choosing to ignite cannabis with beeswax-coated hemp wicks. Fire investigators should be aware of this ignition method and the potential of a beeswax-coated hemp wick to ignite nearby combustibles.

EXPERIMENTAL SETUP AND PROCEDURE

Burn tests were conducted using four brands of 1.0 mm beeswax-coated hemp wick. These brands were chosen based on their convenient availability from a popular online retailer and identified within this study by their initials (Figure 2).



FISC Bulletin Board

IAAI Fire Investigation Standards Committee (FISC)

Introducing NFPA 1321 Standard for Fire In… 1st Edition Part II

Editor's Note

Due to its length, this article is published in two parts. Below is the article outline showing which sections are published in each the Winter 2025 edition (Vol. 75, Issue 3) and the Spring 2025 edition (Vol. 75, Issue 4) of the Fire & Arson Investigator Journal. Both parts are available to IAAI members at the IAAI website (sign-on required). Go to the IAAI website at https://www.firearson.com/; click the "Publications" tab; and then scroll down and click the "Fire & Arson Investigator Journal" link. Scroll down to the 2025 Journals section and download Vol. 75, Issues 3 and 4.

Outline

Part I ***Fire & Arson Investigator Journal, Vol. 75, Issue 3***	**Part II** ***Fire & Arson Investigator Journal, Vol. 75, Issue 4***
1. Introduction 2. Origins of NFPA 1321 2.1. Comparing NFPA 1321's Scope to those of NFPA 921 and NFPA 1033 2.2. The Technical Committee Responsible for	5. Introduction to Part II 6. Resolution of the Standard or Guide Debate 7. Content of the New Standard 8. NFPA 1321's Role in Quality

sectors. This two-p… its implications for … I summarized the … Technical Commi… and reviewed the … of this new stan… potential role to … conjunction wi… *Investigations … Qualifications*

This, Part II, … issued as a … and not a n… also provid… explores it…

In the last … debate a… a manda… begin P… and wh… a stan…

6.

Onc… pu… su…



ELECTRICAL SH…



By Cameron J. Novak, P.E., ATF – FRL

…n Novak is an Electrical/Fire Research Engineer with the ATF's Fire Research Laboratory. He … …rical and fire protection engineer and is certified by the IAAI as a Certified Fire Investigator and…

…ctrical Shorts #12—…er Types of Circuit Protection De…

…evious issue of Electrical Shorts we introduced …s of fuses and thermal-magnetic (TM) circuit … as circuit protection devices. As the name … these devices protect branch circuits from too …rrent. This article will cover specialized circuit …n devices that provide protection from other … abnormalities. Like fuses and circuit breakers, …vices open the circuit, stop current flow, and turn … to the protective device.

…l address the ground fault circuit interrupter …FCI technology can be found in both receptacles …t breakers. The purpose of a GFCI is to protect …m electric shock by shutting off the power if a …urrent greater than 4 to 6 mA (0.004 to 0.006 …cted. The trip threshold is less than the "let-go" …9 to 14 mA[1], which is the lowest amount of …at a person can have pass through th… …t go of the energiz…

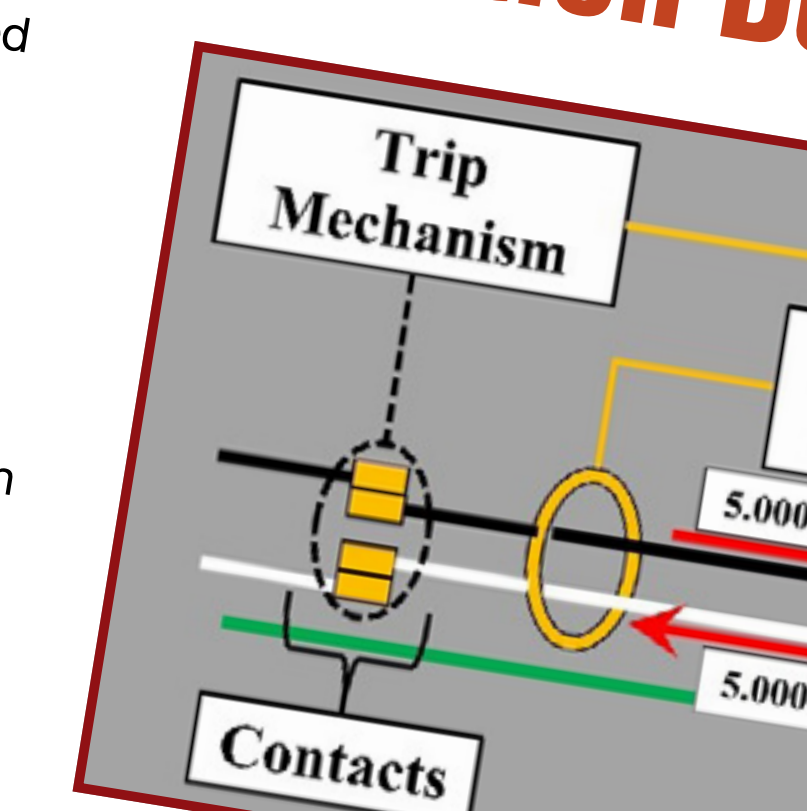


Figure 1a—Schematic of a GFCI with eq… on the ungrounded (black) condu…