

news of engineering forensics

MDE Inc.

MDE Welcomes Jentry Crain, to Our Staff

Jentry Crain has joined MDE as an associate in Alaska. Mr. Crain will be conducting vehicle accident investigations as well as other forensic investigations for MDE.

For the last 11 years, Mr. Crain has been an officer with the police department of Wasilla, AK where he currently resides. He has training in vehicle accident investigation, aircraft investigations, and total station mapping. Mr. Crain is available as a local resource in Alaska to investigate traffic accidents including measuring and photographing accident scenes and inspecting vehicles. He is supported by the engineers and resources available at MDE.

With a background in construction, Mr. Crain is also capable of performing general building defect evaluations and sending samples or photographs back to MDE to be examined and/or evaluated in MDE's forensic laboratory. One of MDE's specialties includes construction defect evaluation and all the tools and expertise available to the engineers in Seattle will be at Mr. Crain's disposal.

Mr. Crain will also be available to retrieve evidence in Alaska and either store it locally or ship it back to Seattle for investigation by the appropriate MDE engineer. Appliances that have caused water or fire damage and need to be examined or tested by an engineer are a great example of how this new local capability can be utilized.

With Mr. Crain as an associate of MDE, cases that require a thorough investigation but do not have an enormous budget can now be supported locally in Alaska. The

need for expensive plane flights or hotel bills can be substantially reduced or eliminated, depending on the specific circumstances of the project. MDE is proud to announce this combination of complimentary skill sets, convenient location of Mr. Crain, and resources provided by MDE to serve you in your forensic investigation needs. Mr. Crain's resume can be found at www.mde.com.

MDE is expanding its capabilities, now offering additional forensic engineering and consulting services applicable to the marine and industrial sector. The growth comes with the recent addition of Craig Sylvester, P.E. as a principal. Mr. Sylvester's diverse background with the US Navy began as a shipboard electronics technician and progressed to positions managing marine maintenance and mishap investigations both above and below the water's surface.



Craig Sylvester, P.E. joins MDE

Throughout his career, Mr. Sylvester has been recognized for his ability to apply analytical problem-solving and risk-management skills, leading technical teams to maintain and repair nuclear-powered submarines, ships, and aircraft carriers. Mr. Sylvester's areas of expertise include ship and industrial operations, mathematical modeling, accident investigations, diving and salvage work, cranes and rigging, drydock engineering, shipboard equipment failure and flooding analysis, diving life support system re-entry control, environmental health and OSHA safety surveys, and technical process control and compliance.

A member of the Defense Acquisition Professional Community and a certified Production, Quality, Manufacturing specialist, Mr. Sylvester earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Manufacturing Engineering from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and later a Masters of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering, with a Naval Architecture focus, from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. Mr. Sylvester is a qualified Navy Salvage Diver, certified in both air and mixed-gas systems, as well as hyperbaric chamber operations. His shipboard experience includes an assignment as the Electrical and Auxiliaries Division head for one of the Navy's oldest active steam-powered ships where he maintained turbine and diesel generators, a/c plants, corrosion control equipment, and various steam and electric refueling pumps.

During his career, Mr. Sylvester has also served as an accident investigator and consultant for mishaps, including engine room floodings, crane and rigging failures, and personal injury cases. In addition, Mr. Sylvester's engineering expertise and computer software proficiency has

continued on other side

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Gerard F. Schaefer, P.E.
Michael V. Schoenecker, Master Mechanic
Craig Sylvester, P.E.
and Associates.

www.mde.com

MDE's Educational Speakers

If you are in need of an educational speaker, please call MDE today. Part of MDE's mission is to provide educational presentations to legal, insurance and other groups on engineering and scientific topics. MDE professionals schedule speaking engagements locally and nationwide. Continuing education credits are available for some classes.



"Experienced underwater inspection team for vessels and marine structures utilizing wireless communications and video recording capabilities."

been utilized to model manned submarine pressurization tests, high-energy material shock response, and underwater explosions.

Mr. Sylvester will support MDE clients through a variety of reinforced consulting services. In addition to a wide variety of forensic mechanical engineering evaluations. He will support marine, maritime & admiralty investigations:

Marine Vessels

- Accident investigation and reconstruction
- Equipment and material deterioration and failure studies
- Flooding root-cause analysis and modeling
- Corrosion control system evaluation
- Fire and explosion investigations
- Electrical safety surveys
- Computer modeling including finite element analysis of failed components

Marine Industrial Environments

- Mishap investigations
- Underwater inspections of piers, docks, buoys, moorings, and other

waterborne equipment

- Process and technical control compliance
- Environmental health and safety surveys
- Crane and rigging operations and equipment inspections

If you have questions, or if we can assist you, please call our office.

Appliance Subrogation Claims

Water using appliances are found in a majority of houses in the United States and are considered a modern day necessity for most homeowners. The Insurance Information Institute contends that water damage losses due to appliance or piping system failures account for the second largest share of claims next to wind and hail.

There are many reasons that an appliance would fail, including a component reaching end-of-life, improper installation and manufacturing/material defects. To help MDE or any expert better diagnose the problem that caused the water damage to occur, there are a few things insurance companies can do to make the process more complete.

The number one way to allow for a more accurate investigation of an appliance is to have the expert come to the property where the damage occurred and see the appliance in its original placement. The appliance placement or installation method could have caused the problem, such as a

hose that is being stretched or squeezed within a confined space. It is easier for the expert to determine that a manufacturing defect caused the leak if potential installation problems can be eliminated.

If it is not possible to have the expert come to the scene of the water leak and see the appliance in place, here are a few simple things that can save the expert and the insurance company time and money.

1. Description.

Write a short but thorough explanation of what you know from the client regarding the water loss.

2. Photographs and drawings.

It is helpful to see photographs or drawings of the appliance as installed. Take special note of any connections to the appliance that will need to be disconnected and make sure to document these connections.

3. Send appliance with as many attachments as possible.

For instance, if you are dealing with a water loss from a dishwasher, make sure to send both the supply and drain lines still connected to the dishwasher if possible.

With our new associate, Jentry Crain, in Alaska, MDE is now able to retrieve any appliances you may need to have inspected and stored locally for later evaluation or ship them down to Seattle for our engineers to investigate. Contact us to determine how we can assist you with your water loss claims.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Inc.