

Jeffrey P. Schlesinger

Curriculum Vitae



BACKGROUND AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mr. Schlesinger is a Certified Fire Investigator with Fire Cause Analysis having retired as the Fire Marshal with the City of Sunnyvale, California in 2010. As a member of the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety, he worked in the fire and law enforcement divisions of the department. Mr. Schlesinger later worked as the Deputy Chief of Police and District Emergency Manager for the Foothill-De Anza Community College District Police Department. Prior to working for the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety, he was a police officer with the San Carlos Police Department.

Mr. Schlesinger has conducted over 800 fire investigations and has testified as an expert in fire investigations in both civil and criminal court systems. Mr. Schlesinger is a past president of the Santa Clara County Fire Investigations Taskforce and the Santa Clara County Fire Marshals' Organization.

Mr. Schlesinger possesses a M.S. degree in Emergency Services Administration and a B.P.A. degree in Public Administration. He is a California State Certified Fire Investigator (Level II) through the State Fire Marshal's Office, a Certified Fire Investigator through the International Association of Arson Investigators and the California Conference of Arson Investigators, and a certified Evidence Collection Technician through the International Association of Arson Investigators. Mr. Schlesinger spent eight years working in a crime scene investigations unit, including four years as the coordinator for the unit of ten crime scene investigators.

Current Professional Experience (Fire/Explosion Investigation)

Fire & Explosion Origin and Cause Investigator – Fire Cause Analysis
(July, 2011 – Present)

Public Safety Employment History

- Foothill-De Anza Community College District Police Department - Deputy Chief of Police/Emergency Manager (Aug, 2012 – Nov, 2017)
- Sunnyvale Dept. of Public Safety – Public Safety Lieutenant/Fire Marshal (May, 2007 - Dec, 2010)
- Sunnyvale Dept. of Public Safety – Public Safety Lieutenant – Police/Fire/OES (Nov, 2004 – May, 2007)
- Sunnyvale Dept. of Public Safety – Public Safety Officer (May, 1988 – Dec, 2004)
- San Carlos Police Department – Police Officer (Dec, 1982 – May, 1988)
- San Carlos Police/South Co. Fire – Public Safety Dispatcher (Aug, 1980 – Dec, 1982)

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Fire Marshal/Lieutenant Related Duties and Responsibilities

- Fire Origin-Cause Investigator – Supervise and Investigate fires of accidental, undetermined, natural, and incendiary causes.
- Fire Prevention Officer – Supervise and conduct inspections of businesses and assists with fire related public education.
- Fire Protection Engineering – Supervise and conduct new construction initial plan reviews and inspections.
- Hazardous Materials Compliance Unit – Supervise unit.
- Supervisor/Watch Commander for Police Patrol Operations
- Company Officer for Fire Operations

Specialty Assignments

- Fire Marshal (May, 2007 to Dec, 2010)
- Office of Emergency Services Coordinator/Acting Lieutenant (Dec, 2004 – July, 2005)
- Fire Origin & Cause Investigator & Fire Prevention Inspector (Feb, 2000 – Dec, 2004)
- Crime Scene Investigations Unit Coordinator (6 years – 4 as an Officer, 2 as Lieutenant)
- Crime Scene Investigator – Locate, identify, collect and process evidence (4 years)
- Police Detective – Property Crimes (1 year)
- Police Field Training Officer – Train and evaluate new officers (2 years)
- Police Reserve Officer Program Coordinator (San Carlos Police Dept.) (3 years)

Fire Investigative Experience

807 Fire/Explosion origin and cause investigations: Structures including; residential, multi-family, commercial, garages, and outbuildings; vehicles, vegetation, fatalities, and arsons.

