



## April 2013 Newsletter

### Annual Live Burn - REGISTER TODAY!

The annual Michigan Arson Prevention Committee (MAPC) one day seminar is around the corner! The exercise will simulate accidental and intentional vehicle and structure fires that will provide investigators, prosecutors, insurance attorneys, and claims personnel with valuable information! Demonstrations will include a travel trailer, personal watercraft, vehicles, and a fully erected structure built by H&A personnel. We hope to see you there on June 7th 2013 at 8:30 a.m. at the Auto Salvage Auction in Davison, MI. **For more information and to register, click [here](#).**

### Building Materials and Their Effect on Fire Origin and Cause Investigations

Every fire investigator must stay up-to-date on the latest building practices and material usage to better understand and investigate fires. The construction material industry is forever striving to produce safer and cheaper material. These materials can and do react differently than their predecessors when involved in a fire. Water supply piping for the first part of the 20th century was for the most part galvanized steel piping. This was replaced due to cost of labor and ease of installment with copper piping. Once again through material advancement and based on cost, copper is being replaced with plastic piping with glue or compression fittings. All three of these materials react differently within a fire. Galvanized piping for the most part will remain intact throughout the duration of most structure fires. Copper piping can separate at joints and fittings due to exposure to heat. Plastic piping can and will deform and fail at lower temperatures than copper. This can lead to confusing fire scenes and incorrect origin location determination. Through testing and training, investigators should have a greater understanding of how these materials react and therefore influence the fire scene.

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