

## **CURRICULUM VITAE MARIA SABATINI, IAAI-CFI**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Maria Sabatini joined the Fire Cause Analysis Team as an investigator in 2011. She also had the good fortune to enjoy a lengthy fire service career, starting with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in 1988. She then served for twenty-eight years in the Oakland Fire Department, where she encountered a diversity of people and fires second to nowhere. Still excited about every new fire, Maria continues to take on new challenges to further her expertise and training in fire investigation. Maria is an International Association of Arson Investigators Certified Fire Investigator, holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration, and enjoys sharing her acquired knowledge of fire investigation with the next generation of investigators. She was a regular adjunct instructor in Oakland's Police and Fire academies where she imparted a strong foundation in fire scene investigations and a profound appreciation of evidence preservation on new recruits. Maria's investigative experience includes fires in commercial and residential structures, and she has provided testimony as an expert witness on 25 occasions in the Superior Court of California, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, and United States District Court, in both criminal and civil procedures.

### **EMPLOYMENT**

2011 to present: **Fire Origin and Cause Investigator** with Fire Cause Analysis. **Over 160 fires investigated.**

2017: **Acting Assistant Fire Marshal**, Oakland Fire Department. Responsible for directing day-to-day activities within the Fire Prevention Bureau including oversight of the Commercial Inspection and Vegetation Management Inspection Programs.

2005 to 2016: **Fire/Arson Investigator**, Oakland Fire Department. Responsibilities included Origin and Cause investigations of criminal and accidental fires, fire scene documentation, evidence collection, report writing, case presentation to District Attorneys, applying for and serving search and arrest warrants, court testimony. **Over 800 fires investigated.**

1989 to 2004: **Firefighter/EMT, Engineer**, Oakland Fire Department. Duties included fire suppression, emergency medical response, commercial building inspections, fire prevention and public education. **Extinguished over 700 fires.**

1988 to 1989: **Firefighter**, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).

### **EDUCATION**

**FIRE INVESTIGATION ◊ FORENSICS ◊ FIRE SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**

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**Master of Public Administration**, California State University East Bay, Hayward - 2000  
**Bachelor of Arts - Psychology**, Mills College, Oakland, California - 1986

### **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

**Master Certified Fire Investigator**, California Conference of Arson Investigators - 2019  
(Certificate# 126)

**Certified Fire Investigator**, International Association of Arson Investigators – 2008 (IAAI-CFI #22-135)

**NFPA 1033 Fire Investigator** - National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications – 2018 (# 292130)

**Level II (Highest Level) Fire Investigator**, California State Fire Marshall - 2008

**Certified Fire Investigator**, California Conference of Arson Investigators – 2007 (Certificate # 618)

**Peace Officer**, California Police Officer Standard Training PC 832 - 2004

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

International Association of Firefighters 1989-2018

Alameda County Arson Task Force 2005-2018

California Conference of Arson Investigators since 2007

International Association of Arson Investigators since 2008

California Fire Chiefs & Fire Prevention Officers 2014-2018

### **TESTIMONY**

Sworn testimony given 25 times in the Superior Court of California, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, and United States District Court, in both criminal and civil procedures:

Preliminary Hearing 523375 People v. Tillett (Defendant) November 6, 2006

Preliminary Hearing 527752 People v. Smith (Defendant) March 22, 2007

Deposition RG06286044 Odell v. Coleman August 23, 2007

Preliminary Hearing 537236 People v. Nurnberg (Defendant) June 24, 2008

Preliminary Hearing 541438 People v. Elliot (Defendant) August 15, 2008

Preliminary Hearing 160447 People v. Washington (Defendant) April 15, 2009

Deposition RG08417737 Lema v. Rorick November 9, 2009

Preliminary Hearing 557068 People v. Keel (Defendant) January 5, 2010

Deposition RG08411818 Bernard v. Straus May 17, 2010

Deposition RG08386735 Sasser v. Allstate December 8, 2010

Jury Trial RG08386735 Sasser v. Allstate February 14, 2011

Jury Trial RG08417737 Lema v. Rorick November 16, 2011

Alameda County Criminal Grand Jury Testimony August 27, 2012

Preliminary Hearing 5955558 People v. Fitzgibbons (Defendant) May 6, 2014

Deposition HG11610446 Benavides-Mejia v. Bank of New York Sept 5, 2014

Jury Trial 80-176144 People v. Johnson (Defendant) July 9, 2015

Deposition 114CV262286 Travelers vs. Flanders Heat and Air October 15, 2015  
United States v. Henry Cervantes, et al CR12-00792 YGR October 13, 2015  
Preliminary Hearing 599884 People v. Gutierrez January 11, 2016  
Jury Trial United States v. Henry Cervantes, et al CR12-00792 YGR May 2, 2016  
Trial Lui v. Bianchi RG14712640 April 20, 2017  
Preliminary Hearing 1734017349 People v. Almena, Harris December 13, 2017  
Preliminary Hearing 16CR014089 People v. Rivers March 6, 2018  
Deposition RG17857853 CSAA Insurance v. Ziebarth November 21, 2018  
Jury Trial People v. Almena, Harris May 1, 2019

