

FORENSIC FORUM™

A publication of.....FORENSIC ANALYSIS & ENGINEERING CORPORATION
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STRUCTURAL FAILURES

When a structure fails, FAEC can perform a forensic analysis and give you the exact cause of the failure. All of our investigations are accompanied by a comprehensive, unbiased report with photographs.

**Explosion - Design Flaw - Hurricane
Earthquake - Flood – Substandard Materials????**

A CASE REVIEW[©]

Recently, FAEC was asked to examine a residence to determine the origin and cause of a fire that occurred there. Thankfully no one was injured in the fire, but much property was destroyed. An inspection of the structure revealed there had been extensive spolioation of the fire scene, with regard to debris in the vicinity of the area of origin. By the time of our inspection, the subject residence had reportedly been examined by local investigators who had cleared a pathway through the debris and had cleared a larger area in what we later concluded to be in the general vicinity of the area of origin of the fire. After that, neighbors helped remove some of the debris to help the homeowners clean up some. Adjusters and Attorneys alike should advise both their clients and any first line investigators to leave everything as it was. Often valuable evidence is discarded, leaving experienced fire science investigators unable to fully discover pertinent information involved that may be needed to make accurate determinations of origin and cause. This can affect the subrogation process if a third party could be a contributing factor in the settlement of these claims.



USEFUL LINKS

FAEC is affiliated with many diverse organizations to insure our staff is always informed of the latest knowledge in their specialties. Some of these sources are:

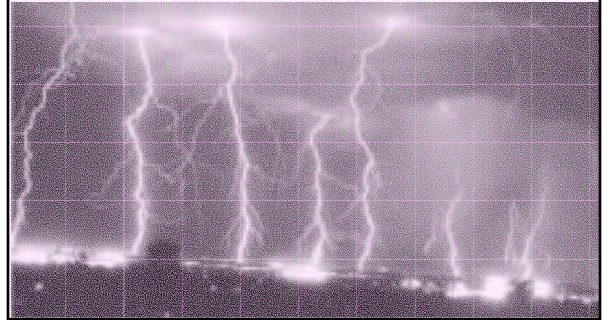
*American Council of Engineering Companies - www.acec.org
National Association of Fire Investigators - www.nafi.org
Instrumentation, Systems & Automation Society - www.isa.org
ASTM, International - www.astm.org
National Fire Protection Association - www.nfpa.org
American Boat & Yacht Council - www.abyc.com
International Association of Marine Investigators - www.iamimarine.org
National Society of Professional Engineers - www.nspe.org
American College of Professional Engineers - www.acfei.com*

**Serving through Technology
Grounded in Experience**



LIGHTNING STRIKES

The southeastern portion of the United States is well known for the volume of lightning strikes it receives. Lightning avoids the ocean, but loves Florida! Other southeastern states also receive more than their share of lightning. A common claimed cause for many types of electrical malfunctions, fires, and machinery failures is lightning. A forensic examination by a qualified electrical engineer and/or a fire science expert can usually determine the specific cause of a failure, assisting adjusters and attorneys in determining the proper processing of a claim.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FAEC currently has a variety of employment options available. We encourage both staff and consultant relationships. We recognize the value of maintaining associations with many talented and qualified individuals to assist us in providing our clients with the most experienced individual(s) for each assignment FAEC receives. Qualified applicants will have ten-plus years of engineering and/or science-related experience, a PE license, certification as a fire investigator, or a vehicular accident investigator. If you have specific experience in failure analysis, product defect investigation, vehicular accident reconstruction, or a broad based engineering background, then FAEC would like to hear from you **TODAY!** Email your resume or CV to forensic@forensic-analysis.com now.

MISSION STATEMENT[©]

Forensic Analysis & Engineering Corporation will always seek to establish beneficial client relationships through teamwork development and the offering of superior and cost effective services. We pledge to provide professional independent consultation to all in return for a fair compensation. FAEC will continuously strive to maintain its superiority over its competitors through timely investment in staff development, continued education and facility enhancement.