



## CURRICULUM VITAE

### DENNIS E. FIELD, IAAI-CFI, CFEI, CVFI, CMI

#### Area of Specialization

State Certified Fire, Explosion, Vehicle and Marine Fire Investigator

#### Background and Professional Experience

Mr. Field is President of Fire Cause Analysis. He is also a principal of the firm. In 2005 Mr. Field retired his position as Battalion Chief with the San Bruno Fire Department. Mr. Field has over 30 years of experience in the fire service working in fire suppression as well as in fire prevention. Mr. Field has conducted, supervised, or reviewed over 8000 fire investigations. He has testified as an expert witness in fire investigations in both the civil and criminal court systems throughout California.

Mr. Field has an A.S. degree in Fire Science and a B.A. degree in Social Science. In addition, he is a California State Certified Fire Investigator (Level II) through the California State Fire Marshal's office. He is certified in the following areas: CFI, Certified Fire Investigator, through the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS (IAAI); CFEI, Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator through the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE INVESTIGATORS (NAFI); CVFI, Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator through the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS (IAAI); a CMI, Certified Marine Investigator, through the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MARINE INVESTIGATORS (IAMI). In 2000, Mr. Field was accepted and attended the prestigious Federal Bureau of Investigations Fire /Arson Investigation School at FBI headquarters in Quantico, Virginia. In 2003 he represented his department at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He is a licensed private investigator in California, Arizona, Nevada, Washington & Oregon. He has received over 3000 hours of instruction in the field of fire investigations. Mr. Field was a police officer with the Pacifica Police Department for two years prior to entering the fire service. He is P.O.S.T. certified. His knowledge in the law enforcement sector complements his fire investigation skills, especially in the area of incendiary fires. He served as a member of the San Mateo County Fire Investigation Unit from 1991 thru 2005.

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## **Professional Experience**

### **January 2003 –June 2005**

- **Fire Battalion Chief – Training Chief** - Responsible for supervisory, technical and administrative work within one or more major divisions of the Fire Department. Commander of platoon operations, training division, and fire prevention division. Assumes command of the Department in the absence of the Fire Chief. Develops goals, objectives, policies, budget, public information officer, records and reports, implement comprehensive emergency training programs, conduct fire investigations.

### **January 1994 – January 2003**

**Fire Captain / Interim Fire Battalion Chief** - Responding to fire and medical emergencies with engine, truck, or rescue equipment, conducting shift training and fire prevention activities, planning, organizing, presenting and implementing company inspections, home inspections, weed abatement, fire hazard, citizen complaints and fire investigations.

### **1999**

**Acting Fire Marshal**- plan checking, site inspections, code research, fire safety issues, oversee engine and truck company building inspections, oversee fire prevention related issues. Code enforcement and mitigation of code violations.

### **June 1991 – June 2005**

**San Mateo County Fire Investigation Unit** – Investigation of fires for cause and origin, fire scene photography, collection of evidence, interviewing suspects, written reports, and testifying in court. (1991-2005) Secretary-Treasurer 1995-2000

### **October 1980 – February 1994**

**Firefighter/Acting Fire Captain.** Responding to fire and medical emergencies with engine, truck, or rescue companies, supervising shift personnel, maintaining equipment, conducting shift training and fire prevention activities, planning, organizing, presenting and implementing company inspections, home inspections, weed abatement, fire hazards, citizen complaints, and fire investigation.

### **September 1988 – January 2005**

**Training Advisor** – San Bruno Reserve Firefighter Program. Assist with duties involving reserve firefighter program. Overseeing safety, implementing training techniques, instruction and drilling.

### **1985 – 1987**

**Training Development Committee.** Assist fire chief and staff officers in redefining and modernizing training goals and objectives for firefighters, including research, testing and implementing new training procedures.

**September 1983 – June 2005**

**Public Education Representative.** Planning, organization and implementation of “Learn Not to Burn” program, teach this program at city elementary schools, counsel juvenile fire setters, organization of Junior Fire Marshal program, public information presentations to organizations regarding fire safety and earthquake preparedness, organization of senior citizens’ home safety inspection program.

