

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Gary T. Bontrager, CFI



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### PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Gary joined Fire Cause Analysis in October 2017 after working for the Snohomish County, Washington, Fire Marshal's Office for over thirty years. He has conducted over 3,000 fire investigations including: structures, vessels, vehicles, and wildland fires. He has testified in both Superior and Federal Courts.

Gary also worked as a Loss Control Consultant for a national risk management firm that supported self-insured entities' employee injury claims. Clients included: hospitals, municipalities, heavy industries, and food processing companies. The position required extensive knowledge of OSHA and WISHA safety standards, fire code, building code, and mine safety regulations.

Gary is a CFI, Certified Fire Investigator, through the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS (IAAI); Certified Fire Investigator NFPA 1033 through the NATIONAL BOARD ON FIRE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (NPQS); and Certified Fire Inspector II through the INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL (ICC). He is a commissioned law enforcement officer and has expertise in large scale fires, death investigations, insurance fraud, and product liability and experience in courtroom testimony relating to civil/criminal investigations.

In his spare time, Gary fully restores vehicles. His most recent project is a vintage fire truck circa 1942.

### Experience

October 2017 – Present

#### **Fire Cause Analysis –**

Fire Investigator conducting origin and cause investigations.

March 1984 – Present

#### **Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office -- Everett, WA - Deputy Fire Marshal –**

Gary investigated over 3,000 fires and has been responsible for determining the origin and cause of fires/explosions involving structures, boats, and vehicles. This includes handling large scale fires, proving Gary's ability to coordinate with law enforcement agencies and insurance companies, as well as working with federal and state agencies. Gary was commissioned by the Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office to investigate fires where a crime has been committed, as well as enforcing of the fire code.

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## Specialized Training

“Benefits of Multi-Party Investigations”	IAAI Washington Chapter	Feb. 2017
“Combustion & Fire Dynamics”	IAAI /NW Fire Investigators	May 2015
“Basic Electricity”	CFI Trainer.Net	March 2015
“Residential Electrical Systems”	CFI Trainer.Net	March 2015
“NFPA 921 and 1033 2014 Editions”	CFI Trainer.Net	Feb. 2015
“Ventilation-Focused Approach ...”	CFI Trainer.Net	Jan. 2015
“Advanced Electrical Fire Investigation”	IAAI /NW Fire Investigators	May 2014
“Basic Methodology of Fire Investigation”	Fire Protection Institute	Oct. 2013
“Interview and Interrogations”	Fire Protection Institute	Oct. 2013
“Ethics and the Fire Investigator”	CFI Trainer.Net	June 2013
“Relationship Between NFPA 1033 & 921”	CFI Trainer.Net	June 2013
“2012 Fire Investigation – Vehicle Fire”	IAAI /NW Fire Investigators	May 2012
“Fire Invest. and the 2011 NFPA 921”	CFI Trainer.Net	Jan. 2012
“Fire Protection Systems”	CFI Trainer.Net	Jan. 2012
“Megne Tek: Study of Daubert Challenge”	CFI Trainer.Net	Jan. 2012
“Postflashover Fires”	CFI Trainer.Net	Jan. 2012
“Forensic Evidence Collection”	National Fire Academy	Dec. 2011
“Firearms, Explosives & ATF Services”	ATF	Oct. 2011
“Electrical Safety”	CFI Trainer.Net	May 2011
“Wildland Fire Investigations”	CFI Trainer.Net	May 2011
“Digital Photograph and the Fire Invest.”	CFI Trainer.Net	April 2011
“Introduction to Evidence”	CFI Trainer.Net	April 2011
“DNA”	CFI Trainer.Net	April 2011
“Evidence Examination...”	CFI Trainer.Net	April 2011
“Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene”	CFI Trainer.Net	April 2011
“Charleston Sofa Super Store Fire”	CFI Trainer.Net	April 2011
“Fire Scene Evidence Collection”	WA State Region 4	June 2010
“Managing Complex Fire Scene Invest.”	CFI Trainer.Net	May 2010
“Investigating Fatal Fires”	CFI Trainer.Net	May 2010
“The Scientific Method...”	CFI Trainer.Net	May 2010
“Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determ.”	WA State D.N.R.	May 2010
“Fire & Explosion Investigation Utilizing NFPA 921”	CFI Trainer.Net	April 2010
“Understand. Fire through the Candle Exp.”	CFI Trainer.Net	April 2010
“Vacant and Abandoned Buildings”	CFI Trainer.Net	April 2010
“Analysis of the Station Nightclub Fire”	CFI Trainer.Net	April 2010
“Fire Investigation Scene Safety”	CFI Trainer.Net	April 2010
“Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires”	CFI Trainer.Net	April 2010
“Preparation Marine Fire Scene”	CFI Trainer.Net	April 2010
“Arc Mapping Basics”	CFI Trainer.Net	April 2010
“Fire Origin and Cause-Advance”	Public Training Council	April 2004
“Forensic Photography”	ATF	Jan. 2004
“Fire Pattern Recognition Cert.”	Public Training Council	June 2002

