

HAL C. LYSON, CFI

Area of Specialization

Fire Investigation/Litigation Consulting

Background and Professional Experience

Mr. Lyson is an expert in Fire Investigation/Litigation Consulting relating to fire, explosions, industrial incidents and codes. He serves in the capacity of Director of Fire Investigations for Fire Cause Analysis.

Until joining forces with Fire Cause Analysis in May, 2006, Mr. Lyson served as the Chief Investigator for the law firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi and was responsible for conducting and supervising all aspects of investigations from the inception of an assignment to the completion of trial or settlement. Previously, Hal worked for the Bismarck Fire Department where he was responsible for origin and cause investigations. He also oversaw fire company inspections of commercial occupancies and follow-up on noncompliance; inspection of high risk properties; plan review and inspection of new fire protection/suppression systems and inspection of construction of high risk properties.

Hal Lyson is an active member of the IAAI and the National Fire Protection Association, Industrial Fire Protection Section, including NFPA standards committees:

- Principle member on NFPA 921 “Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations” that developed the first Fire and Explosion Investigation Manual (NFPA 921). Committee member since prior to first edition, 1992, through the 2014 edition.
- Alternate Principal member on National Fire Protection Committee 1033 - “Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigators” (NFPA 1033).
- Director of Development for the User’s Manual for NFPA 921 (published by NFPA and supported by IAAI). Co-director of second edition of the “User’s Manual for NFPA 921”.
- Contributing Author “Fire Investigator, Principles and Practice to NFPA 921 and 1033”

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Selected Major Loss Involvement

- Federal Mogul Warehouse, 2004
- NE Electric Power Outage, 2003
- River Cities Business Park Fire, Davenport, Iowa, 2001
- Ford/Rouge Power Plant Explosion, Dearborn, Michigan, 1999
- Malette OSB Fire, Timmons, Ontario, Canada, 1997
- Terra Explosion, Sioux City, Iowa, 1994
- Americold Mine Fire, Kansas City, Kansas, 1991
- ARCO Fire & Explosion, Channelview, Texas, 1990
- TRW Explosion, Mesa, Arizona, 1989
- Illinois Bell Fire, Hinsdale, Illinois, 1988
- Pepcon Explosion and Fire, Henderson, Nevada, 1988
- American Brass, Buffalo, New York, 1986 and 1987

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Fire Protection Association, Industrial Fire Protection Section; Former Member of the Membership Advisory Council, active member on Standards Committees 921 and 1033.

Director of Development for the User's Manual for NFPA 921 (published by NFPA), coauthor of second edition of the same

Contributing Author for three editions of "Fire Investigator, Principles and Practice to NFPA 921 and 1033

Paper "Power Loss" published NFPA Journal, 2004 (Ford Rouge explosion)

Associate Editor for Inter Fire and its web page

Life Member of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), also Recognition Award and Award of Appreciation recipient

Honorary Life Member of the Minnesota Chapter of the IAAI, also Recognition Award recipient

Member of the North Dakota and Arizona Chapters of the IAAI

IAAI - Past Chair of Certified Fire Investigator Certification Committee, Former Training and Education Committee Member, FISK, Director of training material development CFST

Member of the New York State Academy Student Faculty Association

North Dakota Fire Prevention Association - Past President;

North Dakota Insurance Advisory Task Force - Past Member

North Dakota Fire Prevention Task Force - Past Member, Past President

Bismarck Safety Council - Past Member, Past President

EXPERIENCE

01/2006 -Present Consultant relating to fire, explosions, industrial incidents and codes.

06/86 – 01/2006 Chief Investigator: Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi,
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2015

05/74 -06/86: Investigator/Inspector, Shift Lieutenant, Fire Fighter First Class:
Bismarck Fire Department
Bismarck, North Dakota

EDUCATION

SPECIALIZED TRAINING:

Certified Fire Investigator (#16024)

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY COURSE

- Fire/Arson Investigation, 120 hour course - July, 1985
- Building Construction II - February, 1984
- Train the Trainer Workshop - August, 1983(Fire Prevention I and Instructional Techniques for Company Officers)
- Conducting Basic Fire Inspection - October, 1983
- Building Construction I - February, 1983
- Fire Prevention Specialist II - January, 1982
- Fire Arson/Detection - September, 1981

Correspondence Courses - University of Cincinnati

- Fire Protection and System Design, Political and Legal Foundations of the Fire Services, Fire Tactics, Advanced Fire Administration, Fire Determination Strategies,

Took Several "CFI Trainer.net" courses

IAAI Annual Seminars - 1986 through 1990, 1992, 1994 through 2006, 2008, 2010

Minnesota IAAI - Investigation Conference 1989, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1996 through 2005, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015 (Speaker at several)

Several ND IAAI Conferences (Speaker at some)

Arizona IAAI Conference 2006 - 2009

Gas and Electrical Appliance Fires, 2004

ATF "Arson for Profit" School, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center- August, 1988

NFPA Conference - 1989, 1991 and 1994

Photographing Forensic Evidence - Rochester Institute of Technology - October, 1987

Hazardous Material Technician Certification, yearly recertifications

Ground Water Pollution - April, 1987

Fire Research and Development, Norwood, Massachusetts, 1993

North Dakota Law Enforcement Academy - Investigation - May, 1986

Electrical Fire Investigation, South Dakota State University - May, 1985

Arson and Bomb Seminar - ATF - May, 1984

Industry/Business Emergency Planning, North Dakota Safety Council - October, 1981

Advanced Arson Investigation Seminar, Denver Fire Department - January, 1981

North Dakota Fire Prevention Seminars - 1979 to 1985

Explosive Investigation School - ATF - September, 1979

Life Safety and Building Code course - Oklahoma State University - September, 1979

Thousands of hours of in-service training including 1st Class Fireman and Journeyman Fireman training through the Bismarck Fire Department.

