

ADAIR LEWIS

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The first 20 years of Adair's career was as a forensic scientist at the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory, where for the latter ten years he was head of the Fire Investigation Unit. During that time visits were made to the scene of almost every major fire in the south east of England and materials recovered from the scenes were analysed in the laboratory. The analysis of traces of flammable liquids included gas chromatography, most commonly with flame ionisation detectors but latterly also with mass spectrometry. Examination was also undertaken of incendiary devices, electrical wiring and appliances and also contact trace (most commonly paint and glass) and mark (shoe, tool and tyre mark) evidence.

Following the production of detailed reports, the wide spectrum of cases investigated resulted in evidence being given on many occasions in magistrates', coroners', criminal and civil courts.

A change of direction in mid-career led Adair to work towards reducing the incidence of fire while being Technical Manager at the Fire Protection Association. During this time he undertook a very large number of fire risk assessments of a wide spectrum of commercial and industrial premises and was one of the first fire engineers to be recognised on the Life Safety and Property Protection streams of the Institution of Fire Engineers' Register of Fire Risk Assessors.

A large amount of time was also spent drafting guidance produced for insurers by the RISC Authority organisation. This included best practice recommendations for a wide range of industrial processes, hot works, fire safety on construction sites etc.

Adair is now a consultant and provides a wide range of fire advisory services which include carrying out fire risk assessments and undertaking fire investigations and reviews of past cases.

Adair is the author of *The Prevention and Control of Arson* and is the co-author of *Fire Risk Management in the Workplace*. He has been the author of many FPA publications as well as contributing to guidance documents produced by Government Departments and other organisations.