364 Public Sector
443 Private Sector

Formal Education

- Master of Science / Emergency Services Administration – C.S.U. Long Beach (2008)
- Bachelor of Public Administration – University of San Francisco (2005)
- Associate of Science / Administration of Justice –College of San Mateo (1981)

Professional Certifications

- Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) #22-030847 – International Association of Arson Investigators (2017-2022)
- Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) #578 – California Conf. of Arson Investigators (2018-2021)

- Certified Evidence Collection Technician (ECT) #20 – International Association of Arson Investigators (2016-2022)
- Fire Investigator II Certification #870237 – California State Board of Fire Services (2003)
- Fire Investigator I Certification #881541 – California State Board of Fire Services (2002)
- Fire Inspector Certification #000043 – California State Board of Fire Services (2003)
- Firefighter II Certification #2035137 – California State Board of Fire Services (2002)
- Firefighter I Certification #018057 – California State Board of Fire Services (1989)

Training and Education

- Basic Fire Academy – Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety (1988)
- Basic Police Academy – Modesto Criminal Justice Training Center/POST (1983)
- Reserve Police Officer Academy – College of San Mateo (1981)

- Fire Investigation 1A – State Fire Marshal’s Office – Fire Origin & Cause (1987)
- Fire Investigation 1B – State Fire Marshal’s Office – Techniques of Fire Invest. (2000)
- Fire Investigation 2A – State Fire Marshal’s Office – Fire Criminal & Legal Proc. (2001)
- Fire Investigation 2B – State Fire Marshal’s Office – Fire Field Case Studies (2000)
- Fire Prevention 1A – State Fire Marshal’s Office – Intro. to Fire Prevention (2000)
- Fire Prevention 1B – State Fire Marshal’s Office – Fire Prevention Practices (2000)
- Fire Prevention 1C – State Fire Marshal’s Office – Flammable Liquids & Gases (2002)
- Fire Prevention 2A – State Fire Marshal’s Office – Fire Sys/Bldg. Components (2008)
- Fire Prevention 2B – State Fire Marshal’s Office – Building Code (2001)
- Fire Prevention 2C – State Fire Marshal’s Office – Special Hazards (2004)
- Fire Prevention 3A – State Fire Marshal’s Office – Sprinkler Calculations (2009)
- Fire Prevention 3B – State Fire Marshal’s Office – Plan Review (2007)
- Fire Command 1A – State Fire Marshal’s Office – Company Officer Operations (2000)
- Fire Command 2A – State Fire Marshal’s Office – Company Officer Operations (2003)

- Evidence Collection/Accelerants – Fire Cause Analysis – 3 hours (2017)
- Burn to Learn – SCCFITF – 16 hours (2017)
- Asbestos and Lead Awareness – 3 hours (Annual)
- NFPA 921/1033 (FCA/Hal Lyson 2014, 2015)
- Basic Electrical Fire Investigation – 16 hours (2014)
- Advanced Electrical Fire Investigation – 16 hours (2014)
- Boat Fire Investigation – 8 hours (2013)
- S-404 – Incident Safety Officer – CSFM – 40 hours (2010)
- Wildland Fire Investigation (FI-210) – NWCG – 40 hours (2009)

- Management of Fire Prevention Programs – National Fire Academy – 80 hours (2009)
- S-130/S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior – NWCG (2004/2008)
- Art of Reading Smoke – SCCFPO – 8 hours (2008)
- International Building Code and International Fire Code courses – ICC (2007)
- Weapons of Mass Destruction – SCC OES – 4 hours (2005)
- Fire & Arson Fatality Fire Scene Investigation – PATC – 16 hours (2004)
- Advanced Fire Origin & Cause – PATC – 24 hours (2004)
- Vehicle Fire/Fraud Investigation – SCCFITF – 16 hours (2004)
- S-231 Engine Boss – National Wildfire Coordinating Group 16 hours – (2004)
- Electrical Fire Investigation – PATC –24 hours (2002)
- Arson-Explosive Investigation – ICI – 40 hours (2002)
- Fire Death Invest/Fire Scene Video – SCCFITF – 24 hours (2001)
- Interview and Interrogation –Behavior Analysis Training Institute – 40 hours (1995)
- CFITrainer.net
 - Fire Investigator Scene Safety – 3 hours (2020)
 - Electrical Safety – 3 hours (2020)
 - Understanding Undetermined – 3 hours (2018)
 - The Deposition Part 1 – 3 hours (2018)
 - NFPA 1033 – 2 hours (2016)
 - Basic Electricity – 4 hours (2014)
 - Ethics – 3 hours (2011)
 - Scientific Method – 3 hours (2011)
 - Fire and Explosives Investigation – 3 hours (2011)
 - Documenting the Event – 4 hours (2011)
 - Introduction to Evidence – 4 hours (2011)
 - Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene – 4 hours (2011)
 - Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab – 4 hours (2011)
 - DNA – 3 hours (2011)
- Advanced Investigators School – NLEI – 24 hours (1994)
- Police Photography – FBI – 24 hours (1992)
- Field Evidence Technician – West Valley College – 80 hours (1990)
- Police Field Training Officer – San Jose City College – 40 hours (1987)
- California Conference of Arson Investigators - Training Seminar (09/2019, 03/2017, 03/2016, 03/2012, 03/2010, 11/2008, 03/2008, 11/2007, 01/2005, 01/ 2002, 07/2001)
- International Association of Arson Investigators – International Training Conference (2018, 2014, 2003)

