



P.O. Box 389
100-A South West Boulevard
Newton, North Carolina 28658-0389
Telephone: 828-465-8200
Fax: 828-465-8392

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LOCAL TEAM WINS 2016 FIRE INVESTIGATOR OF YEAR AWARD

NEWTON, NC – A collaborative team from the Catawba County Fire Marshal's Office, Catawba County Sheriff's Office, Catawba County District Attorney's Office, and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation has been named 2016 Fire Investigator of the Year by the North Carolina Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

The award was presented to the team for its work on a 2012 murder and arson case that went to trial in August 2016.

Team members receiving the award were Jason Boggs and William Bump, Catawba County Fire Marshal's Office; Joel Fish, Brian Kelly, Jason Beebe, Jason Reynolds, James Styers, Kent Brown, and Nathan Fisher from the Catawba County Sheriff's Office; Lance Sigmon, Catawba County District Attorney's Office; and Renee Mullis and Eric Wall from the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation.

The North Carolina Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (NCIAAI) is one of 63 chapters of the International Association of Arson Investigators. The chapter consists of more than 900 members from the fire service, law enforcement, insurance industry, and legal fields. The NCIAAI promotes the profession of fire/arson investigation throughout the State of North Carolina and provides professional training for the fire/arson investigative community.

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PHOTO CAPTION: The 2016 Fire Investigator of the Year award was presented to team members in attendance at the North Carolina Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators' annual conference in October. Pictured left to right: Bill Bump, former Catawba County Deputy Fire Marshal, Renee Mullis, North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, and Jason Boggs, Catawba County Deputy Fire Marshal.

Media Contacts:

Mark Pettit, Assistant Director, Catawba County Emergency Services, (828) 465-8238,
mpettit@catawbacountync.gov

Amy McCauley, Catawba County Communications & Marketing Director, (828) 465-8464,
amccauley@catawbacountync.gov