

POSSIBLE CONCLUSIONS FROM THE ANALYSIS OF ARSON EVIDENCE

Liquid samples and samples that are extracted by a wash method should be reported by identifying the actual accelerant material. Examples are as follows:

- Analysis of Item #1 showed gasoline.
- Analysis of Items #2 and #5 showed residual kerosene.

Samples that are extracted by a thermal process (Charcoal adsorption or DFLEX) can show some loss of light and heavy components. Therefore, results should be reported to reflect this possibility. Occasionally samples that are extracted by a solvent wash method may report results reflecting the possibility that a complete range of components was not found. Examples are as follows:

- Analysis of Item #1 showed hydrocarbons consistent with residual gasoline.
- Analysis of Items #2 and #5 showed heavy petroleum distillates consistent with residual kerosene.

Samples that are examined using the Mass Spectrometer can be reported as the specific compound if the quality of library search is of sufficient quality as determined by the examiner and the technical reviewer. An example follows:

- Analysis of Item #3 showed hydrocarbons including toluene, xylene, and ethyl benzene.