

Curriculum Vitae

Andrew Berasley, CFEI, CVFI, IAAI-FIT(V)

Current Position

Fire Cause Analysis

2008 – Present

Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator – Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator - Automotive Forensic Specialist - Fire Investigation Technician - Evidence Technician

Duties and Responsibilities

Mr. Berasley is a Partner at Fire Cause Analysis (FCA) and a Certified Fire Investigator/Automotive Forensic Specialist. His years of experience include owning and operating his own auto repair facilities & collision company where he was directly responsible for mechanical issues on vehicles, trucks and heavy equipment. He works with law firms and the insurance industry, providing additional services in all fire related disciplines including Fire Testing and Auto Related Mechanical & Electrical Studies.

Mr. Berasley has conducted over 6,000 hours of investigations for Fire Cause Analysis. In addition, Mr. Berasley has given deposition and trial testimony in both civil and criminal cases. Mr. Berasley has also conducted numerous presentations, training and live burns related to vehicle fire investigations, including an eight hour training course requested by the US Dept. of Transportation & the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in Washington, DC.

Mr. Berasley is responsible for all aspects of evidence recovery, handling, storage, and documentation, including supervising collection and evidence chain of possession in FCA's facilities nationwide.

Large Loss Evidence Collection Experience

- Safeway Distribution Center Substation Fire - Transformers, main switch gear, 115 KV equipment cabinets
- Fortistar Power Generation Facility Fire
- Intermodal containers and vehicles
- Passenger trains

- Numerous apartment complex and high rise building fires
- Multiple large commercial buildings: Westfield Mall, restaurants, warehouse/storage facilities, grocery store (refrigeration units)
- Multi-million dollar houses

Employment History

Fire Cause Analysis – Automotive Forensic Specialist – Vehicle Fire Investigator - Fire Investigation Technician - Evidence Technician and Evidence Warehouse Supervisor
2008 – Present

Champion Security, Investigation and Management

1998 – 2007 Owner / Operator

A & A Autoworks BAR# 165611

1991 – 2007 Owner / Operator

Security Resources International PPO# PA001697

1984 – 2007 Co-Owner / Operator

C & S Autoworks

1984 – 1992 Owner / Operator

Vocational Certificates

CCAI Vehicle Fire Investigation 4/2009

IAAI Forensic Evidence Collection and Processing (A.Z. Chapter) 4/2010

Farm Machinery Fires 05/2010

Fire Investigation 1 B 11/2010

Fire Investigation 1 A 12/2010

Fire Investigation 2 A 01/2011

Fire Investigation 2 B 02/2011

CCAI Advanced Fire & Arson Investigation March 2012

IAAI Ethics & the Fire Investigator July 2012

IAAI Test for Fire Investigation Technician (F.I.T.) – August 2021

IAAI Fire Investigation Technician August 2013

CCAI - ATF Getting the Most Out of Your Fire Scene 10/28/2013

Wildland Fire Pattern Recognition Workshop 7/30/2013

RGA 1 – Certificate of Completion – Fire Scene Awareness Training – June 2013

Anatomy of a Wrongful Arson Conviction – 3/24/2014

Crime Scene Investigation at Fire Scenes - 4/7/2014

Fire Scene Awareness Training: Asbestos, Lead, and Toxins 6/25/2013

Fire Scene Awareness Training: Asbestos, Lead, and Toxins 6/30/2014

Fire Scene Awareness Training: Asbestos, Lead, and Toxins 6/08/2015

Fire Scene Awareness Training: Asbestos, Lead, and Toxins 8/23/2016

Fire Scene Awareness Training: Asbestos, Lead, and Toxins 8/30/2017

Fire Scene Awareness Training: Asbestos, Lead, and Toxins 8/21/2018
Forensic Photography 04/15/2015
Fire Investigation 2 B Vehicle 05/2015
Fork Lift, Bobcat and Backhoe Certified
X-ray Certified
NAFI - Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator – 3/11/21
NAFI – Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator – 3/11/21
MAST – Ignition, Self-Heating & Spontaneous Combustion – 6 Hr. Training – 3/8/16
(NFPA 1033 1.3.7 (1)-(5), (8)-(12))
IAAI - FIT (V) Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator - (8 Hr Tested) – 12/15/17
IAAI – Motor Vehicle Fire Investigations – 3 Day – (24 Hr Tested) – 1/29/19

Presentations/Training

WSATI Annual Training Seminar –“Vehicle Arson Investigation- Don’t Get Burned!”– San Diego– Oct 2019

Geico SIU Conference – “Vehicle Arson Investigations–Don’t Get Burned” – May 2019

AFA 30th Annual Conference – Vehicle Arson Investigations Presentation – April 2019

US Dept. of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in Washington, DC – “Vehicle Fire Investigations” - 8 Hr. Training Course - Dec. 2018

SCFIA Conference – Vehicle Fire Investigations Presentation – Oct. 2018

IAAI Hawaii Chapter – Vehicle Fire Investigation Workshop/Live Burn – Aug. 2018

Burn & Learn – “Vehicle Fires and Theft Investigations” Presentation – Jan 2018

WSATI Annual Training Seminar – Vehicle Fires Presentation/Live Burn – Oct 2017

National General Insurance Training – Vehicle Fire Investigations Presentation – Jan 2017

East Bay Adjusters Claims Assoc. -“San Mateo Bridge Limo Fire Case Study”–June 2015

Milpitas Fire Dept. – Vehicle Fire Investigation Workshop & Live Burn – Aug. 2015

WSATI Annual Training Seminar –“Vehicle Arson Investigation”– S. Lake Tahoe – Oct 2015

Chabot Community College Fire Protections Systems Class– Co-Presented with Dennis Field
“San Mateo Bridge Limo Fire” & “Identifying Arced Wires” - March 2016

Vocational Training

Police Cadet City of Santa Clara 1974 – 1977
Basic Reserve Police Academy 1982 – 1983

Certified operator and inspector light gas pipe lines and meters from 1999 to Current
Certification from AT&T pole climbing, voice over IP and vehicle operation from
2006 to current
Actively participated in 14 structure burn exercises/classes and 11 vehicle burn exercises/classes
from 2008 to present

Memberships:

International Association of Arson Investigators – Member since Sept. 2010
National Association of Fire Investigators – Member since 2015
Western States Auto Theft Investigators (WSATI) N. Chapter – Member since 2016

Depositions

- Walker vs. Bullock Superior Court of Santa Clara County (Civil Deposition)
- Chaboya Ranch vs. Precision Printing Superior Court of Santa Clara County (Civil Deposition)
- CSAA Insurance Exchange vs. Kirkwood Meadows Public Utilities District (Civil Deposition) 1-29-19

Testimony Experience

- County of Santa Clara vs. Joe Rocha (Criminal)
- County of Santa Clara vs. Todd Ridnour (Criminal)
- County of Santa Clara / Foothill Apartments vs. William Schmidt (Criminal)
- State Farm General Insurance Co. vs. Alma Cruz
Superior Court of California – Case #SCV254109 Trial Testimony – Feb. 5, 2016
- HDI Global Ins. Co. vs. George Tristao & TRIT Properties, LLC - Case #273384) -
Fresno Ca. - March 7, 2019

A. Berasley CV 10-2019