

## BOOK REVIEW

Scott Batterman,<sup>1</sup> Ph.D.

### Review of: *Forensic Engineering Investigation*

---

**REFERENCE:** Noon RK. Forensic engineering investigation. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, 2001, 463 pp.

This book appears to be a sequel, or expanded version, of Mr. Noon's previous book, *Introduction to Forensic Engineering*, which was previously reviewed in JFS, Vol. 40, No. 1, p. 152. The current book is divided into 23 chapters, and is arranged as follows:

- Chapter 1—Introduction
- Chapter 2—Wind Damage to Residential Structures
- Chapter 3—Lightning Damage to Well Pumps
- Chapter 4—Evaluating Blasting Damage
- Chapter 5—Building Collapse Due to Roof Leakage
- Chapter 6—Putting Machines and People Together
- Chapter 7—Determining the Point of Origin of a Fire
- Chapter 8—Electrical Shorting
- Chapter 9—Explosions
- Chapter 10—Determining the Point of Ignition of an Explosion
- Chapter 11—Arson and Incendiary Fires
- Chapter 12—Simple Skids
- Chapter 13—Simple Vehicular Falls
- Chapter 14—Vehicle Performance
- Chapter 15—Momentum Methods
- Chapter 16—Energy Methods
- Chapter 17—Curves and Turns
- Chapter 18—Visual Perception and Motorcycle Accidents
- Chapter 19—Interpreting Lamp Filament Damages
- Chapter 20—Automotive Fires
- Chapter 21—Hail Damage

- Chapter 22—Blaming Brick Freeze-Thaw Deterioration on Hail
- Chapter 23—Management's Role in Accidents and Catastrophic Events

- Further Information and References
- Index

Like his first book, this book does contain some useful information. However, many of the criticisms of Mr. Noon's first book (see JFS, Vol. 40, No. 1, p. 152) are applicable to this one as well. The book is poorly organized, and there is no flow, cohesion, or natural evolution between topics from chapter to chapter. If it was the author's intention to write a comprehensive book on miscellaneous (not necessarily related) topics in forensic engineering, each chapter should have been a detailed self-contained article written by experts in the respective fields. Following the introduction, Chapters 2 through 6 are randomly selected topics that apparently derive from the author's personal consulting experiences. Chapters 7 through 11 deal with the topics of fire cause and origin. Chapters 12 through 19 are concerned with vehicular accident reconstruction. Chapter 20 then jumps back to the topic of automotive fires. The remainder of the book then goes back to considering miscellaneous topics. In addition to being poorly organized, in this reviewer's opinion, the book does not present material in a manner that could be easily understood and applied by either a novice or a seasoned forensic engineering practitioner. The book is lacking in practical examples and as such limits its value as a useful reference. Furthermore, the non-specialist would have a difficult time reading, understanding, and extracting useful information from the book. In this reviewer's opinion, this book does not materially contribute to the literature and growing number of books dealing with forensic engineering. Better and more comprehensive theoretical and applied treatments of relevant topics in forensic engineering are available elsewhere.

<sup>1</sup> Consultants Associates, Inc., Cherry Hill, NJ.