- National Fire Protection Association – Training Conference (NFPA 921) (2003)
- California State Division-International Association for Identification Training Conference (2009, 2005, 2001, 1999, 1998, 1997)
- Instructor – California State Division International Association for Identification – Fire Investigation for the Crime Scene Investigator
- Instructor – Fire Investigation 1B – Photography section
- Instructor – Santa Clara County Joint Fire Academy – Fire Investigations/Prevention
- Instructor – Santa Clara County Command Officer Academy – Evidence/Fire Investigations
- Instructor – Sunnyvale D.P.S. – Crime Scene Unit – Photography and Evidence
- Instructor – Sunnyvale D.P.S. – Fire Academy – Fire Investigations/Fire Prevention
- Instructor – Sunnyvale D.P.S. – New fire investigators – Fire Investigations

Professional Memberships

- California Conference of Arson Investigators (CCAI) – Since 2002
- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – Since 2002
- California State Division of International Association for Identification – *(Life Member)*
- California Narcotics Officers Association (CNOA) – *(Life Member) – Since 1988*
- Santa Clara County Fire Investigations Task Force – *Past member/President*
- Santa Clara County Fire Marshal’s Association – *Past member/President*

Publications/Contributions

- Co-authored Fire Prevention/Fire Investigation Training Manual – Sunnyvale D.P.S. (2010)
- Authored Digital Imaging Procedure – Sunnyvale D.P.S. (1997/2004)
- Published letter to the editor – Digital photography for fire and law enforcement – CCAI magazine, CCAI newsletter, IAAI magazine (July 2000)
- Authored Crime Scene Investigations Unit Training Manual for Sunnyvale D.P.S. (1997)

Court – Fire Related

- Civil Deposition – San Mateo County Superior Court #CIV533845, FCA #14-17058 – Cause, Origin and Investigation for a commercial structure fire (11/0717)
- Civil Mediation – Via telephone conference call – Jang and Associates (AAA) – FCA 14-17802 – Cause and Origin for an accidental structure fire, recalled fish tank heater (04/05/17)

- Civil Deposition – Santa Clara County Superior Court #108-CV105754, SDPS #FR09-2427 – Cause, Origin and Investigation for an accidental structure fire (11/16/10)
- Civil Deposition – Santa Clara County Superior Court #I-02-CV-811795, SDPS # FR01-3089 – Cause, Origin and Investigation for an accidental structure fire and explosion (07/28/05 - 2nd deposition for this case)
- Civil Deposition – Santa Clara County Superior Court #I-02-CV-811795, SDPS # FR01-3089 – Cause, Origin and Investigation for an accidental structure fire and explosion (08/24/04)
- Criminal Court – Santa Clara County Superior Court/Sunnyvale (Preliminary Examination) SDPS #FR02-6515 – Cause, Origin, Investigation, and Arrest for an arson fire with serious injury (12/16/02)