

CURRICULUM VITAE BRETT SUTHERLAND, CFI

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION:

Fire Investigation- Training- Incident Management

Background and Professional Experience:

Brett Sutherland holds the position of Truck Captain for a leading fire department in Southern California and is a Certified Fire Investigator with Fire Cause Analysis. He has worked in the Fire Service for 20 years, serving in various capacities. He is a member of the Newport Beach Fire Department cadre of instructors for new recruits. He instructs recruits on fire behavior and is a lead instructor for Flashover training. Additionally, he instructs on hose and ladder training. For the past 11 years Captain Sutherland has been the lead Fire Suppression instructor for the Newport Beach Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). He also is an instructor for Newport Beach Fire Explorer program in which he instructs on Engine Company operations and fire attack.

Mr. Sutherland has been on numerous Campaign Fires in California working as an Engine Captain. Throughout his career he has responded to over 300 fires and has been the assigned investigator for over 100 fires. He has also assisted on 100 investigations throughout his career in the fire service. As lead investigator he has conducted over 250 fire investigations.

Mr. Sutherland specializes in fire behavior. He has attended FDIC in Indianapolis and is certified in the Swede Fire Survival system. Throughout his years of instruction, Mr. Sutherland has performed numerous live burns and taught on fire behavior and dynamics. He is a CSFM certified Company Officer and Fire Investigator. He is currently a member of the IAAI and CCAI and is also a member of the Orange County Arson Task Force.

PRESENT STATUS:

Newport Beach Fire Department – Fire-Arson Investigator
Fire Cause Analysis – Fire Investigator

EDUCATION:

Humboldt State University
B.A. History

1995

Santa Ana College
A.S. Fire Science

1997

Rio Hondo
Firefighter I Academy

1997

EXPERIENCE:

Fire Cause Analysis
Fire Investigator

2014-Present

Newport Beach Fire Department
Fire-Arson Investigator

2010-Present

Newport Beach Fire Department
Fire Captain

2005-Present

Newport Beach Fire Department
Fire Engineer

2001-2005

Newport Beach Fire Department
Firefighter

1999-2001

Newport Beach Fire Academy Instructor (7 years)
CERT – Fire Suppression Instructor (10 years)
NBFD Live Fire and Flashover Instructor Lead (5 years)
NBFD Fire Explorer Instructor (3 years)

COURSES AND SEMINARS

National Fire Academy

Fire-Arson Origin and Cause Investigation

May 2013

The course is designed to meet or exceed the applicable sections of NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator. This course also provides consistent methods and approaches to investigations per NFPA 921, Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations. (80 Hours)

Rio Hondo College

Fire Investigation 2B – Field Case Studies

April 2011

This course provides advanced instruction in fire scene investigation, case preparation, and courtroom presentation. (40 Hours)

Rio Hondo College

Fire Investigation 2A – Criminal and Legal Procedures

March 2011

This course provides information on conducting a fire investigation, preparing a search warrant, testifying as an expert witness, and properly documenting a criminally caused fire. (40 Hours)

Santa Ana College

Fire Investigation 1B – Techniques of Fire Investigation

November 2010

This course provides a deeper understanding of fire investigation with topics discussing the juvenile fire setter, report writing, evidence preservation and collection, interview techniques, motives, and fire fatalities. (40 Hours)

Riverside County Sherriff's Department

P.C. 832 Arrest, Search and Seizure

May 2011

Course covers topics such as Criminal Justice, Leadership, Professionalism and ethics, cultural diversity, community relations, laws of arrest, investigative report writing, and arrest methods and defensive tactics. (40 hours)

Santa Ana College

Fire Investigation 1A – Fire Origin and Cause Determination

November 2005

The course focus is providing information on fire scene indicators and fire origin determination. (40 Hours)

CSFM Certifications

Command 1A, 1B

Fire Investigation 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B

Fire Prevention 1A, 1B

Fire Management 1

ICS 200

ICS 300

Fire Instructor 1A, 1B

Driver Operator 1A, 1B

IAAI Certification

Fire Investigator Technician – IAAI-FIT

CFI Certification

National Wildfire Coordinating Group Certifications

S215, S230, S231, S290

CERTIFICATIONS

CFI Fire Investigator

2017

CSFM Fire Investigator I

2012

CSFM Company Office

2005

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

EMT, CPR, RS-1/ RS-2

MEMBERSHIPS

International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)

California Conference of Arson Investigators (CCAI) (CFI)