



# **Scientific Method: Applications in Failure Investigation and Forensic Science (International Forensic Science and Investigation)**

*By Randall K. Noon*

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**Scientific Method: Applications in Failure Investigation and Forensic Science (International Forensic Science and Investigation)** By Randall K. Noon

Most failure or accident investigations begin at the end of the story: after the explosion, after the fire has been extinguished, or after the collapse. In many instances, information about the last event and the starting event is known reasonably well. Information about what occurred between these endpoints, however, is often unclear, confusing, and perhaps contradictory. **Scientific Method: Applications in Failure Investigation and Forensic Science** explains how scientific investigative methods can best be used to determine why and how a particular event occurred.

While employing examples from forensic engineering, the book uses principles and ideas applicable to most of the forensic sciences. The author examines the role of the failure investigator, describes the fundamental method for investigation, discusses the optimal way to organize evidence, and explores the four most common reasons why some investigations fail. The book provides three case studies that exemplify proper report writing, contains a special chapter profiling a criminal case by noted forensic specialist Jon J. Nordby, and offers a reading list of resources for further study.

Concise and illustrative, this volume demonstrates how the scientific method can be applied to failure investigation in ways that avoid flawed reasoning while delivering convincing reconstruction scenarios. Investigators can pinpoint where things went wrong, providing valuable information that can prevent another catastrophe.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

The well-organized text and excellent cause-and-effect tables and graphics make the subject matter very palatable while delivering a virtual investigation blueprint. If you are remotely interested in why something fails and how to prevent a recurrence, this book is not only a great read, but an absolute must for your personal maintenance *Body of Knowledge!*

? Ken Bannister, writing in *Maintenance Technology*

At the end of the day a forensic reconstruction is only as reliable as the science applied to the data, which in turn is only as reliable as the data collected, documented, and preserved. This book goes a long way in preparing or reminding a person of their obligations as a forensic investigator in order to distinguish what is reliable science and what is prejudice, chance, or just a good guess.

? Dalton Brown, writing in *MVC Forensics*

#### About the Author

Randall K. Noon owns a consulting firm in Hiawatha, Kansas.

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