## **TRAINING**

### **California Fire Service Training and Education System (Office of the State Fire Marshal):**

Fire Investigation 1A – Fire Origin and Cause Determination 40 hours  
Fire Investigation 1B – Techniques of Fire Investigation 40 hours  
Fire Investigation 2A – Criminal and Legal Procedures 40 hours  
Fire Investigation 2B – Field Case Studies 40 hours  
Fire Prevention 1A – Introduction to the California Fire Code 40 hours  
Fire Prevention 1B – Inspection of Fire Protection Systems and Special Hazards 40 hours  
Fire Prevention 2A- Fire Protection Systems and Building Components 40 hours  
Fire Command 1A - Command Principles 40 hours  
Fire Command 1B – Incident Management 40 hours  
Confined Space Rescue Awareness 8 hours  
Ethical Leadership in the Classroom 24 hours

### **Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST):**

PC 832 Laws of Arrest 40 hours  
PC 832 Firearms 24 hours

### **California Fire Chiefs Association/ Fire Prevention Officers Association:**

Wildland Fire Investigation 8 hours – 2002  
Wildland Fire Investigation 8 hours - 2010  
Live Burn and Fire Investigation Procedures and Techniques 16 hours  
Live Burn and Fire Investigation 10 hours

### **Alameda County Fire Chief's Association & Alameda County District Attorney's Arson Task Force:**

Live Burn and Fire Investigation Class 10 hours - 2006

### **California Conference of Arson Investigators:**

Advanced Fire/Arson Investigation 20 hours – 2002  
Advanced Fire/Arson Investigation 20 hours – 2008  
Advanced Fire Scene Reconstruction and Fire Dynamics 20 hours – 2012  
Fire Dynamics, Analysis, Patterns and Behavior 20 hours - 2015  
Fire Propagation and Phases of Fire 20 hours - 2017

NFPA Educational Requirements 28 hours -2019  
Domestic Terrorists and Their Incendiary Devices 3 hours  
NFPA 921 2012 updates 8 hours  
NFPA 921 2014 updates 2 hours

**International Association of Arson Investigators *and* CFITrainer.net (tested training):**

Annual Training Conference 40 hours Tested Training 2008  
Annual Training Conference 34 hours Tested Training 2011  
The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigations 3 hours  
Introduction to Evidence 4 hours  
Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene 4 hours  
Fire and Explosion Investigations: Utilizing NFPA 1033 and 921 – 4 hours  
Investigating Fatal Fires 4 hours  
Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires 4 hours  
Documenting the Event 4 hours  
Fire Investigator Scene Safety 3 hours  
Search and Seizure 4 hours  
Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction 3 hours  
Fire Dynamics Calculations 4 hours  
A Ventilation-Focused Approach to the Impact of Building Structures and Systems on Fire Development 4 hours  
Post Flashover Fires 4 hours  
Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report 3 hours  
How First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation 2 hours  
Motive Means and Opportunity: Determining Responsibility in an Arson Case 4 hours  
Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator 4 hours  
Fire Protection Systems 3 hours  
Effective Investigation and Testimony 3 hours  
Fundamentals of Interviewing 4 hours  
Arc Mapping Basics 4 hours

**Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives:**

2005 Bay Area Bomb Technician & Investigator Seminar 8 hours  
2012 State and Local Post Blast Investigation 32 hours

**National Incident Management System and FEMA:**

E954 Safety Officer, All Hazard Mitigation 40 hours – 2013

**National Fire Protection Association Internet Based Tested Training:**

NFPA 1500 Confined Space Entry - OSHA 29 CFR 1910.146, Wildland Fire Behavior, Asbestos Awareness, Working in Extreme Temperatures, NFPA 1500 Compressed Gas Safety, NFPA 1001 Building Construction, Electrical Safety, Fire Prevention Safety, Incident Investigation