

must be made pursuant to warrant procedures governing administrative searches. Evidence of arson discovered in the course of such an administrative inspection is admissible at trial, but if the investigator finds probable cause to believe that arson has occurred and requires further access to gather evidence for a possible prosecution, he must obtain a criminal search warrant.⁹⁶

One curious case has approved a system of “home visits” by welfare caseworkers, in which the recipients are required to admit the worker or lose eligibility for benefits.⁹⁷ In another unusual case, the Court held that a sheriff’s assistance to a trailer park owner in disconnecting and removing a mobile home constituted a “seizure” of the home.⁹⁸

In addition, there are now a number of situations, some of them analogous to administrative searches, where “‘special needs’ beyond normal law enforcement . . . justify departures from the usual warrant and probable cause requirements.”⁹⁹ In one of these cases the Court, without acknowledging the magnitude of the leap from one context to another, has taken the *Dewey/Burger* rationale—developed to justify warrantless searches of business establishments—and applied it to justify the significant intrusion into personal privacy represented by urinalysis drug testing. Because of the history

⁹⁶ The Court also held that, after the fire was extinguished, if fire investigators were unable to proceed at the moment, because of dark, steam, and smoke, it was proper for them to leave and return at daylight without any necessity of complying with its mandate for administrative or criminal warrants. 436 U.S. at 510–11. *But cf.* *Michigan v. Clifford*, 464 U.S. 287 (1984) (no such justification for search of private residence begun at 1:30 p.m. when fire had been extinguished at 7 a.m.).

⁹⁷ *Wyman v. James*, 400 U.S. 309 (1971). It is not clear what rationale the majority used. It appears to have proceeded on the assumption that a “home visit” was not a search and that the Fourth Amendment does not apply when criminal prosecution is not threatened. Neither premise is valid under *Camara* and its progeny, although *Camara* preceded *Wyman*. Presumably, the case would today be analyzed under the expectation of privacy/need/structural protection theory of the more recent cases.

⁹⁸ *Soldal v. Cook County*, 506 U.S. 56, 61 (1992) (home “was not only seized, it literally was carried away, giving new meaning to the term ‘mobile home’”).

⁹⁹ *City of Ontario v. Quon*, 560 U.S. ___, No. 08–1332, slip op. (2010) (reasonableness test for obtaining and reviewing transcripts of on-duty text messages of police officer using government-issued equipment); *Griffin v. Wisconsin*, 483 U.S. 868, 873 (1987) (administrative needs of probation system justify warrantless searches of probationers’ homes on less than probable cause); *Hudson v. Palmer*, 468 U.S. 517, 526 (1984) (no Fourth Amendment protection from search of prison cell); *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, 469 U.S. 325 (1985) (simple reasonableness standard governs searches of students’ persons and effects by public school authorities); *O’Connor v. Ortega*, 480 U.S. 709 (1987) (reasonableness test for work-related searches of employees’ offices by government employer); *Skinner v. Railway Labor Executives’ Ass’n*, 489 U.S. 602 (1989) (neither probable cause nor individualized suspicion is necessary for mandatory drug testing of railway employees involved in accidents or safety violations). All of these cases are discussed *infra* under the general heading “Valid Searches and Seizures Without Warrants.”