### **Education and Training**

**Bachelor of Arts Degree, Social Science**  
California State University, San Francisco, 1976

**Associate of Arts Degree, Fire Science**  
College of San Mateo, 1982

**Community College Limited Teaching Credential 1987**

**Peace Officer Standards and Training Academy, Gavilan College, 1979**

Certified State Chief Officer (CA) 2001  
Certified State Fire Officer I (CA) 1987  
Certified State Fire Prevention Officer (CA) 1993  
Certified State Fire Investigator (CFI) Level II (CA) 2002  
Certified National Fire Investigator (CFI, IAAI) #10736, # 22-133 2000  
Certified Fire + Explosion Investigator CFEI, NAFI) #12731 2007  
Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI, NAFI) #12731-6353V 2011  
Certified Marine Investigator, CMI (IAMI) #03377-109, 2012  
Certified State Fire Instructor I (CA) 1993  
Certified State Fire Investigator I (CA) 1993  
Community College Vocational Teaching Credential (CA) 1987  
FBI National Academy, Advanced Arson 2000  
Fire Fighter I (CA) 1986  
Fire Fighter II (CA) 1987  
San Francisco Fire Department Recruit Training 1987  
NFPA-Building Fire Safety Systems Section (member)  
NFPA-Fire Science and Technology Educators Section (member)  
Emergency Medical Technician 1 (Defibrillator) 1981  
Police Officer Standards and Training POST 1979  
Chemical Agents Training 1979  
Law Enforcement Photography 1998  
Evidence Collection and Processing 1979  
Private Investigator-California, PI 15631 1992  
Private Investigator – Arizona, LIC: 1562109 2014

Private Investigator – Nevada LIC R-004673 2002  
Private Investigator- Oregon, PI-ID 51492 2012  
Private Investigator-Washington LIC # 4291, 2016  
Investigator San Mateo County Fire Investigation Unit 1991-2005  
Auto Extrication,  
S.A.F.E.R. Rescue System  
Flammable Liquids School  
American Red Cross, C.P.R. (basic, and community)  
American Red Cross, Lifesaving  
American Red Cross, Water Safety  
American Red Cross, Standard First Aid  
American Red Cross, Advanced First Aid  
American Red Cross, First Responder,  
High-rise Firefighting  
Professional Association of Underwater Instructors  
National Association of Underwater Instructors  
Fire Fighter Fitness Testing Seminar  
Wildland Firefighting-Safety and Attack 2004  
Waterous Fire Pump Instructional Workshop  
Firefighting Tactics  
Fire Hydraulics  
Rescue Practices  
Heavy Rescue  
Fire Management  
Building Construction / Fire Protection Hazardous Materials

### **Professional Affiliations**

California Conference of Arson Investigators (CCAI) member since 1991  
International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) CFI # 10736 2005, # 22-133 2013  
National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) #12731  
International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI) CFI #03377  
San Mateo County Fire Investigation Team – (retired)  
American Red Cross  
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) #2087010  
Northern California Training Officers Association  
Northern California Fire Prevention Officers Association  
California State Firefighters Association (CSFA)  
Western Regional Master Builders Association  
Western Lath, Plaster, Drywall Association  
Civil Defense-San Mateo County Operational Area  
Contractor’s License, C-35, State of California, #457982  
Private Investigator’s License, State of California, #15631  
National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications  
SAMS, (Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors) affiliate  
ABYC, American Boat and Yacht Council

Total fires investigated within career: 5000+  
Private Sector: 1992 to present = 3200+

Public Sector: 1979 to 2005 = 1800+

Work Distribution: (approximate) 75% structure  
12% vehicle/vessel/railroad  
2% wildland/grass and brush  
11% miscellaneous

Assigned and participated as county fire investigator in conjunction with ATF National Fire Investigation Response Team, Western Region, representing San Mateo County in multi-million dollar incendiary and/or fire losses.

