



CURRICULUM VITAE DONALD J. PERKINS, CFI

Area of Specialization:

Fire Investigation/Litigation – Case File Review - Consulting

Background and Professional Experience:

Mr. Perkins' background consists of education/technical training and over 45 years of professional experience. He had worked in a major municipal fire department for 28 years and retired in 1994 at the rank of Captain. As a Fire Suppression Captain, Mr. Perkins worked on shift for over ten years. He was assigned to both Engine and Truck Companies at Battalion Headquarters in one of the busiest fire stations in San Jose, California. He was Incident Commander on numerous fires over the course of his career. Mr. Perkins also held the position of Fire Investigator (2 years) and Arson Unit Supervisor / Investigator for 4 years. During this time frame he conducted or supervised over 3,000 fire investigations. Mr. Perkins was also assigned to the San Jose Fire Prevention Bureau for over four years working in code enforcement, plan checking, and fire protection systems inspections. Mr. Perkins met the standards and successfully passed his tests to be qualified as a Certified Fire Protection Specialist.

Mr. Perkins founded the firm Fire Cause Analysis in 1980 and merged his company with IFT Inc. in 1993. In addition to conducting his own investigations, he presently manages a team of highly qualified fire investigators. Mr. Perkins has conducted or supervised over 4,000 fire investigations and has over 30 years experience in fire/arson investigations with commercial and residential property, vehicle and marine vessels, arson and fraud, and has given expert witness testimony in both State and Federal Courts.

Mr. Perkins is a certified Level II Fire Investigator through the California State Fire Marshal's Office. He is also a "Pro-Board - Certified Fire Investigator" by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). In July, 2005 he met the certification standards established for a Type 3 Wildland Fire Investigator developed by the National Wildland Coordinating Group. He is a licensed Private Investigator in California, Nevada, Oregon, and Arizona. He has a "Lifetime Teaching Credential" in the State of California and teaches the basic and advanced curriculum in Fire/Arson Investigation as directed by the California State Fire Marshal's Office. Mr. Perkins has taught students enrolled in the Fire Science Program at local colleges as well law enforcement personnel at the Criminal Justice Training Center in San Jose.

Mr. Perkins has been a guest speaker and lecturer for the California Association of Arson Investigators, the International Association of Arson Investigators, and the International Association of Marine Investigators. Mr. Perkins was a member on the IAAI Certified Fire Investigators (CFI)

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Committee for three years and chaired the “IAAI Testing Committee” which writes the national certification test (CFI) for fire investigators. Mr. Perkins is a “co-author” on the IAAI Development Committee for the NFPA document “User’s Manual for NFPA 921”. Mr. Perkins was a project team member and contributed to the document “Performance of California Homes and Buildings in Urban Wildland Interface”, a grant provided to Fire Cause Analysis by the California State Fire Marshal’s office. Mr. Perkins is a contributing author for the “California Education Bar” and is the “co-author” on Chapter 12, Origin & Cause of Fire, in the 2008 edition of “Scientific Evidence in California Criminal Cases”, a two volume document for the benefit of practicing lawyers.

Education/Training/Special Seminars:

San Jose City College, San Jose, California - 1972
Associate of Arts Degree: Fire Science
West Valley College, Saratoga, California - 1975
Associate of Arts Degree: Business Management
Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms - Glenco, Georgia -Advanced Arson for Profit – 1985
California Fire Academy - Asilomar, California - Fire Investigations - IA, IB, 2A, 2B
California Fire Academy - Asilomar, California - Fire Instructor - IA, IB
California Fire Academy - Asilomar, California - Incident Command Tactics - I, II, III
F.B.I. Academy - Quantico, Virginia - Police/Arson School - 1986
F.B.I. Bomb Investigations - Gilroy, CA - Seminar
National Fire Academy -Emmitsberg, Maryland - Fire/Arson Investigation School - 1979
National Fire Academy - Emmitsberg, Maryland - Fire/Arson Detection Instructor – 1982
National Fire Academy -Emmitsberg, Maryland – Courtroom Testimony Facilitator - 2001
Advanced Fire Investigation - Denver Fire Department - 1981
Arson/Bomb Scene Investigation - Calif. State Fire Marshal's Office 1978
Determining the Cause and Origin of Fires & Explosions - NAFI - 1990
International Association of Arson Investigators-Annual Seminar’s - 2014
2010, 09 07, 06, 05, 04, 03, 02, 00, 1999, 97, 95, 93, 91, 89, 88, 87
California Conference of Arson Investigators Workshops (1979 – 2014)
International Association of Marine Investigators – IAMI 2009, 2010
Dynamics of Fire Behavior - Factory Mutual Fire Test Facility - IAAI 10/93
Investigation of Large Loss Fires in Commercial & Industrial Buildings - IAAI - 4/94
Fire Dynamics / Live Burn Training Seminar – AZ - IAAI / ATF / NIST - 3/2000
Electrical Fire Investigations - San Francisco, California – Seminar - 1982
San Jose Police Department - Crime Scene Investigator School - 1984
California Department of Justice - Sacramento, California - Criminal Analysis - 1983
California Department of Justice - Sacramento, California - Surveillance Techniques - 1986
Santa Clara County Peace Officers School, Post Certified 1976
Third International Conference on Fire Research and Engineering 10/99
Fire Scene Photography - San Francisco, California - Kodak - 1980
Fire Scene Photography - Santa Clara, California – Nikon - 1985
Fire Protection Institute - Houston, Texas - Fire Marshals of North America 1992
Fire and Materials Conference – Fire Investigations – San Francisco, CA – 2003-2007-2011
Electrical Fire Investigations in Residential Dwellings - Seminar - 4/94
Advanced Concepts in Fire Investigation - Seminar - 1/93

