

**Inv. Chris Harvey
Cold Case Squad
Fulton County DA Office**



**David Coffin Murder Case
Telephone Interview with ATF Fire Analyst
09-08-2005**

On this date at approximately 1645 hrs, I spoke by telephone with ATF Fire Engineer Brian Grove about his examination of the fire at David Coffin's residence. I explained the time "brackets" that we had with the 911 call of the fire, the call from Scott Davis to Megan Lee shortly after 2100 hrs, and the distance between the two points. Grove told me that it was reasonable to conclude that the fire would have taken 30 minutes or more to breach the roof and be noticeable to the neighbors who called 911. Grove said that he would not be able to provide strict parameters for the fire events, but that the scenario I presented to him "seemed reasonable."

By way of comparison, Grove mentioned that in tests done on similar houses (fully vented with all doors and windows open, thus maximizing the fueling of the fire with oxygen) the time to roof failure on an accelerated fire was seventeen minutes, and an un-accelerated fire was twenty-six minutes. I noted that there was little likelihood that Coffin's house would have had any open doors or windows in the middle of December, and Grove acknowledged that this fact would further retard the spread of the fire.

Grove went on to say that it is impossible to give exact times and conditions, but that the theory we presented to him was reasonable.

Grove said he would issue a report within four or five weeks and would let me know when the report would be available.