

MABAS DIVISION 1 FIRE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

27 June 2017

0900 hrs

Members Present: Vice President Matt Nagy – Palatine, Secretary Steven White-Streamwood, Bill Eckert- Mt. Prospect, Dave Graziano – Hoffman Estates, Chris Lee – Rolling Meadows, Dave Shuman – Des Plaines

- 1) Chris Lee – Discussion of Fire, Arson Explosion Investigation Bachelor's Degree from Eastern Kentucky University. Chris is currently involved in study from Eastern Kentucky. They offer a four year degree. Training is online combined with summer residencies. Very informative and difficult class delving heavily into the science of investigations combined with the minutiae of NFPA 921. Chris is taking the Failure Analysis class at this time. There is a large emphasis on Heat/Vector analysis.

For further info on Eastern Kentucky's program, see this site:

<http://fireandsafety.eku.edu/fire-arson-and-explosion-investigation-bachelor%E2%80%99s-degree>

- 2) This segued into a discussion of report writing – comparing varying styles and contrasting the types done by municipal employees vs. the insurance industry. In addition, there was discussion on dealing with insurance investigators, lawyers and the private industry. Examples of numerous investigations were brought up and what best practices might be for investigators handling these agencies.
- 3) Possible Future Training topics:
 - a) Matt Nagy – Tour of Packer engineering <http://www.packereng.com/> a possible resource for investigators. Nagy said he would look into it for a possible tour in August.
 - b) Chris Lee – Once he gets further into his failure analysis class, Chris said he might be interested in presenting a class on Heat/Vector analysis
 - c) Discussion of the fact that Cook County no longer has a dedicated Arson prosecutor, but instead refers cases for felony review. Matt Nagy stated that many of their newer prosecutors have little experience with arson cases and are reluctant unless there is death or high dollar loss involved. Matt suggested seeing if a state's attorney would like to come and speak to the group and help us understand their work flow for these cases. We could also help to educate them on how to proceed.
 - d) Discussion of procedures for handling Youth Fire Setters. We could invite the PD Juvenile officer in to talk about the legalities of handing juvenile cases and how to deal with the paperwork involved. Also techniques on counseling Youth fire setters.
- 4) Additional discussion on whether it has been more difficult getting Search Warrants with the changes in the Cook County prosecutor's office. Nagy suggested talking with your PD for help in this area.

- 5) SOP –Dave Roberts is working on team SOPS, but there is a specific procedure for writing and submitting them. These are still being created.
- 6) It was decided to take July off and see if we could arrange training with Packer Engineering for August. Matt Nagy to follow up.
- 7) Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 22 (Gold) or whenever training with Packer Engineering might be arranged. Tranchita and Nagy will be advised
- 8) Meeting adjourned at 1100 hrs.