Electrical & Gas Appliance Fire Investigations - Seminar – Fire Findings - 1995
Marine Casualty Investigations School - United States Coast Guard 1985
California Fair Claims Settlement Practices Regulations - 1993 / 1995 / 1997 / 1999
Introduction to Industrial and Commercial Fire Protection Engineering - UC Davis - 12/94
Kinesic Interview Techniques - San Jose, California - 1989
Hazardous Materials Familiarization Seminar - 11/80
Certificate of Achievement in Firemanship - 6/71
Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance / Sabotage Device - 4/69
Public Agency Training Council – Electrical Fire Investigation – 12/01
NWCG – Wildland Fire Origin & Cause Determination – FI-210 – 7/05
Wildland Fire Litigation Conference – Reno – 4/09 & Sacramento 4-12

Professional Experience:

Fire Cause Analysis, Berkeley, California - 1993 to Present

PRESIDENT / PARTNER / FIRE INVESTIGATOR - Fire Investigator with the responsibility of directing and managing eight highly qualified fire investigators. Work closely with the insurance industry providing additional services in all fire related disciplines including Computer Modeling, Fire Testing, Fire Safety Consulting, Mechanical & Electrical Engineering and Forensic Studies.

Fire Cause Analysis, San Jose, California - 1980 to 1993

OWNER (Sole Proprietor) / FIRE INVESTIGATOR - Licensed Private Investigator working closely with the insurance industry in handling fire cause investigations and consultation work.

San Jose Fire Department, San Jose, California - 1967-1994

FIREFIGHTER - SUPPRESSION / DRIVER - ENGINEER / FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER / FIRE INVESTIGATOR - 1978-1980 / CAPTAIN 1980-1994 / Retired - 2/4/94

San Jose Fire Department, San Jose, California - 1984 to 1988

UNIT SUPERVISOR - ARSON UNIT - Supervised and managed a staff of five fire investigators. Conducted and supervised over 3,000 investigations. Testified as an expert witness in Municipal and Superior Courts in both Criminal and Civil Cases.

Campbell Fire Department, Campbell, California - 1965-1967

FIREFIGHTER - SUPPRESSION

United States Navy, 1961-1965

Torpedoman 2nd Class, Qualified in Nuclear and Conventional Submarines

United States Coast Guard Reserve, 11th Coast Guard District - 1980 to 1990

Marine Safety Office, Investigations Unit

MARINE CASUALTY INVESTIGATOR – Conducted numerous marine vessel fire investigations. Investigations included the explosion and fatality aboard the USMV Hess, the “Honda Bluehawk”

fire loss, and was a member of the marine Board investigating the fire and explosion aboard the tanker “Puerto Rican”.

Mission College, Santa Clara, California – 1986 to 1994

FIRE SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR - Teach basic and advanced Fire/Arson Investigation Courses to students enrolled in the Fire Science Program. Instruction in Fire Investigation, established by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

American River College, Sacramento, California – 1990 to 1997

FIRE SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR - Teach basic and advanced Fire/Arson Investigation Courses to students enrolled in the Fire Science Program. Instruction in Fire Investigation established by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Evergreen Community College, San Jose, California - 1990 to 1997

Law Enforcement Training Center - Instructor

Teach "Evidence Collection in Arson Investigations" class to Police Officers throughout the State of California.