Numerous seminars relating to investigations, electrical, building and fire codes, and fire prevention.

Completion of the Master Conservation course through North American School of Conservation (Master Certificate) - May 1973.

Graduate of Bismarck High School, 1971.

SPEAKING & OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

Speaker many times on NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921 including; MNIAAI (latest in 2012), FCA, CCAI (latest 2011), NDIAAI (latest 2015), IAAI, Oakland Co. MI Fire and Arson Investigators (2012), and at Coon Rapids Fire Department

Fire Loss and the Claims Adjustor, Live Burn, Mandan ND, October 2014

North Dakota April 2013 Fuel Limited / Ventilation Limited Fires

Phoenix Fire Training Center 2012, speaker on NFPA 921, Live Burn

Speaker Vehicle Fire Investigations Phoenix Fire Department February 2009, Live Burn

Speaker NFPA 921 Roseville FD, CA July 2009, Live Burn

Speaker AZ IAAI "Analyzing Burn Patterns" July 2009

Speaker Combined Claims Conference March 2009

Speaker on NFPA 921 for the Arizona Chapter of the IAAI November 2008

Speaker on NFPA 921 for the California Conference of Arson Investigators November 2008

Speaker on NFPA 921 and 2008 updates, Scottsdale Fire Department Training Center, June 2008

Speaker for NFPA 921 perils and 2008 update, Central Net Training Center, Huntington Beach, CA, October 2008

Instructor for the Arizona International Ass of Arson Investigators, Arson IV, 2008

Speaker for the Arizona International Association of Arson Investigators Arson II class, 2007.

Provide the IAAI Expert Testimony Course, the latest course being held August 2007 - 2008 in Tucson, AZ.

Speaker at International Association of Arson Investigators Conferences

Speaker at several Minnesota International Association of Arson Investigators Conferences

Speaker at the Propane Gas Defense Association, November 2004

Speaker at the North Dakota IAAI seminar 2004

Speaker at National Association of Subrogation Professionals 2001 Conference

Speaker at Washington State IAAI Fire Investigation Testimony Course - 2001

Speaker at Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association meetings

Speaker at the Iowa International Association of Arson Investigators Seminar - 1998

Develop training material for the International Association of Arson Investigators (principle author of NFPA 921 Study Guide, CFI Program, Testimony Course)

Develop training material for the National Fire Academy (Arson Awareness and Interview/Testimony Course)

Instructor of Minnesota International Association of Arson Investigators and the International Association of Arson Investigators at various quarterly and annual seminars and conferences (Fire Investigation, Testimony Course, NFPA 921, CFI, participated on various other panels)

Interview Panel for City of St. Paul, Minnesota, for Investigator Applicants

Provided Training for the Minnesota Fire Marshal's Office

Speaker at the North Dakota Fire Marshals' Seminar - 1998

Speaker at the New York State Fire Academy Seminar - 1997

Speaker at the NFPA 921 Seminar - 1997

Speaker at the Wisconsin International Association of Arson Investigators Conference - 1995, 2003

Speaker at the Illinois International Association of Arson Investigators Conference - 1994

Speaker at the International Association of Special Investigation Units Annual Seminar - 1994

Instructor for the Investigator Testimony Course - 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001

Author of "Fire Investigation Supplement to the Property Insurance Handbook" for the Illinois Institute for Legal Education

Instructor at the Minnesota Institute of Legal Education

Member of National Fire Protection Association

Past Member of the International Conference of Building Official and International Code Council

Participated in National Symposium on Arson Prevention and Control - 1995

Co-developed Bismarck, North Dakota, Arson Task Force

Developed training programs for North Dakota's Firemen Association

Instrumental in reactivating the North Dakota State's Attorney Inquiry

Assisted in developing North Dakota Insurance Advisory Committee's Arson for Reward Program

Journeyman Firefighter, First Class Firefighter, Lieutenant, and Inspector/Investigator

Developed an inspection program for the Bismarck Fire Department

Developed a fire prevention and training program for Bismarck Fire Department

Assisted Fire Chiefs in North Dakota in developing Fire/Arson Task Forces

Numerous presentations to North Dakota Fire Chief's Association, North Dakota Firemen, Bismarck Firemen, several community organizations and businesses on such topics as Fire Investigation, Fire Prevention, Fire Suppression, and Alarm Systems

Developed and implemented "Bismarck Partnership Against Fire"

TRIAL & DEPOSITION TESTOMY (last 4 years)

Superior Court of the State of Arizona, County of Mohave; Mohave Electric Cooperative, Inc. v. Jerry Martin and Jane Doe Martin; case number CV2006-0548; testified at deposition December 4, 2007

Superior Court of the State of Arizona, County of Maricopa; Homesite Indemnity Company vs. Meritage Homes of Arizona; Austin Electric; Rural Metro Corporation; and Does 1 through 30; No. CV2007-012799; testified at deposition April 16, 2009

State of Illinois in the Circuit Court of the 17th Judicial Circuit Winnebago County, Patricia Combs vs. Gary and Cynthia Schmidt and Pekin Insurance Company, and American Home Shield, deposition July 2010

Felix Kyei Asare, Pltf. vs. Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. Inc., Dft. *Name discrepancy noted.* Barnes County Small Claims Court, ND Case # 022013SC00008: Testified at trial April 2013

Page Meadows, LLC et al v. Thomas Olson, et al; Case No.: in District Court, Cass County, North Dakota; case No. 09-2014-CV-01552 deposition December, 2015