

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
- Aircraft

- 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 homes

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 2011
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 – 9/22/15
NAFI -Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator – 9/22/15
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
IAAI- Documenting the Event – 4 Hr. Tested – 6/29/2020
IAAI- NFPA 921 & 1033 2014 Editions: Important Revisions – 4 Hr. Tested – 7/1/2020
IAAI – DNA – 3 Hr. Tested – 6/29/2020
IAAI- Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 & NFPA 921 – 2 Hr.
Tested – 7/2/2020
IAAI- Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene – 4 Hr. Tested – 6/30/2020
IAAI- NFPA 1033 and Your Career – 2 Hr. Tested – 6/30/2020

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
- State of California vs. Anthony Joseph Gonzales – Docket #C1911800 – DA #190515095
San Jose, CA 95110 – February 25, 2020