**2010 - Instructor, IAMI, Training Seminar, Galveston Texas, Marine Fire Investigation**  
**2011 - Instructor, Wildland Litigation Conference, San Diego CA, Railroad Fires**  
**2011- Instructor, CCAI, Marine Fire Investigations, Sausalito CA**  
**2011- Instructor, CCAI, Marine Fire Investigations, West Sacramento, CA**  
**2013 – Instructor, CCAI, Marine Fire Investigations, Moss Landing, CA,**  
**2013–NFPA 1033 Technical Committee on Fire Investigator Professional Qualifications (PQU-FIV) alternate committee Member**  
**2014 - IAMI Board Approved "Subject Matter Expert" - IAMI CMI Instructor Program**  
**2014- Key Developer-San Francisco Fire Department Fire Investigator H-6 examination,**  
**2015-Guest Speaker, East Bay Claims Association, 5 FATALITY LIMOSINE FIRE**  
**2015-IAMI FIRE INVESTIGATOR POCKET GUIDE, REVISION COMMITTEE**  
**2015-Published Article, REKINDLE, Cal. Conf. Arson Investigators, Sept. 2015**  
**2016-Instructor, SF Marine Claims Association, FCA, Vessel Fire Investigations**  
**2016-Instructor, IAAI, Annual Training Conference, Orlando, Fla. Marine Fire Investigations (Navigating Troubled Waters)**  
**2016-NFPA 1033 Technical Committee Seated Chair, Professional Qualifications**  
**2016-IAMI Marine Investigators Pocket Guide, revision of original document**  
**2017-NFPA 921 Guide, 2020 committee task group, Chapter 30, Marine Fire Investigations**  
**2018-NFPA 921 Guide, 2020 committee task group, Chapter 30, Marine Fire Investigations**  
**2018-NFPA 1033 Technical Committee Seated Chair, Professional Qualifications**  
**2018-Instructor, IAMI, Western Regional Training, Pt. Orchard WA., marine fire investigations "Navigating Troubled Waters"**  
**2018-Instructor, Cal. Assoc. Joint Powers Authorities, Lake Tahoe, CA, Public Entity Liability After Wildfires**  
**2019-NFPA 1033, Principal, Technical Committee, Fire Investigator Professional Qualifications,**  
**2019-Consultant for SFFD/District Attorney, arson investigator training videos**  
**October 2019- Speaker, Joint Powers Authority: Extinguishing Public Entity Liability after a Fire. Indian Wells, CA**

**Courtroom Expert Testimony:**

San Francisco County Superior Court  
San Francisco County Municipal Court  
San Mateo County Municipal Court  
Contra Costa County Superior Court  
Napa County Superior Court  
Marin County Superior Court  
Sonoma County Superior Court  
San Mateo County Superior Court

**Additional Training:**

Seminars, workshops, and classes attended at the following locations:

San Bruno Fire Department, California State University, San Francisco, College of San Mateo, Skyline College, Gavilan College, Mission College, Oakland Fire Department, San Francisco Fire Department, San Leandro Fire Department, South County Fire Protection District, Santa Clara County Arson Task Force, Sacramento County Arson Task Force, San Mateo County Arson Task Force, Campbell Fire Department, Foster City Fire Department, Daly City Fire Department, South San Francisco Fire Department, Millbrae Fire Department, Canada College, Victor Valley JC, FBI Academy, National Fire Academy, Asilomar

**Continuing Education: (see addendum)**

IAAI Annual Training Conference, Denver, May 2006  
Alameda County Arson Task Force Live Burn and Field Investigation, Hayward 2006  
IAAI Annual Training Conference, Victoria BC, May 2007  
NFPA 921 Update Training, FCA, August 2008  
IAMI Annual Training Seminar, Portland Oregon, March 2009  
Wildland Fire Litigation Conference, Reno Nevada, April 2009  
IAAI Annual Training Conference, Arlington, TX, May 2009  
CCAI bi-annual Training Conference, San Luis Obispo, Nov. 2009  
IAAI-Investigation and Testimony. Seattle, WA, Nov. 2009  
IAMI-Annual Training Seminar, Galveston Texas, January 2010 (instructor)  
IAAI-Annual Training Conference, Orlando, FL, May 2010  
IAMI-Annual Training Seminar, Chattanooga Tenn., March 2011  
Wildland Fire Litigation Conference, San Diego, CA, April 2011  
IAAI-Annual Training Conference, Las Vegas NV, May 2011  
NAFI- Vehicle Fire Investigation Seminar, Lexington Kentucky Sept. 2011  
IAMI-Annual Training Conference, San Diego Ca Feb 2012 (CMI cert)  
IAAI-CFITrainer: Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, tested, 3 hours, Oct 2012  
IAAI-CFITrainer: Documenting the Event, tested 4 hours, Oct 2012  
Wildland Fire Pattern Recognition Workshop, Berkeley, CA 2013  
Fire Scene Awareness Training, OSHA 1926, CCR Title 8 Section 1529, 1926, 1532, Berkeley CA 2013  
CCAI-Marine Fire Investigation Class, Monterey Bay Roundtable, instructor, May 2013  
Fire Scene Awareness Training, OSHA, 1926, FCA, Berkeley CA, June 2013, cert.# 13-1055 tested 8 hours

