



## CURRICULUM VITAE

# RICH PETERSON

## IAAI-CFI®

Mr. Peterson is a Senior Fire Investigator with Fire Cause Analysis. He retired as a Captain with the Santa Clara City Fire Department. Mr. Peterson has over 39 years experience in the fire service including eight years as a Deputy Fire Marshal with the Santa Clara City Fire Marshal's Office. His experience includes code enforcement and the regulation of hazardous materials. He has conducted over 200 environmental criminal investigations for the City. To date Mr. Peterson has conducted over 7,300 code-related fire safety inspections and 1,527+ fire investigations. He has testified on numerous occasions as an expert in both criminal and civil proceedings

### Professional Experience

- Fire Investigator – Fire Cause Analysis 1994 to Present  
*Investigated over 1173 fires*
- Firefighter – California Department of Forestry, Tulare Ranger Unit 1973 to 1976  
*Responded to over 120 wildfires, six vehicle and four structure fires*
- District Engineer – Woodlake Fire Protection District 1976 to 1977  
*Responded to eight structures, 9 wildland and five vehicle fires*
- Firefighter/Engineer – Madera City Fire Department 1977 to 1979  
*Responded to 10 structures, 7 vehicles and 8 wildland fires*
- Fire Specialist – University of California Fire Department, Santa Cruz 1979 to 1980

### FIRE INVESTIGATION - FORENSICS - FIRE SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

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- Fire Captain – University of California Fire Department, Santa Cruz 1980 to 1983  
*Investigated 10 structures, 9 wildland and 12 vehicle fires*
- Fire Captain – Santa Cruz City Fire Department 1983 to 1985  
*Investigated 11 structure, 7 wildland and 11 vehicle fires*
- Deputy Fire Marshal – Santa Clara City Fire Department 1985 to 1993  
*Inspect target and high hazard occupancies; enforce all fire and environmental related laws, codes and ordinances. Investigate fires and incidents subject to Fire Department responsibility. Investigated 98 structure, 6 vehicle and an unknown number of miscellaneous fires. Six of these were major losses, exceeding \$1,000,000 fire loss. Investigated over 200 environmental crimes.*
- Fire Captain assigned Commander Engine 10; Assigned to Hazardous Materials Unit 1995-01; Counter Terrorism Officer 1998-01. 1993 to 2012  
*Investigate approximately 10 fires each year for Santa Clara FD. Retired 12/31/12.*
- Private Investigator – BSIS License #8649, and #20057 1981 to Present  
*Investigated approximately 1083+ fires, primarily structures.*

Investigated approximately 1433+ fires total.

Conducted approximately 200+ environmental crime investigations.

Performed more than 7300 fire and hazardous materials inspections.

Reserve Deputy Sheriff, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, 1980-85.

## **Education**

- Taft University, B.S. Law, 1993
- Cogswell Polytechnic College, Present, completing degree requirements for B.S. in Administration and B.S. Fire Prevention Technology

## **Professional Associations**

- Member of California Conference of Arson Investigators
- Member of International Association of Firefighters (Retired)
- Member of International Association of Arson Investigators (20 yr status 2003)
- Secretary to the Santa Clara County Arson Task Force, 1988-89
- Board of Directors, California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association 1989-90
- Past member of California Reserve Peace Officers Association Past member of California State Firemen's Association
- Past Member National Fire Protection Association

## **Deposition and Trial Testimony**

### **Trial**

- Santa Clara Fire Department Case #85-1778 People v. Avery 4/22/85  
Santa Clara Judicial District C#C1116532 - Criminal
- Santa Clara Fire Department Case #85-5721 People v. Bergantz 8/19/86  
Santa Clara Judicial District Docket #906306 - Criminal
- Santa Clara Fire Department Case #87-4727 People v. Hagarty 10/8/87  
Santa Clara Judicial District Docket # not listed - Criminal/Expert Witness
- Santa Clara Fire Department Case #87-5864 People v. Finisher's Inc. 12/11/87  
Santa Clara Judicial District Docket #D702207 - Civil
- Santa Clara Fire Department Case #88-1234 People v. Suh 3/11/88  
Santa Clara Judicial District Docket #8859519 - Criminal
- Santa Clara Fire Department Case #88-4875 People v. Furton 9/27/88  
Santa Clara Judicial District Docket # not listed - Criminal
- Santa Clara Fire Department Case #89-6408 People v. Excel Circuits, Inc. 12/6/89  
Santa Clara Judicial District Docket #906306 - Civil
- Santa Clara Fire Department Case #88-0618, 3144, 5580, 5582, 89-0458 and 90-0980  
People v. Mission Trail Waste, Inc. 3/13/90  
Santa Clara Judicial District Docket #D9070372 - Civil
- Santa Clara Fire Department Case #91-0562 People v. Bergman 1/18/91  
Santa Clara Judicial District Docket #D9175754 - Criminal

