OSAC RESEARCH NEEDS ASSESSMENT FORM

Title of research need: Witness Information for Fire & Explosion Scenes

Keyword(s):   Witness interviews, collection of data, fire origin determination

Submitting subcommittee(s):   Fire and Explosion   **Date Approved:**

(If SAC review identifies additional subcommittees, add them to the box above.)

Background Information:

1. Description of research need:

Fire investigators are well informed on the need to develop information from those who first observe the fire and from those who subsequently arrive to extinguish the fire. Fire investigators also are aware of the importance of gathering information from those familiar with the pre-fire conditions; like the layout of furnishings and appliances in the room of origin. Training is common on how to conduct such interviews, but uncommon on how to accurately use the information for origin determination. There is no specific process outlined within NFPA 921 for use of eyewitness information. Research is required to develop protocols or techniques for collecting, extracting, and analyzing data from the variety of witnesses from a fire scene (e.g. eye witness, first responders, and owners).

2. Key bibliographic references relating to this research need:

Lord, J, Geiman, J (2012). *Systematic Analysis of Witness Statements for Fire Investigation*, Fire Technology 48(2), April 2012. DOI 10.1007/s10694-101-0208-3

3a. In what ways would the research results improve current laboratory capabilities?

3b. In what ways would the research results improve understanding of the scientific basis for the subcommittee(s)?

3c. In what ways would the research results improve services to the criminal justice system?

This research will help the fire investigation community to apply a more systematic approach to the results of fire pattern analysis.

4. Status assessment (I, II, III, or IV):   [I]

	Major gap in current knowledge	Minor gap in current knowledge
No or limited current research is being conducted	I	III
Existing current research is being conducted	II	IV

This research need has been identified by one or more subcommittees of OSAC and is being provided as an informational resource to the community.

Approvals:

Subcommittee Approval date: [   ]

(Approval is by majority vote of subcommittee. Once approved, forward to SAC.)

SAC

1. Does the SAC agree with the research need?   Yes [ ] No [ ]
2. Does the SAC agree with the status assessment?   Yes [ ] No [ ]

    If no, what is the status assessment of the SAC: [   ]

Approval date: [   ]

(Approval is by majority vote of SAC. Once approved, forward to NIST for posting.)