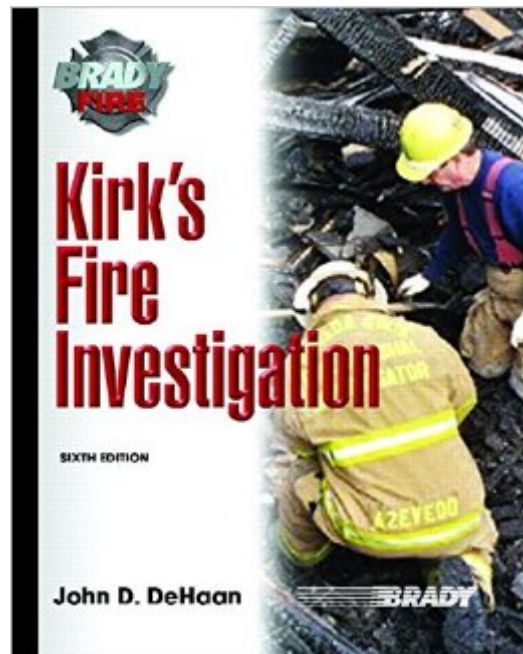


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# Kirk's Fire Investigation (6th Edition)



## Synopsis

Written by a forensic scientist with extensive education and training experience in all phases of fire and explosion investigation, this widely used book details all essential information. Now updated and expanded, it is in closer accordance to the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigation, which is used at the National Fire Academy. This revision will help enhance the accuracy and reliability of your investigation. Chapter topics examine the elementary chemistry of combustion; the nature and behavior of fire; combustion properties of liquid, gaseous, and solid fuels; sources of ignition; structure fires and their investigation; grass and wildland fires and their investigation; automobile, motor vehicle, and ship fires; electrical causes of fire; clothing and fabric fires; explosions and explosive combustion; chemical fires and hazardous materials; laboratory services; fire-related deaths and injuries; arson as a crime; and other investigative topics. For public fire investigators, arson investigators, bomb/arson specialists, special investigations units, and fraud specialists.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 792 pages

Publisher: Pearson; 6 edition (August 19, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 013171922X

ISBN-13: 978-0131719224

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 1.3 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #335,059 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #149 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil & Environmental > Fire Science](#) #880 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Social Services & Welfare](#) #1324 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Industrial, Manufacturing & Operational Systems](#)

## Customer Reviews

If you are a fire investigator, then you know this one of the standard basic fire investigation textbooks out there. This is the 6th edition which is two editions behind but it is \$70 cheaper than the current edition and frankly, as with most textbooks, the updates are usually not that significant; just enough to keep textbook prices up. Fire science doesn't change that much and the information

in this edition is just as good and useful as the \$80 book. Now, if you work for a FD that will buy this for you, then by all means, splurge for the latest edition but if you like most of us and if you want something, you have to pay for it out of your pocket, then get this one.

I am only half way through this book, but I wanted to share what I have found so far. The edition has been revised and there is a new one out, so I expect few people will actually read this book any more. Any how, I am because it is cheaper than the newest copy. There is one thing that continues to bother me through out the book. That is the lack of standard in talking about temperatures. One time they use Celsius, and the next it is Fahrenheit and they change it around a lot, and an example would look like this... xxxxxxxx.... 500 c (600F) and then xxxxxxxx... 600 F (500C). My mind thinks only in Fahrenheit and so I am always looking for it. If it was in the same place each time, it would be much easier to read for me. Temperature ranges are a big part of this book in what it talks about so that is why it gets so annoying to me. So if you are looking for a book on fire investigation, it is written by a well established and known author who uses good solid sources for his information. Other than the sources referenced for this book, I can't imagine a better source for this type of information. Bear in mind this is limited in scope. It can't go deep in to the chemistry of fire and explain how each atom molecule shares electrons and breaks down for the chemical fire chain reaction. But it gives you a lot to think about too, if you aren't a chemist.

This book is considered the "bible" (not to offend and religious folks) of fire investigation. It is jam packed with information however it is not an easy book to read as it "strictly business and to the point." It is a must have for the fire investigator along with NFPA 921. I do suggest brushing up on your chemistry and having a printed copy of the periodic table of elements handy when utilizing this book so you can get a better understanding of the text and tables.

The latest Kirks is much more in line with the 921. This is great for test-takers that are studying for certification, CEU's etc. Was very confusing to study such varying differences in information. The 6th edition and recent revision of 921 are now an easier mesh.

A must read for understanding how fires are rated, studied, written up and started. This book is hard to read but if you work this industry or related, you start to understand how fraud plays a role and why more claims are studied.

I think this book will be a great reference book. I have an engineering background but find the material new and interesting from my previous studies. The book includes plenty of great references to experiments and research in case something comes up with an investigation. Lots of info and decent price. One downside is that most pictures are black and white, instead of full color (except diagrams). However, they included a new set of colored photos in the middle. I rather would have liked them to just print the original pictures in color.

I'm currently taking the Arson Investigator I course and this is my textbook. It's informative and I'm learning quite a lot about arson and fire cause and determination.

Easy read, good pictures, and standard for fire forensics. In an afternoon I was able to understand the mechanisms of fire origins. Mandatory companion is NFPA 921.

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