

Organization, Responsibilities, and Authority

Section A: True/False

Directions: Write True or False on the blanks provided; if False, write the correct statement on the lines provided.

1. _____ Private sector fire investigators are not required to find the origin and cause of a fire, because a public sector investigator will have already determined the origin and cause. (10)

2. _____ Either a public or a private sector investigator may be the first to examine a fire scene. (10)

3. _____ Fire investigators should also expect to have their methodology, findings, and professional qualifications vigorously challenged whenever they testify in legal proceedings. (10)

4. _____ Data collected from fire investigations is primarily used to catch arsonists. (11)

5. _____ One of the most important private-sector relationships is with the insurance industry. (13)

6. _____ In all states and provinces, the head of the fire department (fire chief) is given the responsibility of investigating the cause of fires as part of the legislation that empowers the department. (9)

7. _____ In the U.S. and Canada, public-sector investigations must be conducted within the bounds of constitutionally regulated authority. (16)

Section B: Fill in the Blank

Directions: Write the correct answer on the blanks provided.

1. _____ sector fire investigators are employed by a local, state/provincial, or federal agency. (9)
2. _____ sector fire investigators may be retained by insurance companies, lawyers, manufacturers or other interested parties. (10)
3. IFSAC and ProBoard™ are both types of _____ organizations. (14)

Section C: Matching

Directions: Write the correct answers on the blanks provided.

Part I: Fire Cause Classifications

Match the fire cause classification with its description.

Fire Cause Classification:

- A. Accidental
- B. Incendiary
- C. Natural

Description:

- _____ 1. The fire was not set with malicious or criminal intent. (9)
- _____ 2. A human did not intervene in the ignition process. (9)
- _____ 3. The fire was deliberately set. (9)

Part II: Liaison with Other Agencies

Match the agency or entity with the type of assistance or information that it would provide to fire investigators. Each choice will be used only once.

Agency:

- A. Street or highway department
- B. Electrical inspectors
- C. Insurance industry
- D. Financial institutions
- E. Utility companies
- F. Construction companies

Type of Assistance:

- _____ 1. Information about the property lien holder or policy holder (13)
- _____ 2. Mortgage information or business history (13)
- _____ 3. Scene security and debris removal (12)
- _____ 4. Information about building systems and electrical disconnection dates (13)
- _____ 5. Specialized knowledge and analysis of equipment or building systems (12)
- _____ 6. Heavy equipment for stabilization and debris removal (13)

Section D: Multiple Choice

Directions: Write the correct answers on the blanks provided.

- _____ 1. Which entity would a fire investigator commonly work directly with during the course of an investigation? (12)
 - A. Local media
 - B. Training agencies
 - C. Medical examiner
 - D. International Code Council
- _____ 2. What entity would a fire investigator turn to for data about fire loss information in an area? (13)
 - A. Insurance industry
 - B. District attorney's office
 - C. Country treasurer's office
 - D. Equipment manufacturers
- _____ 3. What would an arson task force be called in to do? (14)
 - A. Initiate a formal arson investigation
 - B. Provide large-scale clean-up services after an arson event
 - C. Prosecute arsonists after an investigation has been concluded
 - D. Make policies designed to reduce the number of arson cases in an area
- _____ 4. Which NFPA standard sets the professional qualifications and establishes minimum job performance requirements for fire investigators? (14)
 - A. NFPA 1002
 - B. NFPA 1033
 - C. NFPA 1470
 - D. NFPA 1500

_____ 5. Certification programs are designed to: (14)

- A. provide awards of recognition.
- B. organize and compile training records.
- C. keep a database of every individual who works as a public or private investigator.
- D. evaluate that an individual has the requisite knowledge and skills to perform a specific job.

Section E: Short Answer

Directions: Write the correct answers on the lines provided.

1. What are five topics that fire investigators should have knowledge of in order to perform their job? (10)

2. List two local entities that an investigator may rely upon and give an example of what type of help that entity may provide. (12)

3. What might happen if an investigator exceeds his or her legal authority at an investigation? (16)

Section F: Scenario

Directions: Label each scenario with the appropriate fire cause classification.

Scenario 1 (9)

A series of large thunderstorms hit the area recently. It is believed high winds caused a power line to fall. A spark from the power line ignited surrounding vegetation, and the fire spread to exposure buildings.

Fire cause classification: _____

Scenario 2 (9)

The homeowner started a fire to the home, hoping to gain insurance money from the resulting property loss.

Fire cause classification: _____

Scenario 3 (9)

An elderly individual was cooking dinner, but forgot to turn the stove off afterward. Combustible materials were placed too close to the stove, and they caught fire from the radiant heat.

Fire cause classification: _____

