



FIRE & ARSON INVESTIGATOR

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What's Inside:

Language, Logics and Reports

Elections 2025

Meet the Candidates
IAAI & IAAI Foundation Board of Directors

2025 ITC Class Schedule

International Training Conference
April 6-11
Atlantic City, NJ

Reasonably Reasonable: Canadian Forest Appeals Commission Provides Guidance on Due Diligence Defence for Forest Fires

By: Derek M. Tochor and Margot A. Liechti

adhered to the Burn Pile Policy. At the appeal hearing, the expert admitted he was unaware of how the burn of various piles were carried out, and when and where they were determined to be extinguished. He could not say if the required inspections allegedly conducted by Canfor from the start of the process to the end, including the critically important monitoring and inspection of the burned piles, were actually carried out.

In reviewing the evidence, the Commission found that there was missing information in Canfor's documentation, which suggested not all steps were taken under the Burn Pile Policy, and, as Canfor's expert did not examine the evidence directly, the Commission could not rely on the expert's opinion that Canfor had taken all reasonable steps to avoid the spread of fire. In reaching this decision, the Commission held that:

[E]ven if a system of policies and procedures might be sufficient to establish what reasons and diligent steps to respond to a fire would be, the failure to follow that system means that the threshold of due diligence may not be met. In the circumstances, the Panel therefore found that it is

This decision is instructive for our readers as to the quality of the evidence that is required to establish a due diligence defence in the face of an allegation that a party was responsible for the spread of a forest fire. The expert must address both limbs of the test: (1) were there reasonable policies and procedures in place to prevent the spread of forest fire; and (2) were these policies and procedures duly followed. The second limb of the test requires the expert to investigate whether the steps actually took place, and providing evidence of those steps. It is not enough to merely state that the proposed steps are reasonable on their face to prevent the spread of fire.

1. Canadian Forest Products Ltd. v Government of British Columbia, 2024 BCFCAC 4, at 3. The cost recovery order was made up of an administrative penalty of \$5,000, fire control costs of \$1,028,884.74, and \$1,781 for the damage or destruction of 7,044m² of Crown Timber.

Earlier this year, the Canadian Forest...

Election 2025 IAAI Candidates for Board of Directors

Christopher J. Ward (IL) IAAI Candidate for Secretary

Sections will be open until noon (EST) April 7, the results will be announced at the 2025 ITC General Meeting



In Ballot Order

How long have you been a member of the IAAI? 28 Years joined 10-6-1996

How many annual meetings have you attended; Which Years?

- 2014 Annual General Meeting Las Vegas, NV
- 2015 Annual General Meeting Chicago, IL
- 2017 Annual General Meeting Frisco, TX
- 2018 Annual General Meeting Las Vegas, NV
- 2019 Annual General Meeting Jacksonville, FL
- 2020 Virtual General Meeting
- 2021 Virtual General Meeting
- 2022 Annual General Meeting Jacksonville, FL
- 2023 Annual General Meeting Cherokee, NC
- 2024 Annual General Meeting Las Vegas, NV

What IAAI Committees Have you Served on; which years?

- Chairman of the IAAI Chapters Committee
- Co-Chair IAAI Social Media Committee
- Committee members IAAI Insurance committee
- Chair Arson Registry Task Group
- Chair Enhanced Chapters Task Group
- Executive Director Search Committee

Do you regularly attend your state/provincial chapter meetings and activities? Yes

Offices held state/province chapter?

- President Illinois Chapter IAAI
- Vice-President Illinois Chapter of the IAAI
- 2 term Director Illinois IAAI
- Illinois IAAI T/E Chairman
- Illinois IAAI CFI Committee Chairman

Please list any international offices held, special projects or committee work, indicating years of service.

- 2-Full Term IAAI Director 2019-Present
- Chairman of the IAAI Chapters Committee 2019-Present
- Co-Chair IAAI Social Media Committee 2019-Present
- Committee members IAAI Insurance committee 2015-Present
- Chair Arson Registry Task Group 2022-Present
- Chair Enhanced Chapters Task Group 2024-Present
- Executive Director Search Committee 2023-2024

Describe, in 100 words or less, why you feel you are qualified for this position: I am currently a Director with the IAAI elected in 2019 at the age of 48. I have worked for the IAAI for 25 years and have been a part of the IAAI since its inception. I have been a member of the IAAI since 1996 and have attended every annual meeting since then. I have served on the IAAI Board of Directors for 10 years and have been a part of the IAAI's success for many years. I am proud to be a part of the IAAI and I am committed to serving the IAAI and its members for many years to come.

What steps do you believe membership shrinkage? In the IAAI office to prepare renewal dates for members to follow-up with members whom directly to discuss are expired. As our industry must look to the young are currently working in colleges across the the benefit of joining students to assist the

What steps do you We must first work chapters and the 50% percent deced Chapters AGM/Ar membership bene numerous count world. In the priv sector organizat and others to g into expanding professional s Education cre

How would between the Committee directly with Chapter Lia with our C open. The 83 Chap have as support chapter the co instruct can o Who exp the rec ne

Language, Logics and Reports

By: Joseph M. Ellington, IAAI-CFI

Figure 1-An iceberg as a metaphor

ABSTRACT:

An iceberg is a metaphor used to illustrate that reports are only a small but visible part of fire and explosion investigations. NFPA 921 and NFPA 1033 are guidelines and a roadmap for fire and explosion reports. They provide a recommended organizational framework and a minimum scope of content that guides you and reassures you that you are following the best practices in the field. This guidance is invaluable in ensuring the quality and reliability of your reports.

Reports should not just be a testament to your attention to detail but a reflection of it. They should possess chronology, language clarity, elucidation through visual aids, analysis explaining how opinions or conclusions were reached, and...



Atlantic City 76th ITC-2025 APRIL

Harrah's Resort Atlantic City - Atlantic City, NJ

Classes are subject to change. Full schedule to come. Lunch provided Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 6th Avalon Floor

Friday, April 7th

4:00pm - 6:00pm | Avalon Floor Registration/Event Check-in

10:00am - 12:00pm | Ballroom 20-30 Lessons from Collecting Electrical and Other Data While Undertaking Research of Fully Compartment Fires Nick Conroy

1:00pm - 5:00pm | Ballroom 20-30 TBD

Week-long Classes

IAAI - Fundamentals of Fire Investigation | Ballroom 8,9,10

IAAI - Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony | Ballroom 12-13

Tuesday, April 8 | Wednesday, April 9 | Thursday, April 10

8:00am - 5:00pm

Friday, April 11

3:00pm - 5:00pm | Ballroom 2B Annual General Meeting IAAI President Trace Lowless

8:00pm - 12:00pm

April 8th

9:30am & 2:30pm | Break