

X-Rated Romps, an Ex-Cat, and the Perils of Porky: 2012 CAIF Insurance Fraud Hall of Shame

By: Staff Writer

Insurance fraud is no laughing matter, but the lengths that some crooks go to in their attempts to scam the industry often is.

Once again, the **Coalition Against Insurance Fraud (CAIF)** is unveiling its annual Insurance Fraud Hall of Shame. This year's list-toppers include an x-rated romp, poisoned pudding, an ex-cat, and a slice-and-dice on a man named Porky.

"Consumers must be reminded that insurance fraud has victims. The Hall of Shame exposes the masters of disaster and true-life crime details for full public viewing. Sordid or silly, these stories work to convince more consumers that fraud is a dead-end street and freeway to jail," said Dennis Jay, the Coalition's executive director.

To read the full list of 2012's "best" scams, click the following pages.

The Case of the Ambitious Arsonists

Detroit firefighter Brian Baulch didn't remember the bricks raining down on him amid the inferno of a blazing two-story office building.

He was knocked unconscious. The hail of debris broke his nose and both feet, six ribs, his pelvis and six vertebrae.

He was the lucky one.

Fellow firefighter Brendan Milewski was paralyzed. They were among seven injured firefighters trapped and injured in a fire set by Calvin Jones and a crony to steal insurance money.

But the arson scheme spun desperately out of control, also ruining three businesses in the building.

The duo spewed gasoline into the structure through a hole in a brick wall they'd created earlier in the day, then lit the volatile brew afterward.

Four of the seven were critically hurt; some firefighters required months of healing and rehab before they could return to work, and several will never work again.

A tipster turned in Jones and Wright afterward. Investigators soon found residue of gasoline in the wreckage—strong evidence of arson.

Wright intimidated him at gunpoint into going along with the plan, Jones argued at trial. He also was just a lackey for the owner of a Metro PCS store in the building, he claimed. The owner had hired them to torch the store for a \$15,000 cut of the expected insurance payout, he said.

Jones showed little remorse when convicted, and insisted he didn't get a fair trial. He was

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sentenced to 15 years in federal prison in December 2011, which just qualified him for this year's Hall of Shame. Wright received 15 years in prison earlier last year. The storeowner's fate has not been publicly announced.

The Case of the Helping Hand

Michael "Porky" Weaver only dimly grasped what David Player and Gerald "Trey" Hardin wanted to do: saw off his right hand for \$671,000 in homeowners and disability insurance money.

The insurance scheme was a betrayal of what the Sumter County, S.C. man thought was a deep friendship with Player, who strung him along to set up the con.

Porky is severely mentally handicapped and illiterate. Player and Porky had grown up together, and Porky depended on Player for many of his personal needs and emotional support. Player even had Porky's power of attorney.

That close tie was enough to convince Porky that the grisly insurance plot would work. The money would come from homeowner and disability policies Player had bought in Porky's name.

Player and Hardin promised Porky a down payment on a truck and some rent money.

The three got drunk to prepare for the gruesome deed. Hardin, a tree trimmer, tied Weaver's arm to a tree limb with rags.