

The TGIF CHRONICLES

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1. THANK YOU READERS – Ron Wilkes – Editor

Your response to last weeks question was overwhelming. We received over 500 positive email responses by Tuesday morning which resulted in 1 in 5 of you responding. This response was so great that it crashed our email system.

Less than 2 % of the responses were negative. So we have obliged these individuals by removing them from our mailing list, so they will never know how receptive to this newsletter the general readership is.

It has become a labour of love, and a full fledged hobby. In the beginning the Chronicles took only a couple of hours a week at inception, but now it takes upwards of 20 hours a week or more now or research, writing, assembling, and sending out each weeks newsletter.

Without the likes of Robert Eyford who writes for the newsletter, Natalie Trueit who keeps on furnishing the editor with material, and others who contribute on a regular basis, it has made this job so much easier.

Your response has suggested enough for good material to last a few years. Your questions will be answered in due course in print, and your comments will also be published as well.

2. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR – Natalie Trueit – Pioneer Agencies - Smithers

No Ron, it was not taken from my backyard.... :-) N.



Editors Note: Could be the neighbours!

3. THE EFFECTS OF WATER SUBMERSION ON THE DETECTION OF FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

- Robert Eyford, CFEI, CCFI - Rae-Tech Investigations Ltd.

I recently had occasion to use our Canine Fire Investigation Team in a fire scene where the team located flammable liquids in several locations. This particular fire scene had been tied up by public fire investigators and the police for a period of two weeks prior to us being able to enter the scene. During that period of time the fire scene had been pretty well continuously drenched with coastal rain. This was a residential structure where the roof had totally burned away, allowing rain to continuously soak the interior floors. We continued to work the fire scene for about ten days, including searches for flammable liquid odours by the canine Ina and during which time the rains continued nearly non-stop. Discussion surfaced on the fact that Ina could still detect the odour of flammable liquids after several weeks of continuous rain, which in turn raised the question of how effective a canine might be in the detection of flammable liquid odours that had been totally

submerged in water for a period of time, for example a marine vessel which had sunk following a fire. Casual inquiries within the industry revealed that it is generally felt that once a burned vessel had been submerged for a short period of time, there would be very little possibility of obtaining evidence of flammable liquids that had been poured inside the vessel immediately prior to the fire. Thus arose the need for this experiment.

For the purposes of this experiment, four sets of four pieces of 2" X 2" wood, 18 " long were prepared. These were divided into the following categories: Category A in which all pieces of wood were burned and Category B in which none of the pieces of wood were burned. These categories were further divided into two groups. Category A was divided into groups 1 and 2, which were submerged and not submerged respectively. Category B was also divided into groups – 3 and 4 which were also submerged and not submerged respectively as shown in the chart below.

CATEGORY A (BURNED)		CATEGORY B (UNBURNED)	
GROUP 1 (SUBMERGED)	GROUP 2 (DRY)	GROUP 3 (SUBMERGED)	GROUP 4 (DRY)
4 pieces of wood with 1 exposed to flammable liquid. All pieces burned on one end.	4 pieces of wood with 1 exposed to flammable liquid. All pieces burned at one end.	4 pieces of wood with 1 exposed to flammable liquid.	4 pieces of wood with 1 exposed to flammable liquid

One piece of wood from each group was exposed to flammable liquids by having a four inch section of one end submerged into a container of flammable liquids for a period of one minute. The flammable liquid was fresh gasoline mixed in a 50:1 ration with 2 stroke engine oil. The mixture had earlier been prepared for use in a chain saw. Both exposed pieces of wood from Category A (burned) were then set on fire with a propane torch and allowed to burn freely until combustion no longer continued. All of the non exposed pieces of wood from

Category A were burned on one end in like manner, even though only one piece of wood had been exposed to flammable liquid. The exposed pieces of wood were kept separate from all other pieces of wood in their group as well as separate from each other to avoid cross contamination.

The experiment began on July 30, 2001 and took place in a small creek in a remote corner of the writer's property. The creek was about six feet in width and the water generally flowed at approximately five miles per hour. The creek was free of pollutants and was several miles away from the nearest human habitation. A fast moving creek was chosen as compared to still water so that flammable liquids leeching away from the exposed pieces of wood would be taken downstream and not allowed to re-contaminate the pieces of wood.

From Category A (burned) the two pieces of wood that had been exposed to flammable liquid were placed in their respective positions. The exposed wood from group 1 was placed in the creek and allowed to float freely while attached to the shore with a nylon rope. The exposed wood from group 2 was placed in a clean five gallon plastic bucket and stored in a dry place nearby. The unexposed pieces of wood from group 1 were also placed in the water, but upstream from the exposed piece of wood. They were fastened to the shore with nylon rope.

From Category B (unburned) the exposed piece of wood from group 3 was submerged with a large stone on the opposite side of the creek from the wood from group 1 but without covering the end that had been exposed to flammable liquid. This piece of wood was also anchored to the shore by a nylon rope in case it became dislodged from the stone. The exposed wood from group 4 was stored in a separate, clean five gallon bucket by itself so it could remain dry throughout the experiment. The unexposed pieces of wood from group 4 were placed in a separate dry five gallon bucket and kept dry.

The following day, August 1, 2001, the accelerant detection canine Ina was taken to the experiment area by the creek. All of the pieces of wood from groups 1 and 2 were placed in two separate lineups. The two exposed pieces of wood, one

submerged and one not submerged were placed at random in the two lineups. For the purposes of this experiment, the lineups were moved to a different location a few feet apart between searches. Each lineup was searched twice in different order by Ina. When directed to search these lineups, Ina successfully picked the exposed piece of wood from the lineups each time.

