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Continuing Education Course #213  
Practical Forensic Engineering  
Property - Part 1

1. Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy and Hurricanes Ike, Andrew and Ivan are the largest catastrophe losses in recent years.
  - a. True
  - b. False
2. The word *forensic* has been traditionally associated with medical or criminal investigations.
  - a. True
  - b. False
3. Forensic Engineering primarily involves the determination of:
  - a. Origin
  - b. Time frame
  - c. Cause
  - d. All of the above
4. The forensic engineer should determine the:
  - a. Root cause
  - b. Secondary cause
  - c. Contributing cause
  - d. Major cause
  - e. All causes
5. A forensic investigation always requires a site inspection.
  - a. True
  - b. False
6. Standards of ethics and rules for professional conduct of engineers are implemented in law by:
  - a. Various state boards of registration and other authorized agencies;
  - b. National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE);
  - c. American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME);
  - d. National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES);
  - e. All of the above
7. Subrogation is:
  - a. Accusing someone else of doing something wrong;
  - b. Implementing a court order;
  - c. Exercising an insured's right to collect financial damages against someone else;
  - d. Identifying an action or event caused by a third party.

8. With respect to the forensic engineer, defects are typically:

- a. Construction defects
- b. Manufacturing defects;
- c. Installation defects;
- d. Design defects.
- e. All of the above

9. The commonly accepted Statute of Repose is 10-years.

- a. True
- b. False

10. Deposition is an informal pre-trial process whereby your lawyer asks you questions as to how you arrived at each of your engineering opinions related to a particular assignment.

- a. True
- b. False

11. Rule 601 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (FRCP) states that "Every person is competent to be a witness...."

- a. True
- b. False

12. Rule 702 of the Federal Rules of Evidence is known as Daubert.

- a. True
- b. False

13. Which of the following is not a requirement relative to the expert witness in Rule 26 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:

- a. Prepare a report;
- b. Provide materials under discovery;
- c. Testify at trial under oath;
- d. Be paid his fees;
- e. All of the above.

14. The decision to allow the testimony of an expert engineer witness in federal court is made by:

- a. The lawyer presenting the witness;
- b. A jury, if a jury trial;
- c. A federal judge;
- d. The clerk of courts for the federal district, upon payment of the required witness fee;
- e. The holding by the engineer of an active PE registration in any U. S. state or territory;
- f. NCEES.

15. In most states, an engineer can decide for himself he is qualified by education, training or experience to accept cases or assignments.

- a. True
- b. False

16. The following may provide useful data relative to property cases:

- a. GoogleEarth;
- b. WeatherUnderground;
- c. NOAA;
- d. City, county or state GIS systems;
- e. All of the above.

17. Which of the following is not important to the forensic engineer in forensic property investigations?

- a. Details of the weather on the date of loss;
- b. Corollary damage;
- c. Interviewing the insured or claimant;
- d. Whether the loss is covered by insurance;
- e. Determining if there is subrogation potential.

18. Private or public adjusters are often retained by an insurance company if they have a temporary overload or if they do not have a staff adjuster in the area.

- a. True
- b. False

19. If you need a close photo of a chimney from the ground, set your camera on its macro setting.

- a. True
- b. False

20. When reviewing an opposing engineer's report, you should look for:

- a. The scientific or technical bases for his opinions;
- b. If the opinions reflect the conditions of the event;
- c. Errors in the report;
- d. If he has demonstrated his opinions in the photographs;
- e. If he has signed and sealed the report;
- f. All of the above.

21. The applicable building code for a building is usually the current building code in force within the community as of the date of loss.

- a. True
- b. False

22. NFPA prepares and develops standards for fire safety, sprinkler systems, and fire alarm systems, and imposes them on each state building code agency.

- a. True
- b. False

23. You are interviewing the occupant of a hotel room who claims that a sprinkler head discharged in the room due to the "explosion" of a television set, causing property damage on multiple floors of the hotel. You find that the television is unplugged, but does not appear damaged. You observe no sooting or damage in the area of the television. You plug the television in and it operates normally. You do not find any other indication of such an explosion and note that not only is the sprinkler head located well away from the television, but that there is another sprinkler head located just above the television. The discharged sprinkler head was a glass bulb type head and there is only the metal frame of the head left in place. This frame appears undamaged. Which of the following opinions would you likely choose to state in your report?

- a. Based upon the statement of the occupant, the failure of the sprinkler head was the result of a malfunction of the television;
- b. I find no evidence that the television was responsible for the discharge of the sprinkler head and it is not possible to determine the precise cause of the sprinkler head discharge;
- c. The discharge of the sprinkler head is likely a manufacturing defect and that there is basis for subrogation;
- d. The occupant obviously lied about the cause of the sprinkler head discharge, and he probably set the sprinkler off deliberately.

24. Flood damage is covered in a HO-3 or HO-5 policy.

- a. True
- b. False

25. In Daubert, the Supreme Court ruled that nothing in the Rules as a whole or in the text or drafting history of Rule 702, which specifically governs expert testimony, gives any indication that "general acceptance" is a necessary precondition of the admissibility of scientific evidence. *Hint: See Attachment B.*

- a. True
- b. False

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