California Conference of Arson Investigators, San Luis Obispo, California

Guest lecture - July 97' CCAI conference

Live Burn Facilitator – July 2000

Guest lecture - July 2013' CCAI conference

California Conference of Arson Investigators, Sacramento, California

Guest lecture – 98 - 2010 CCAI roundtable

International Association of Arson Investigators, Olympia Washington

Guest Lecture - September 97 - IAAI conference of Washington Fire Investigators

Certified by the California Bar Association for Continued Education - 1996

Instructor for MCLE credits on the “Dynamics of Fire Investigation”

38th RIMS (Risk & Insurance Management Society) Annual Conference -2000

Guest Lecture

34th Annual National Marine Conference West - 2002, National Association of Marine Surveyors Inc., Guest Lecture

Annual Conference – International Association of Marine Investigators - Galveston Texas 2010, - Guest Speaker and live burns – 8 hours of “Introduction to Fire Investigations in Marine Vessels”

California Conference of Arson Investigators – Monterey Roundtable, Monterey, CA 2013, - Guest Speaker – 8 hours of “Introduction to Fire Investigations in Marine Vessels”

Co-Author “Users Manual for NFPA 921” – Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations 2003

IAAI Development Committee - Published by National Fire Protection Association

Co-Author – 2008 Edition - “Scientific Evidence in California Criminal Cases” - Chapter 12, Origin & Cause of Fire. A two-volume document for the benefit of practicing lawyers produced by the California Education Bar.

Marine/Vessel Fire Experience:

US Navy (1961 to 1965) - Served on USS Patrick Henry SSBN 599 (submarine, ballistic, nuclear) and USS Tigrone SS419 - WWII fleet submarine - Missile Launch Technician and Torpedoman. Developed an understanding of ships, and working knowledge of propulsion systems, and equipment used.

US Coast Guard (1980 to 1990) – Reserves - Marine Casualty Investigator - Assigned to MSO San Francisco - Coast Guard Investigations at Coast Guard Island, Alameda, CA. - Conducted numerous investigations in the maritime field with responsibilities including the investigations in the grounding, collisions, sinking of vessels, and vessel fires.

Major Vessel Investigations:

Investigation of the “Puerto Rican”, a tanker which caught fire off the San Francisco coast and sank. The vessel bow and a tank were towed into San Francisco bay for examination. Mr. Perkins was assigned to the Marine Board of Inquiry for the loss and provided information as to possible causes as well as research on the vessel. The research was conducted by diving down to the remains of the vessel, collecting evidence and photographing damage from underwater.

The “Honda Blue Hawk” was carrying hundreds of new 1986 Honda’s, when it caught fire off the coast of California. After its extinguishment it was towed into San Francisco bay where Mr. Perkins examined the vessel and participated in the investigation for the Coast Guard. Since the fire occurred in International waters and the ship was registered in Japan, no formal report was provided.

An explosion and fire on the USS Hess, located at the AAA Naval Shipyard in San Francisco, resulted in a fatality. Mr. Perkins was involved directly with the investigation to determine origin and cause of the explosion.

In 2012, Mr. Perkins conducted the investigation of an explosion and fire on the M/V Jupiter, a large container vessel, with a fire and explosion in the engine room, with injuries at sea. The vessel was examined for origin and cause of the incident with a successful conclusion in the port of Mazatlan, Mexico.

Mr. Perkins has provided expert witness information for the federal government and the US Attorney General’s office in San Diego on a suspected fire and sinking of a vessel suspected of carrying narcotics.

As a private investigator with Fire Cause Analysis, Mr. Perkins has investigated dozens of fires of all types of vessels, including large sailboats, yachts, pleasure craft, fishing vessels and commercial vessels, including the “Argo Commodore” from the San Francisco “Red & White” fleet and the “Alaska Spirit”, a large commercial fish processing vessel out of Seward, Alaska. He is a member of the International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI).

Mr. Perkins is also a certified NAUI Scuba Diver and a qualified Navy diver, which has been useful in conducting investigations and photographing underwater.

Major Fire Investigation Experience:

Mr. Perkins has investigated numerous large loss fires and explosions in a variety of commercial and industrial buildings. The following list provides a sample of the variety of fire investigations he has personally been involved in:

