Forensic Fire Investigation
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Fire Investigation Methodology

The Scientific Method
The Scientific method

- Aristotle (384-322 BC)
- Empirical method of acquiring knowledge
- NFPA 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations
  - A systematic approach.
Decision Logs
Fire Investigation Road Maps (FIRMs)
Fire Investigation Road Maps (FIRMs)

- Developed by Dr Peter Mansi (Partner FI-UK LLP)
  - PhD into Fire Investigation Methodology
- "Because of the difficulty and complexity of a complete and accurate fire investigation, and the potential of mental preoccupations, there is a special need for every investigator to develop a comprehensive analytical approach to the task." DeHaan Kirk’s Fire Investigation
Myths & Legends
Media Influence on the understanding of fire
I was smoking when I brushed past my wife who had spilt a flammable liquid on herself.
Defence – I just wanted to scare them, I did not expect this to happen
Osbourne Road Huddersfield
Philpott Fire Derby
I dropped a cigarette whilst asleep and woke up to find the bed on fire
Prosecution– More than one seat of fire must be arson
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Technology Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Questions

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