- Santa Clara Fire Department Case #91-2849 People v. Cirtex 6/16/91  
Santa Clara Judicial District Docket #D717566 - Civil

## **Deposition**

- Santa Clara Fire Department Case: none issued. Sanmina v. Tandy  
Santa Clara Judicial District Docket # not listed - Deposition
- FCA Case # 94-067 Sanyou Labs v. CEPCO 4/30/96  
Santa Clara Judicial District Docket #CV741807 - Civil/Deposition/Trial
- FCA Case # 98-675 Navarro v. Aggio 10/24/01  
San Mateo County Judicial District Case #415883 - Judicial Arbitration
- FCA Case #99-638 Bella Mia v. National Guardian 9/2000  
Santa Clara Judicial District Docket #CV7945272 - Deposition
- FCA Case #04-6042 Dentist Insurance Co. v. Frederick Benson, M.D. 7/7/08  
Santa Clara Judicial District Docket #106CV066191 – Deposition
- FCA Case #07-8693 & 12-14873 Thomas v. Fire Insurance Exchange 10/24/11  
Santa Clara Judicial District #1-08-CV 116710 - Deposition
- FCA Case #07-8693 & 12-14873 Thomas v. Fire Insurance Exchange 11/22/11  
Santa Clara Judicial District #1-08-CV 116710 - Trial
- FCA Case #12-15550 California Capitol Insurance 6/6/13  
Company v. James Newlyn Merced County Superior Court Case #CV 003022 -  
Declaration in Support of Summary Judgement
- FCA Case #07-9276 Knight v. Fancher Monterey, Monterey County 6/13/13  
Superior Court Case #M89808 (and M88951) - Deposition Percipient Witness

## **Professional Development**

- California State Fire Academy - Fire Investigation (1981-84 levels I-IV, 160 hrs.)
- California State Fire Marshal – Arson and Bomb Investigation (1981 40hrs.)
- State Board of Fire Services – Fire Investigator I (1981 certified #880124)
- Southeast-Foothill Fire Chief’s Assoc.-Advanced Fire Scene Investigation (1984 36hrs.)
- Cabrillo College-POST Level II and III (PC832) Certified (1981 96hrs.)
- Gavilan College- POST Level I (ND) Certified (1985 168hrs.)
- National Fire Academy – Fire/Arson Investigation (1988 80hrs)

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- Continuing Education Advanced Fire Investigation – 705+ hrs. (CCAI/TF)
- State Board of Fire Services – Fire Officer I (1982 certified #000022)
- National Fire Academy – Chemistry of Hazardous Materials (1991 80hrs.)
- National Fire Academy – Fire Dynamics (1995 OLFS 40hrs.)
- State Board of Fire Services – Fire Investigator II (1994 certified #870122)
- California Specialized Training Institute – Hazardous Materials Technician and Terrorism/ WMD Certified (1997 152hrs.)
- National Fire Academy – Incendiary Fire Analysis & Investigation (2000 OLFS 40hrs.)
- Public Agency Training Council – Fire/Arson Investigation (2000 40hrs.)
- Public Agency Training Council – Fire Pattern Certification (2002 24hrs.)
- Public Agency Training Council – Advanced Fire Origin and Cause (2004 24hrs.)
- National Wildfire Coordinating Group – Fire Behavior S290 (2005 40 hrs.)
- Public Agency Training Council – Fatality Fire Scene Investigation (2006 16 hrs.)
- Dept. Homeland Security (LSU) – Sampling Techniques: Tech Level (2006)
- Public Agency Training Council – Electrical Fire/Arson Investigation (2009 24 hrs.)
- US DoJ-BATF – Basic & Advanced Electrical Fire Investigation (2014 32 hrs.)
- CCAI – NFPA 1033 16 Subject Matter Curriculum (2015 40hrs)
- Controlled burning of 40+ structures and 130+ different fire sets as well as study and conducting flammability tests. Informal training of over 1300 hrs.
- State Board of Fire Services – Instructor I (1994 certified #091690)

***I have developed and taught related training to/for the following agencies:***

- Alameda County Arson Task Force
- Life Safety Associates
- Santa Clara County Joint Fire Academy
- Los Medanos College Criminal Justice Training Center
- University of California Fire Department, Santa Cruz
- City of Santa Cruz Fire Department
- City of Santa Clara Fire Department
- City of Santa Clara Police Department
- Santa Clara County Hazardous Waste Task Force

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- Santa Clara County Arson Task Force
- California Fire Chiefs Association
- Cabrillo College Regional Occupational Training Program
- University of California, Santa Cruz (Santa Clara Extension Program)
- Farmers Insurance Company
- Intel