

FIRE INVESTIGATION SEMINAR

The fire investigation seminar will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, on January 10, 1985. Five representatives from Countrywide Services Corporation will be attending. Countrywide is the largest, unaffiliated accident investigation firm specializing in products liability situations. Four of the Countrywide personnel are trained investigators who are located in Tampa, Florida; San Francisco, California; New York, New York; and Peoria, Illinois. The seminar is expected to last one long day and will provide a complete overview of our investigation techniques as they apply to PVC claims.

The purpose for the fire investigation seminar is to provide a capacity to monitor, investigate, and report on fires that are of interest to the members of the Vinyl Institute. The emphasis of the project is a quick analysis of fire scenes while primary evidence still exists.

The seminar will be broken down into five basic categories:

- * An introduction dealing with past PVC-related fires will be presented by use of films, written materials, and lecture;
- * Technical people will present a complete overview of PVC and its properties;
- * Fire investigation tactics will be discussed at length by a trained fire investigator;
- * The specific claims against PVC in fires will be analyzed; and
- * The particular legal problems presented in the defense of PVC-related claims will be discussed.

An early warning system will be created to allow us to determine the necessity for investigating a particular fire. When appropriate, the regional Countrywide investigator will be sent to the scene to conduct the preliminary investigation. His on-site report will be evaluated and additional support will be provided, as needed.

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