

# The Pyramid

State-Wide Consulting  
& Investigating

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*"Your Fire Experts"*

## First Edition of *The Pyramid*

The Pyramid is a short newsletter published by State-Wide Consulting & Investigating, LLC. State-Wide offers fire investigation services to multiple clients throughout the insurance industry. If you have received this publication, you are most likely familiar with our services. Our backgrounds and experience include service with the Michigan State Police, Fire Marshal Division and professionals from the fire service.

We hope you will find that The Pyramid provides you with useful information related to fire losses and new trends in the industry. It is our goal to keep you informed of any issues that may be important to you and your customers.

Please contact us at anytime with questions or suggestions.

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## State-Wide Announces Newest Investigator: Jeff Tipton, IAAI-CFI

Jeff is a Senior Investigator specializing in fire and explosion investigations. He joined the State-Wide team in May of this year and is working throughout western Michigan.

Jeff is a Certified Fire Investigator through the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). He has been a Certified Career Firefighter in the State of Michigan for 20 years. Jeff is currently a Lieutenant and the Senior Fire Investigator with the City of Benton Harbor Fire Department. He has investigated hundreds of fire scenes in both public and private sectors. Jeff's experience also includes conducting live fire investigation training with the Michigan State Police in Tustin, MI. Jeff has a thorough understanding of building construction and is an active Licensed Residential Builder with the State of Michigan.



Jeff Tipton, IAAI-CFI  
Senior Investigator

Jeff has received extensive training related to fire investigations through the Michigan State Police, the National Fire Academy, the Michigan and Minnesota Chapters of the IAAI, the Michigan Firefighters Training Council and the Michigan Arson Prevention Committee. His education also includes specialized training courses related to residential electrical and appliance investigations.

We welcome Jeff. He will most certainly be a valuable asset to our team.

### Notable Quotes:

**"It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts."**

—Sherlock Holmes  
*A Scandal in Bohemia*  
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
1891



## Michigan's Fire Safe Cigarette Law Takes Effect January 1, 2010 Manufacturers Required to Certify Self-Extinguishing Cigarettes with State reprinted from *The Michigan News*



Cigarettes are designed to self-extinguish due to the banding in the wrapper.

Lansing – State Fire Marshal Ronald R. Farr today announced that cigarette manufacturers must certify their brand families and associated styles as fire safe in order to sell them in Michigan after January 1, 2010. The Fire Standard Compliant (FSC) mark approval process for manufacturers begins today.

This is in accordance with Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signing into law Public Act 56 of 2009, the Fire Safety Standard and Firefighter Protection Act, which provides for the regulation of the sale and distribution of fire safe cigarettes. These cigarettes are specifically manufactured to self-extinguish if left unattended. The new law goes into effect January 1, 2010.

“This law will have a significant impact on reducing the number of fires, associated deaths, injuries, and property damage caused by discarded or unattended smoking materials,” said Farr. “Because these cigarettes are less likely to ignite fires, this law is a big step in fire protection for Michigan citizens.”

Combustion of discarded smoking materials is the second leading cause of home fire-related deaths and injuries in the United States. According to the United States Fire Administration, states that have passed fire safe cigarette legislation such as New York have seen a 33 percent reduction in the number of fire-related deaths and injuries caused by discarded smoking materials.



Packs will be labeled with FSC (Fire Standard Compliant).

Packaging for fire safe cigarettes will be required by law to have a special Fire Standard Compliant (FSC) mark indicating that the cigarettes meet certified laboratory low ignition standards. These marks must be submitted to the State Fire Marshal for approval. A manufacturer must use only one marking on all brands approved for sale in Michigan.

The approval process for the packaging mark consists of the manufacturer sending an email with an illustration of the FSC mark that meets the requirements of the law attached as a PDF file to [statefiremarshal@michigan.gov](mailto:statefiremarshal@michigan.gov). Upon review and approval, the Bureau of Fire Services will email approval to manufacturer within five business days.

Manufacturers will be able to register their brand families and associated styles, and pay the required \$1,250 registration fee online in December. The law applies to all brands of cigarettes, and is not limited to those manufactured in the United States. Recertification by the manufacturer will be required every three years.

Manufacturers, distributors and retailers who knowingly continue to sell non-fire-safe cigarettes in Michigan that have tax stamps affixed after January 1, 2010, will be subject to a fine of \$100 per pack and/or product seizure. Wholesalers/distributors/retailers will be allowed to sell their existing inventory if they can prove the state tax stamp was affixed to the cigarettes before January 1, 2010, in a quantity that is comparable to the quantity of cigarettes they purchased during 2009.



## Holiday Decoration Safety Tips from CPSC

### Trees

Many artificial trees are fire resistant. If you buy one, look for a statement specifying this protection. A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. To check for freshness, remember: A fresh tree is green. Fresh needles are hard to pull from branches. When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin. When the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that tree is too dry.

Place tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Heated rooms dry trees out rapidly, creating fire hazards. Cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. Trim away branches as necessary to set tree trunk in the base of a sturdy, water-holding stand with wide spread feet. Keep the stand filled with water while the tree is indoors. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways. Use thin guy-wires to secure a large tree to walls or ceiling. These wires are almost invisible.

### “Snow”

Artificial snow sprays can irritate lungs if inhaled. To avoid injury, read container labels; follow directions carefully.

### Lights

Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety. Identify these by the label from an independent testing laboratory. Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Discard damaged sets or repair them before using. Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house, walls or other firm support to protect from wind damage. Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord. Turn off all lights on trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights could short and start a fire. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and any person touching a branch could be electrocuted! To avoid this danger, use colored spotlights above or beside a tree, never fastened onto it!

Keep “bubbling” lights away from children. These lights with their bright colors and bubbling movement can tempt curious children to break candle-shaped glass, which can cut, and attempt to drink liquid, which contains a hazardous chemical. • • • • •

CPSC





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**We're on the Web:**  
[www.statewideci.com](http://www.statewideci.com)

**State-Wide Consulting & Investigating, LLC** is a licensed professional investigation company specializing in fire origin and cause investigations. The company is composed of former law enforcement and fire service personnel that have dedicated their careers to the investigation of fires and explosions.

All are certified fire investigators and court qualified expert witnesses. Our testimony has resulted in numerous criminal convictions and civil judgments. Our proven track record assures that you will also find our team to be a valuable asset in addressing your fire loss concerns.

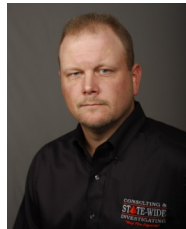
Our investigative team is listed below. Please feel free to contact any investigator with questions, concerns or requests for service.

## Our Team: "Your Fire Experts"



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