The same sequence took place with groups 3 and 4 and again Ina was able to pick the exposed piece of wood out of each lineup. Following the searches, the exposed and submerged pieces of wood were replaced in their same positions in the creek and the exposed but not submerged pieces of wood were replaced in their respective dry buckets.

The searches continued every other day in the same manner for the first two weeks with the same results. After the second week, the search schedule was changed to once per week with no change in the results. After two months had passed, the searches were conducted every two weeks until three months had passed. The results were the same after three months. No matter where in the lineups the exposed pieces of wood were placed, Ina was still able to find the pieces that had been exposed to the flammable liquid.

At the end of the three month period the experiment was stopped. We concluded that the accelerant detection canine Ina was able to detect the odour of flammable liquids on a piece of exposed wood that had been submerged in water for three months as easily as a similar piece of wood that had not been submerged in water. We also concluded that it does not make a difference whether or not the piece of wood has been burned following exposure to the flammable liquids.

4. STATEMENTS FROM THE CLAIMS FILE

Here is an excerpt from a statement in a claims file for you to analyze and determine what the insured is talking about.

“Certain Legos will pass through the digestive tract of a four year old.”

5. TIME MANAGEMENT (Part 7)

Use E-mail Effectively

- Block off times to process your e-mail. Twice per day should be enough. Avoid the temptation to check e-mail more frequently.
- Check the spelling of your e-mail before sending it. Spelling errors seem generally accepted in e-mail. But go beyond acceptable. Aim for excellence.
- DON'T TYPE IN ALL CAPS. This is perceived as shouting.
- Re-read your e-mail before sending it. Writing quickly often results in awkward grammar.
- Don't copy documents from other programs, such as MS Word. Odd characters such as apostrophes can show up as gibberish. Special formatting will go wonky. Instead, send the original document as an attachment.
- Use the edit and paste commands as you would in word processing. This is helpful in repeating information or creating a type of form letter to be sent to various participants.
- Just say no. If you're on a mailing list for which you have no interest, reply by writing, "unsubscribe" or "remove" in the comment box. Be careful though. Sometimes mass-mailers use your response to confirm that you have an address, and send you more stuff. Use a filter to prevent mail with features that are repeated from being downloaded.
- Use a stacking tray or file folder labeled "E-MAIL" to store paper items associated with e-mail you plan to send. Then you can batch them more efficiently.
- Place items in separate e-mail folders as you would with paper items. Don't use your Inbox or Sent Mail as catchall holding tanks.
- Sort incoming e-mail by subject, key word, or author so you can process related mail together.
- There is a convention to intersperse someone else's original message with points of your own when you reply. Consequently, it takes a while to figure out what is original and what is new. Avoid wasting people's time. Create a proper response as you would a business letter. Instead of leaving an entire message that you received intact, just make a reference to it. They don't need to read everything they wrote when you respond to them.
- Consider carefully what you write; it's a permanent record and can be easily forwarded to others. Never accuse people, call them names, suggest they aren't being smart or criticize their spelling. Assume their intentions are genuine. Avoid sarcasm. Be polite and assertive if necessary (i.e. to spammers) but not vindictive.
- Don't attach large files without getting permission from your recipient first.

- Write descriptive subject lines. Many busy people will only open messages with captivating subject lines. Think creatively.
- If you must forward a message, put your comments at the top.
- Learn how to keep an address book to save e-mail addresses, automatically insert them into a new message and maintain groups of contacts.
- Use auto responders to offer frequently requested information. These e-mail bots will automatically respond to the sender with a prewritten message. They are often used for brochures, price lists, directions, etc.
- Delete all unnecessary mail. Old messages congest servers. Delete old, duplicate or reply version copies and free up space for new incoming mail.
- Do not keep all of your messages in your mailbox folder. Create new mail folders with names that categorize your mail and move messages into them. This way new mail is not only easier to find but quicker to load (which is especially true when dialing in remotely).
- Delete messages with attachments after you have saved them to your hard drive. They take up a lot of space on the server.
- When replying to a message, be sure you reply to just the person you want. Be careful not to accidentally reply to an institute wide message.
- Be careful with punctuation. A lot of periods can separate thoughts..... but use a lot of exclamation marks and it looks like you're angry!!!!!!!!!! How does a line of question marks look ??????? You might not intend strong emotion, but the other person might think you do.
- Use the blind carbon copy (bcc) feature for your own mailing lists. You can send out periodic announcements to a list of people. By using the bcc feature, recipients won't be able to copy other people's names and addresses.
- Do not forward personal e-mail to a discussion group without the author's permission.
- Don't attach files when posting to discussion groups. Refer participants to a web site where they can find the information.
- Don't send entire web pages to a discussion group, just post the web address.
- Don't blatantly promote your business by posting an advertisement to a discussion group, unless it is clearly an accepted use and you have cleared it with the moderator (if there is one) first. Otherwise, you are "spamming." Offering information of value, rather than simply inviting people to your web site.
- Avoid cyber-speak. Not everyone is familiar with the cute acronyms used in E-mail correspondence, such as IMHO (in my humble opinion) or FWIW (for what it's worth). Performing a mental translation each time slows down the reader. Don't make reading difficult for them.

7. WE LEAVE YOU WITH THIS THOUGHT

“Men – a Corvette is not a family car.”

Have a great weekend!

Notice: As of September 1, 2004 the Informer Newsletter, the WCC Newsletter, and the ARRN Advocate, has merged with the Chronicles Newsletter, and that is why you may be receiving this newsletter for the first time.

If you have changed your email address or if you wish to be added to this newsletter or removed from this newsletter please email us at integral@shaw.ca

All QUESTIONS, OPINIONS, & ARTICLES WELCOME, please send them to Letters to the Editor at integral@shaw.ca

PLEASE SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS OF OUR NEWSLETTER.

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