

# Fire Cause Analysis

**SCOTT D. ALBER, P.E., M.E., F.P.E.**

## **EXPERIENCE**

**County of Marin Fire Department, Woodacre, CA – 2002 to Present**  
Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal

Responsible for coordinating the fire department's reviews of access, vegetation management, and fire protection water supplies for all prospective land development projects in the county's jurisdiction, as well as plan reviews for fire suppression and fire alarm systems. Conduct fire safety inspections of businesses, schools, assembly, hotel/apartment, hazardous, and storage occupancies. Serve as lead fire investigator for the County of Marin Fire Department, and as a team leader of the Marin County Fire Investigation Team. Duties also include representing the fire department on various county and citizen committees, public education, and supervising the county's vegetation management/mitigation program. Responsibilities also include coordinating the department's engine company inspection programs, and for code and standard development.

**City of Sausalito Fire Department, Sausalito, CA-1999 to 2002**  
Fire Prevention Officer

Performed sprinkler, fire alarm, and architectural plan reviews of all new construction and remodels within the city. Conducted fire safety inspections of businesses, schools, manufacturing, assembly, hotel/apartment, hazardous, and storage occupancies. Served as lead fire investigator for the city, and as a team leader of the Marin County Fire Investigation Team. Duties also include representing the fire department on the city's disaster preparedness committee, public education, and supervising the city's vegetation management program. Also was responsible for coordinating the department's engine company and business self-inspection programs, and for code and standard development.

**Rolf Jensen & Associates, Inc., Walnut Creek, CA - 1995 to 1999**  
Project Manager/Consulting Engineer

Performed building and fire code analysis, life safety system design and testing, computer fire modeling, and due diligence surveys on a variety of occupancies including hospitals, high-rise hotels and office buildings, condominium and apartment complexes, convention centers, rack storage warehouses, and malls. Duties included conducting life safety plan and drawing reviews, expert witness testimony, accessibility consulting, alternate materials/means of protection requests,

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scheduling, cost estimating, and coordinating cross-functional personnel over the course of many high profile domestic and international projects. Responsible for design of life safety systems, including high-rise and atrium smoke control/HVAC systems, exiting analysis, negotiating with the authorities having jurisdiction, and code interpretation/analysis of domestic model codes and standards, as well as international codes.

**IFT, Inc. (Fire Cause Analysis), Berkeley, CA - 1991 to Present**

Technical Services Manager/Staff Engineer (1991-94); Consulting Engineer (1994-Present)

Perform mechanical and fire protection engineering analysis of a wide variety of systems and products involved in industrial/personal injury accidents and fire related failures, fire and building code analysis, fire cause and origin investigations, sprinkler and HVAC plan reviews, fire modeling and hazard analysis, and testing of alarm systems and ignition scenarios.

**Lockheed Missiles and Space Co., Sunnyvale, CA - 1987 to 1991**

Structural Test Engineer, Environmental and Structural Test Laboratory- 1989 to 1991

Planned and conducted structural and proof load tests on a variety of satellite and rocket components and systems. Duties included designing test stands and reaction structures using finite element analysis methods, and instrumentation and data acquisition systems.

**Lockheed Missiles and Space Co., Sunnyvale, CA - 1987 to 1991 (continued)**

Research Engineer/Shift Supervisor, Environmental Test - 1987 to 1989

Responsibilities included the supervision of the Thermal-Vacuum Laboratory swing shift personnel in the set-up and performance of thermal-vacuum tests on missile and satellite components.

**General Dynamics/Convair Division, San Diego, CA - 1985 to 1987**

Test Engineer, Environmental Test Laboratory

Planned and designed test apparatus, fixtures, and instrumentation in order to conduct vibration, shock, high energy acoustic, and temperature testing on high-profile systems such as the Tomahawk Cruise Missile, Space Shuttle, and the Atlas and Centaur Rockets.

**EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS**

B. S. Mechanical Engineering, San Diego State University, 1985

Registered Professional Mechanical Engineer, License M26554 (CA), M12827 (NV)  
Registered Professional Fire Protection Engineer, License FP 1370  
Chief Fire Officer Designation-Center for Public Safety Excellence  
Licensed Private Investigator, PI 18811  
ICC certification as a Building Plans Examiner, Building and Fire Inspector II

A wide variety of continuing education technical short courses and seminars and State Fire Marshal classes.

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

International Society of Fire Protection Engineers (Professional Member)  
Institution of Fire Engineers (Member Grade)  
National Fire Protection Association  
California Fire Chiefs Association, Fire Prevention Officers Section (Co-Chair, Fire Code Committee, 2002 to 2005; Executive Board Member 2005 to 2010)  
International Code Council (voting Government Member)  
California Conference of Arson Investigators

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