Christian Brothers Winery Fire / Explosion, Parlier, CA
MBA Polymers – Industrial – Dust explosion - Richmond, CA
Andros Fire – Manufacturing – Berkeley, CA
Interstate Bank Building – Hi-Rise - Commercial Office - Honolulu, Hawaii
Liz Claiborne Factory – Garment Manufacturing – Colombo, Sri Lanka
Subaru Observatory – Keck Observatory - Mauna Kai – Hilo, Hawaii
North Star – Ski Resort - Restaurant - Truckee, CA
Kirkwood Ski Resort – Power plant – Kirkwood, CA
Crescent City Pier – Pier Fire – Crescent City, CA
Santa Barbara Pier – Pier Fire – Santa Barbara, CA
Moro Bay Pier - Pier Fire – Moro Bay, CA
San Francisco Pier – Pier Fire, San Francisco, CA
Gold Strike Casino – Hotel & Casino – Boulder City, Nevada
El Dorado Hotel and Casino – Reno, Nevada
KFX - Industrial Coal Processing Facility – Gillett, Wyoming
NUMI Motors – Tank Farm – Fremont, CA
San Francisco Opera House – Opera House – San Francisco, CA
1330 Broadway – Hotel – Oakland, CA
Yaser Store Fire – Retail -Sunnyside, WA
Alaska Spirit – 280’ Fishing Vessel – Seward, Alaska - Estimated loss in excess of \$140 million (US)
M/V Blue Hawk – Vehicle Transport ship, San Francisco, CA
M/V Puerto Rican – explosion/fire on Tanker – San Francisco, CA
M/V Jupiter – explosion / fire on Container Vessel – Mazatlan, Mexico
USS Hess – explosion – AAA Shipyard, San Francisco, CA
MI Baur’ – 92’ motor yacht – La Paz, Mexico
Fregosi Paint – Industrial – San Francisco, CA
Rough & Ready - Wildland – Rough & Ready, CA
Poe Fire – Wildland – Butte County, CA
Galvin Fire – Wildland – Fallbrook, CA
49er Fire – Wildland – Auburn, CA

Caughlin Fire – Wildland – Reno, NV
Washoe Fire – Wildland – Reno, NV
Coast Sausage Fire – Industrial - Arson – Oakland, CA
Tran Market Fire – Retail Strip Mall – Arson - Stockton, CA
Mountain Cold Storage – Refrigeration cold storage – Washington
Kamps Propane – Propane Incident – Lodi, CA
University of California – Explosion / Fire, Irvine, CA
University of California – Fire, Santa Cruz, CA
University of Honolulu – Fire – Honolulu, HI
Placer County Water Treatment Facility – Newcastle CA
Hampton Hotel / Cannery Fire – San Francisco, CA
Orthodox Church - Church - Los Altos, CA
Friar Tucks - Restaurant - Commercial - Nevada City, CA
Union Pacific Railroad – Rail Car - Wyoming
Amtrak - Dining car - Washington, DC
Amtrak – Rail car – New Orleans, LA
Amtrak – Dorm Car – Chicago, Ill
Amtrak – Coach / Collision & Fire – Fallon, NV
Santana Row – Retail / Dwelling – San Jose, CA
Forsgren Shopping Center – American Samoa
Liz Claiborne - Garment Factory – Sri Lanka
Redwood Valley Business Park – Industrial - Redwood Valley, CA
Sears – Department Store – Mexico City, Mexico
Blyth Inc. – Manufacturing – Monterey, Mexico
9ines – 9-story high rise – Omaha, Nebraska
Makiki St. Condo’s – 11- story high rise – Honolulu, HI
Wines Central – Warehouse – Vallejo, CA
Oakstone Winery Fire – Fair Play, CA
Prometheus Real Estate – 4-story condo –total loss – Santa Clara, CA
Universal Studio Fire – Los Angeles, CA
North Star Foods – Food processing plant - St. Charles, MN
Galleria Fire – Shopping Center – Roseville, CA
Natural Gas Explosion and Fire – San Bruno, CA
“Promise Keepers” Business Building Fire, Denver, CO
Co-Generation Plant Fire – Milpitas, CA
“Tuesday Morning” Commercial Fire - Citrus Heights, CA
Baja Wood – Manufacturing Plant Fire -Playas de Rosarito, Baja, Mexico
Oakstone Winery Fire – Fair Play, CA
National Cement Company – Fire – Kern County, CA

Professional Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – 1978 to present
California Conference of Arson Investigators – 1978 to present
International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI) – 2007 to present
National Fire Protection Association – 1978 to present

National Association of Fire Investigators – Certified CFI (Past Member)
IAAI – CFI Certification Committee Chairmen – Past member
California Conference of Arson Investigators – Past Training Committee Member
Santa Clara County Arson Task Force - Past President and Training Officer
Central Coast Claims Association – Past President-member
California Arson Prevention Committee - Past Chairman
San Mateo County Arson Task Force – Past Associate Member
Society of Fire Protection Engineers - Associate Member - member
International Association of Firefighters - Past member
Fire Marshals Association of North America
Sacramento Claims Association
Northern California Fraud Investigators Association
California Association of Licensed Investigators (CALI) - 1980 to 2010

D Perkins 8/2014