
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS, INC.

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January 14, 2010

Mr. James McDermond
Assistant Director
Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
99 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Mr. McDermond,

The Board of Directors of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) at its meeting of November 7, 2009 voted unanimously to formally endorse the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) as a welcome and vital tool for the professionals who work in the field of fire, arson, and explosives investigation. This web-based case management system is a repository of bombing, explosives and arson incidents which provides 24/7 access for the fire investigator to information on incidents nationwide and the ability to share information with other fire investigators in the course of their investigations.

In addition to ready access in the course of an investigation, we recognize the value of possible trend analysis, the ability to compare incidents to identify potential perpetrators, and the Investigative Resources Library. We welcome the ready interface with the training resources which the IAAI has made available on CFITrainer.net.

We urge all professional fire and arson investigators and their agencies to use the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) as a tool and to participate in providing incident information which will assist other investigators and agencies as they conduct the investigation of bombing, explosives, and arson incidents.

We want to express our appreciation to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives for their efforts in the development and ongoing operation of this important tool for fire and arson investigation.



AJ Wilson
Executive Director