



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DEP UPSTATE EMPLOYEE AND WIFE CONVICTED OF ARSON & INSURANCE FRAUD
— DEP employee set his house on fire while on duty at DEP watershed facility —

Today, after a jury trial in Bridgeport, Connecticut, RANDAL LICARI, a 25-year employee of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Bureau of Water Supply, was convicted for intentionally setting fire in December 2002 to the home he shared with his wife in Trumbull, Connecticut as part of an arson and insurance fraud scheme. LICARI and his wife collected over \$350,000 from the scheme. After the fire, neighbors rallied around the LICARI family following the fire, contributing money and Christmas toys for the couple's two children. Six months before the fire RANDAL LICARI had filed for bankruptcy.

RANDAL LICARI, 50, was found guilty of Arson in the First Degree, Larceny in the First Degree, Insurance Fraud and Conspiracy after a jury trial in Bridgeport, Connecticut. LICARI faces up to 50 years in jail at sentencing, which is scheduled for January 5, 2007. In a separate trial on June 29, 2006, ANGELA LICARI was convicted of Insurance fraud in connection with this scheme. At sentencing, she faces up to five years in prison.

New York City Department of Investigation Commissioner ROSE GILL HEARN said, "Through avarice and unlawful behavior, these defendants manipulated not only their insurance company but also their neighbors and friends who rallied behind the LICARI family in what seemed like a time of crisis. These defendants now have two new homes. The first new home replaced the one that they burned down. The second new home now will be behind bars. These verdicts reaffirm the fact that Mr. LICARI neglected his important duty to monitor the quality of the City's water supply at Croton Lake in order to perpetrate his criminal scheme."

DOI investigators obtained information in December 2004 that LICARI abandoned his crucial post at a NYC reservoir, drove to his home in Connecticut and then set the house ablaze in an attempt to collect insurance proceeds. This information led to a joint investigation with Connecticut authorities into whether the December 2002 fire at the LICARI's home had been deliberately set.

In December 2002, while one of two employees working an overnight shift monitoring DEP's Croton Lake Gate House in Yorktown, New York, a Bureau of Water Supply facility, LICARI left his post and intentionally set fire to his home located at 1330 Huntington Turnpike, Trumbull, Connecticut. After setting the fire, LICARI returned to his post. Investigators determined that six days before the fire, LICARI allegedly moved a substantial amount of his personal property from his home to a 5'x15' storage locker he had rented in nearby Newtown, Ct. According to the Trumbull, Ct. Fire Marshal's report, a pile of Duraflame logs had been wrapped as presents and placed near the Christmas tree. These logs contributed to the spread of the fire. After the fire, the LICARI's collected more than \$350,000 from an insurance policy on the house. During a search warrant executed at the LICARI's new home, which had been rebuilt in 2004, investigators recovered several items, including an antique clock, carpet cleaning machine, and personal papers such as tax documents and wedding photos that the LICARIs had claimed were destroyed in the fire. Investigators also determined that to further perpetuate the fraud, LICARI submitted to the insurance company multiple receipts for several items including an expensive refrigerator and big screen television that he did not purchase but a friend had purchased. Six months before the fire, LICARI filed bankruptcy and claimed to have only \$1,200 in assets inside his home.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DEP John B. Kantor, as well as members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Michael Carroll; and by Trumbull Police Department Sergeant Shawn Sember and Detective Anthony Recupero. Connecticut Assistant State's Attorney Howard Stein prosecuted the case.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked the Trumbull Police Department, Connecticut State's Attorney's Office, the Trumbull Fire Marshall's Office, the United States Small Business Administration Inspector General's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the New York City DEP Police Division for their assistance.

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