IAAI Annual Training Conference, Las Vegas NV, April 2014, tested 40 hours 12 classes  
Wildland Fire Litigation Conference-Monterey, CA, April 2014, 12 units  
Fire Scene Awareness Training, OSHA, 1926, FCA Berkeley CA, June 2014, tested 8 hours , Hazard Communication from Fire Scene Toxins  
CCAI-Annual Training Seminar, San Luis Obispo, Nov. 2014, tested 16 hours  
IAAI-CFITrainer.net. Ethics and the Fire Investigator, tested 3 hrs, Nov. 2014  
IAAI-CFITrainer.net. Ethics and Social Media, tested 3 hrs, Nov. 2014  
IAAI-CFITrainer.net. The Deposition, part 1, Format, Content, Preparation Feb. 2015 tested 3 hrs.  
IAAI-CFITrainer.net. A Ventilation-Focused Approach to the Impact of Bldg. Structures and Systems on Fire, tested 4 hrs. Feb. 2015  
IAAI-CFITrainer.net. Arc Mapping Basics, tested 4 hrs. Feb 2015  
IAAI-CFITrainer.net. Basic Electricity, tested 4 hrs. Feb 2015  
IAAI-CFITrainer.net. Charleston Sofa Super Store Fire tested 4 hrs. Feb 2015  
CCAI-Annual Training Seminar, San Luis Obispo, March 2015, tested 40 hours  
IAAI-CFITrainer.net. Communicating the Value of Membership, Dec 2015  
CFITRAINER.NET, ongoing classes, refer to CE list  
NFPA 1033 PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, Mandated Compliance, Educational Requirements, tested 40 hours, , CCAI, San Luis Obispo, March 2015  
IAAI-CFITrainer.net Investigating Natural Gas Systems, tested 3 hours June 19, 2015  
IAAI Annual Training Conference, Chicago Ill., May 2015, tested 40 hrs., 7 classes  
IAMI Annual Training Seminar, Knoxville Tenn. March 2016, 24 hours, 4 classes  
IAAI Annual Training Conference, Orlando Fla. April 2016, tested 40 hrs., 9 classes  
IAAI Annual Training Conference, Bend, Oregon, Sept 2016 tested 24 hrs. 5 classes  
Fire Scene Awareness Training, OSHA 1926, FCA, Berkeley CA. tested 8 hrs. 2016  
IAAI Annual Training Conference, Las Vegas Nv, April 2017, tested 32 hrs  
Wildland Fire Litigation Conference, San Diego Ca, April 2017, 15 units  
CFITrainer.net 2017 (refer to continuing education list)  
Live Burn Wokshop, Burn and Learn, 2017, Roseville FD, Sept. 1, 2017, 4 hours  
Arson Investigation Updates, Top Ten Mistakes at Trial, Ca., Feb 21, 2018, 4 hrs  
IAMI Annual Training Seminar, Norfolk Va., March 2018 tested 24 hrs  
IAAI Annual Training Conference, Frisco Texas, May 2018, tested, 32 hrs.  
IAAI Annual Training Conference, Jacksonville Fla., April 2019, tested 32 hrs.  
WSATI-Western States Auto Theft Investigators, July 2019, forensic theft class 4 hrs  
SAMS- International Meeting and Educational Conference, Savannah, GA, September 2019 20 hrs

## **Overview:**

Since 1979 Mr. Field has conducted, supervised, or reviewed over 5000 incidents involving fire and/or explosions in residential and commercial buildings, marine vessels, motor vehicles, mobile homes, piers, warehouses, factories and construction equipment, railroads, wildland, as well as numerous fatalities. Fatalities and serious injury.

Sources of ignition/malfunction have included, but were not limited to: household appliances (HVAC appliances), clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, power tools, machinery, microwave ovens, swimming pool equipment, televisions, toasters, water heaters, cigarette lighters, welding operations, smoking materials, copiers, computers, electronic devices, light fixtures, gas and electric utility lines and services, fuel delivery systems, spontaneous ignition, chemical fires, incendiary devices and explosive devices, farm equipment, gasoline, electric and diesel motors, elevators, machinery rooms, winery operations, tire recycling plants, lumber mills, agricultural buildings and processing facilities, factories and high rise buildings, public transportation vehicles including mass transportation: buses (public and private), railroad (Amtrak, CSX) locomotives, passenger cars, freight cars, maintenance ROW equipment, marine vessels, container ships, marinas, BART vehicles, agricultural, logging and heavy equipment, vegetation and wildland, utility companies and processing equipment.