



# Herndon and Associates

Quarterly Newsletter

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### Structure Damage

In addition to performing Origin & Cause Structure Fire Investigations, H&A also investigates structure damage claims unrelated to fire. These investigations can result in successful subrogation. Three of our investigators possess *Residential Builders' and Maintenance & Alteration Contractors' Board Residential Builder* licenses. One investigator is also a Mechanical Contractor with the following: Hydronic Heating & Cooling/Process Piping, Classification 1; HVAC Equipment, Classification 2; Limited Heating Service, Classification 5; and Limited Refrigeration/Air Conditioning Service, Classification 7.

### Immobilizer Systems

*Investigating Auto Thefts*

Revised manufacturer approved immobilizer reference guides are now available to include all 2009 models. Please email [info@herndon-assoc.com](mailto:info@herndon-assoc.com) to request a copy. If a manufacturer is not found in the reference guide, the manufacturer was unavailable to approve their specific immobilizer information. Any vehicle under investigation must be confirmed on a case-by-case basis using a specific method, including, but not limited to the following: physical inspection, National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) shipping records, and/or a dealer build sheet. It should be noted that on several models, the immobilizer system is optional. The easiest method to confirm the presence of an immobilizer, should a physical inspection not be feasible, is to call a manufacturer dealer and speak with a service or parts representative. Using the VIN, the representative will then generate a build sheet which will confirm or deny its presence.

Additionally, Herndon & Associates has access to diagnostic equipment for all of the manufacturers, which assists during our auto theft investigations. On many of

these vehicles the VIN can be electronically confirmed, odometers ascertained, number of keys programmed to start a vehicle secured; additional information can also be obtained. Our Master Mechanic utilizes this same equipment while conducting his mechanical inspections, providing a variety of information, including diagnostic trouble codes.

### **Upcoming Seminars**

The following classes are offered by the Michigan Arson Prevention Committee (MAPC). Walt Herndon co-chairs the Training Committee and is the Vice President of the MAPC.

**Michigan Arson Prevention Committee  
Regional Training Seminar**

January 24, 2009

**NFPA 921 Update**

February 20, 2009 or March 27, 2009

**Juvenile Arson Seminar**

February 23-25, 2009

**Prosecutors Arson School**

April 20-24, 2009 or September 21-25, 2009

**Special Investigators - Insurance Industry**

April 20-24, 2009 or September 20-24, 2009

**Modular Home and Appliance Failure  
Investigation**

June 8-11, 2009

**Structural/Mobile Property Live Burn Seminar**

June 19, 2009

Please click [here](#) for more information on upcoming seminars.

If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please email a request to [info@herndon-assoc.com](mailto:info@herndon-assoc.com).