

## Curriculum Vitae Richard K. Peterson, CFI II California State Fire Marshal #870122

### Areas of Specialization:

- Fire Investigation
- Hazardous Materials
- Terrorism Response

### Background and Professional Experience:

Mr. Peterson is a Senior Fire Investigator with Fire Cause Analysis. He retired as a Captain with the Santa Clara City Fire Department. Mr. Peterson has over 39 years experience in the fire service, including eight years as a Deputy Fire Marshal with the Santa Clara City Fire Marshal's Office. His experience includes code enforcement and the regulation of hazardous materials. He has conducted over 200 environmental criminal investigations for the City. To date Mr. Peterson has conducted over 7,000 code-related fire safety inspections and 1,203+ fire investigations. He has testified on numerous occasions as an expert in both criminal and civil proceedings.

1994 to Present	Fire Investigator – Fire Cause Analysis – Investigated over 600 fires.
1973 to 1976	Firefighter – California Department of Forestry, Tulare Ranger Unit. Responded to over 120 wildfires, six vehicle fires, and four structure fires.
1976 to 1977	District Engineer – Woodlake Fire Protection District. Responded to eight structure, 9 wildland, and five vehicle fires.
1977 to 1979	Firefighter/Engineer – Madera City Fire Department. Responded to 10 structure, 7 vehicle, and 8 wildland fires.
1979 to 1980	Fire Specialist – University of California Fire Department, Santa Cruz.
1980 to 1983	Fire Captain – University of California Fire Department, Santa Cruz. Investigated 10 structure, 9 wildland, and 12 vehicle fires.
1983 to 1985	Fire Captain – Santa Cruz City Fire Department. Investigated 11 structure, 7 wildland, and 11 vehicle fires.

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- 1985 to 1993 Deputy Fire Marshal – Santa Clara City Fire Department. Inspect target and high hazard occupancies; enforce all fire and environmental related laws, codes, and ordinances. Investigate fires and incidents subject to fire department responsibility. Investigated 98 structure, 6 vehicle, and an unknown number of miscellaneous fires. Six of these were major losses, exceeding \$1,000,000 fire loss. Investigated over 200 environmental crimes.
- 1993 to 2012 Fire Captain assigned Commander Engine 10; Assigned to Hazardous Materials Unit 1995-01; Counter Terrorism Officer 1998-01. Investigate approximately 10 fires each year for Santa Clara Fire Department. Retired 12/31/12.
- 1981 to Present Private Investigator – BSIS License #8649, and #20057. Investigated approximately 903+ fires, primarily structures.
- Testified as an expert witness relating to Fire Origin and Cause in the Santa Clara County Judicial District.
- Investigated approximately 1203+ fires total.
- Conducted approximately 200+ environmental crime investigations.
- Performed more than 7300 fire and hazardous materials inspections.
- 1980 to 1985 Reserve Deputy Sheriff, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

**Professional Affiliations:**

- Member of California Conference of Arson Investigators
- Member of International Association of Firefighters (Retired)
- Member of International Association of Arson Investigators (20 year status 2003)
- Secretary to the Santa Clara County Arson Task Force, 1988-89
- Board of Directors, California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association 1989-90
- Past member of California Reserve Peace Officers Association
- Past member of California State Firefighters' Association
- Past Member National Fire Protection Association

**Education and Training:**

- Taft University, B.S. Law, 1993
- Cogswell Polytechnic College, Present, completing degree requirements for B.S. in Administration and B.S. Fire Prevention Technology (one class left)
- California State Fire Academy - Fire Investigation (1981-84 levels I-IV, 160 hours)
- California State Fire Marshal – Arson and Bomb Investigation (1981 40 hours)

State Board of Fire Services – Fire Investigator I (1981 certified #880124)  
National Fire Academy – Fire/Arson Investigation (1988 80 hours)  
Continuing Education Advanced Fire Investigation – 543+ hours (CCAI/TF)  
State Board of Fire Services – Fire Officer I (1982 certified #000022)  
National Fire Academy – Chemistry of Hazardous Materials (1991 80 hours)  
National Fire Academy – Fire Dynamics (1995 OLFS 40 hours)  
State Board of Fire Services – Fire Investigator II (1994 certified #870122)  
National Fire Academy – Incendiary Fire Analysis & Investigation (2000 OLFS 40 hours)  
Public Agency Training Council – Fire/Arson Investigation (2000 40 hours)  
California Specialized Training Institute – Hazardous Materials Technician, and Terrorism,  
WMD certified  
Public Agency Training Council – Fire Pattern Certification (2002 24 hours)  
Public Agency Training Council – Advanced Fire Origin and Cause (2004 24 hours)  
National Wildfire Coordinating Group – Fire Behavior S290 (2005 40 hours)  
Public Agency Training Council – Fatality Fire Scene Investigation (2006 16 hours)  
Dept. Homeland Security (LSU) – Sampling Techniques: Tech Level (2006)  
Public Agency Training Council – Electrical Fire/Arson Investigation (2009 24 hours)  
US DoJ-BATF – Basic & Advanced Electrical Fire Investigation (2014 32 hours)  
CCAI – NFPA 1033 16 Subject Matter Curriculum (2015 40 hours)

Controlled burning of 33 structures and 130+ different fire sets as well as study and  
conducting flammability tests.

Informal training of over 1020 hours

State Board of Fire Services – Instructor I (1994 certified #091690)

**I have developed and taught related training to/for the following agencies:**

- Alameda County Arson Task Force
- Life Safety Associates
- Santa Clara County Joint Fire Academy
- Los Medanos College Criminal Justice Training Center
- University of California Fire Department, Santa Cruz
- City of Santa Cruz Fire Department
- City of Santa Clara Fire Department
- City of Santa Clara Police Department
- Santa Clara County Hazardous Waste Task Force
- Santa Clara County Arson Task Force
- California Fire Chiefs Association
- Cabrillo College Regional Occupational Training Program
- University of California, Santa Cruz (Santa Clara Extension Program)
- Farmers Insurance Company
- Intel