

NFPA 921 –2017 Edition

Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations

TIA Log No.: 1269

Reference: 3.3.116, 20.1.3, 24.1*, and 28.8.2

Comment Closing Date: July 13, 2017

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1. *Add new text to 3.3.116 to read as follows:*

3.3.116 Incendiary Fire. A fire that is intentionally ignited in an area or under circumstances where and when there should not be a fire (see 20.1.3, Chapter 24, and 28.8.2).

2. *Revise 20.1.3 to read as follows:*

20.1.3 Incendiary Fire Cause Classification. An incendiary fire is a fire that is ~~deliberately set with the intent to cause a fire to occur in an area where the fire should not be~~ intentionally ignited in an area or under circumstances where and when there should not be a fire (see 3.3.116).

3. *Revise 24.1* to read as follows:*

24.1* Introduction. An incendiary fire is a fire that is ~~deliberately set with the intent to cause the fire to occur in an area where the fire should not be~~ intentionally ignited in an area or under circumstances where and when there should not be a fire (see 3.3.116).

4. *Revise 28.8.2 to read as follows:*

28.8.2 Human Fire Cause. Human-caused fires are a result of human action or omission and are classified as accidental or incendiary. Accidental fires involve all those for which the proven cause does not involve an intentional human act to ignite or spread fire into an area where the fire should not be. The incendiary fire is one ~~intentionally ignited under circumstances in which the person knows that the fire should not be ignited~~ that is intentionally ignited in an area or under circumstances where and when there should not be a fire (see 3.3.116).

Substantiation: The definition of “Incendiary Fire” was changed in the 2017 edition of NFPA 921 to address concerns where location is not the only factor in determining an incendiary fire. Although the definition was changed other instances where the concept is applied were missed. In order to fix this error and resulting conflict a TIA is necessary and aligns with the original intent of the Technical Committee. The addition of non-mandatory cross-references helps prevent future errors from occurring.

Emergency Nature: The standard contains an error or an omission that was overlooked during the regular revision process.

Having one definition of “Incendiary Fire” and the mis-application of another creates a serious conflict within the guide. This document is used as the standard of care within the fire investigation industry; such an error could create significant complications in its application and use. Hence an emergency change is necessary to ensure the 2017 edition of NFPA 921 remains applicable while the 2020 edition is being developed.

Anyone may submit a comment by the closing date indicated above. To submit a comment, please identify the number of the TIA and forward to the [Secretary, Standards Council](#), 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.