“Initial Fire Investigations”	National Fire Academy	June 2001
“Post Blast Investigation”	WA State Region 3	June 2000
“Death Invest. for First Respond.”	Snohomish Co. Medical Examiner	Aug. 1999
“Man. For Arson Prev. and Control”	National Fire Academy	Feb 1998
“Basic Fire Investigation”	Northwest Fire Investigators	Oct. 1997
“NFPA 921 “Sword and Shield”	IAAI	April 1997
“Advance Fire Investigation”	WA State Region 4	June 1996
“921 Investigation & HTA Fires”	IAAI	Sept. 1995
“Fire Investigation Seminar”	IAAI – British Columbia	May 1995
“Responsibilities of Fire Investigation”	WA State Region 4	April 1993
“Vehicle Arson”	IAAI	March 1992
“Closing the Loop”	IAAI	Nov 1989
“Fire Investigation”	Hughes Institute	April 1989
“NFPA 921 Cover to Cover”	WA State Region 4	March 1989
“Auto Fire Seminar”	Pemco Insurance Company	June 1987
“Advance Arson for Profit”	Department of Treasury	Oct. 1987
“Criminal Intelligence Analysis”	Anacapa Institute	Oct. 1986
“Basic Law Enforcement”	WA State Criminal Justice Center	March 1985
“Arson/Fire Investigation”	National Fire Academy	April 1985
“Interrogation for Arson Investigation”	Criminal Justice Center	Nov 1984
“Unit V “Fire Investigation Level III”	WA State Fire Service Training	May 1977
“Unit V “Fire Investigation Level II”	WA State Fire Service Training	April 1973
“Unit V “Fire Investigation Level I”	WA State Fire Service Training	Nov 1970

### **Courtroom Testimony**

State of Washington vs. James A. Akerley, Snohomish County, Washington – Superior Court  
Case Number: SO84-18399 - testified as the lead investigator.

State of Washington vs. Ronald Brennan, Jr., Snohomish County, Washington – Superior Court  
Case Number: SO91-39886 - testified as an expert witness as the lead fire investigator.

Safeco vs. Richard Sperling, Snohomish County, Washington – Superior Court  
Case Number: SO86-032348 - testified as an expert witness as the lead fire investigator.

State of Washington vs. William J. Donnelly, Snohomish County – Superior Court  
Case Number: SO85-44489, SO85-77089, SO85-78396 (90-1-00460-5) - testified as the lead investigator against co-defendants, Martin Garcia, William O. Dyer, Douglas A. Sebring. William O. Dyer died before William Donnelly could be prosecuted.

U.S. District Court vs. William J. Wicken, Seattle, Washington.  
Case Number: 91-30122 (CR90-0176WD) - testified as a lead investigator for the manufacturing of illegal explosives.

State of Washington vs. Daniel E. Coe, Snohomish County – Superior Court  
Case Number SO96-18818 (97-1-00298-7) - testified as an expert witness in a first-degree murder/arson.

State of Washington vs. Robert M. Driscoll, Snohomish County – Superior Court  
Case Number SO97-021681 (97-1-02096-9) - testified as an expert witness.

State of Washington vs. Andrew K. Culver, Snohomish County – Superior Court  
Case Number SO92-19322 and SO92-19222 - testified as a lead investigator for two set fires.

### **Professional Affiliations**

- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), Washington Chapter
- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), International Membership
- Northwest Fire Investigator's Association
- Arson Alarm Foundation
- Snohomish County Fire Prevention Association
- Washington State Region 4, Fire Investigator's Association

### **Commendations/Awards**

- Dept. of Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, March 1992
- U.S. Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and Bill Clinton, 1993
- Washington Governor, Mike Lowery, 1993
- U.S. Senator, Tim Erwin, 1993
- Dept. of Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, June 1993
- City of Stanwood, Twin City Foods Fire, April 1996