

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **DENNIS E. FIELD**

#### **IAAI-CFI® NAFI-CFEI, NAFI-CVFI, IAMI-CMI**

Mr. Field is President of Fire Cause Analysis. He is also a principal of the firm. In 2005 Mr. Field retired from his position as Battalion Chief with the San Bruno Fire Department. Mr. Field has over 35 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 5000 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 National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI); a CMI, Certified Marine Investigator, through the International Association of Marine Investigators (IAM). 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.

#### **Professional Experience**

- **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 multimillion dollar incendiary and/or fire losses.

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- **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. 2003 – 2005
- **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. 1994 – 2003
- **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. 1999
- **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 1991 – 2005
- **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. 1980 – 1994
- **Training Advisor** – San Bruno Reserve Firefighter Program. Assist with duties involving the reserve firefighter program. Overseeing safety, implementing training techniques, instruction and drilling. 1988 – 2005
- **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. 1985 – 1987
- **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. 1983 – 2005

## **Education**

- **Community College Limited Teaching Credential** 1987
- **Associate of Arts Degree, Fire Science**, College of San Mateo 1982
- **Peace Officer Standards and Training Academy**, Gavilan College 1979
- **Bachelor of Arts Degree, Social Science**, CSU, San Francisco 1976

## **Professional Designations and Certifications**

- 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
- FireFighter I (CA) 1986
- FireFighter 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, #1562109 2014
- Private Investigator – Nevada #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
- FireFighter 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 Licenses & Associations**

- California Conference of Arson Investigators (CCAI) 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

### **Teaching Experience**

- Instructor, Western States Auto Theft Investigators (WSATI), Lake Tahoe Nevada, Annual Conference, live vehicle burns 2022
- Instructor, Western States Auto Theft Investigators (WSATI), Burn or Learn "CARBEQUE", pattern analysis dynamics, live vehicle burns 2022
- NFPA 1033, Principal, Technical Committee, Fire Investigator Professional Qualification 2022
- Speaker, Joint Powers Authority: Extinguishing Public Entity Liability after a Fire 2019
- Consultant for SFFD/District Attorney, Arson Investigator Training Videos 2019

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*D. Field CV 1/2025*

- NFPA 1033, Principal, Technical Committee, Fire Investigator Professional Qualifications 2019
- Instructor, Cal. Assoc. Joint Powers Authorities, Public Entity Liability After Wildfires 2018
- Instructor, IAMI, Western Regional Training, Marine Fire Investigations “Navigating Troubled Waters” 2018
- NFPA 1033 Technical Committee Seated Chair, Professional Qualifications 2018
- 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 2017
- IAMI Marine Investigators Pocket Guide, revision of original document 2016
- NFPA 1033 Technical Committee Seated Chair, Professional Qualifications 2016
- Instructor, IAAI, Annual Training Conference, Marine Fire Investigations (Navigating Troubled Waters) 2016
- Instructor, SF Marine Claims Association, FCA, Vessel Fire Investigations 2016
- Published Article, REKINDLE, Cal. Conf. Arson Investigators, Sept. 2015
- IAMI Fire Investigator Pocket Guide, Revision Committee 2015
- Guest Speaker, East Bay Claims Association, 5 Fatality Limousine Fire 2015
- Key Developer-San Francisco Fire Department Fire Investigator H-6 examination 2014
- IAMI Board Approved "Subject Matter Expert" - IAMI CMI Instructor Program 2014
- NFPA 1033 Technical Committee on Fire Investigator Professional Qualifications (PQU-FIV) alternates committee Member 2013
- Instructor, CCAI, Marine Fire Investigations 2013
- Instructor, CCAI, Marine Fire Investigations 2011
- Instructor, CCAI, Marine Fire Investigations 2011
- Instructor, Wildland Litigation Conference, Railroad Fires 2011
- Instructor, IAMI, Training Seminar, Marine Fire Investigation 2010

## **Professional Development**

[H = Hours; TH = Tested Hours]

- **IAAI**

Annual Training Conference	2019	32.00 TH
Annual Training Conference	2018	32.00 TH
Annual Training Conference	2017	32.00 TH
Annual Training Conference	2016	40.00 TH
		9 classes
Annual Training Conference	2015	40.00 TH
		7 classes
Annual Training Conference	2014	40.00 TH
		12 classes
Annual Training Conference	2011	
Annual Training Conference	2009	
Annual Training Conference	2007	
Annual Training Conference	2006	
- **IAMI**

Annual Training Seminar	2023	96.00 TH
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Annual Training Seminar	2018	24.00 TH
Annual Training Seminar	2016	24.00 TH
		4 classes
Annual Training Conference (CMI Cert)	2012	
Annual Training Seminar	2011	
Annual Training Seminar (instructor)	2010	
<b>● IAAI - CFITrainer.net</b>		
Investigating Natural Gas Systems	2015	3.00 TH
Communicating the Value of Membership	2015	Ongoing classes, refer to CE list
Ethics and Social Media	2014	3.00 TH
Ethics and the Fire Investigator	2014	3.00 TH
A Ventilation-Focused Approach to Fire Impact	2015	4.00 TH
The Deposition, Part 1 – Format	2015	3.00 TH
Arc Mapping Basics	2015	4.00 TH
Basic Electricity	2015	4.00 TH
Charleston Sofa Super Store Fire	2015	4.00 TH
Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report	2012	3.00 TH
Documenting the Event	2012	4.00 TH
<b>● Other Training Seminars and Workshops</b>		
Arson Investigation Updates, Top Ten Mistakes at Trial	2018	4.00 TH
Wildland Fire Litigation Conference	2017	15 units
Live Burn Workshop, Burn and Learn, Roseville FD	2017	4.00 TH
Fire Scene Awareness Training, OSHA 1926, FCA	2016	8.00 TH
Wildland Fire Litigation Conference	2014	12 units
Fire Scene Awareness Training, OSHA, 1926, FCA	2013	8.00 TH
CCAI - Marine Fire Investigation Class (instructor)	2013	
Wildland Fire Litigation Conference	2011	
<b>● SAMS - International Meeting and Educational Conference</b>	2019	20.00 TH
<b>● WSATI - Western States Auto Theft Investigators, Forensic Theft</b>	2019	4.00 TH
<b>● NFPA 1033 Professional Qualifications</b>	2015	40.00 TH
<b>● Fire Scene Awareness Training, OSHA, Fire Cause Analysis</b>	2014	8.00 TH
<b>● CCAI - Annual Training Seminar</b>	2014	40.00 TH
<b>● NAFI - Vehicle Fire Investigation Seminar</b>	2011	
<b>● Additional Training – Seminars, workshops, and classes attended at the following locations:</b>		
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		

## **Deposition & Trial Testimony**

- Carson (p) vs Lindenmeyer (d), civil, Superior Court, Marin County, CIV 1502063, July 1, 2016  
attny: DeMartini
- Geronga, et al. vs Ford Motor Company, civil, Superior Court, San Mateo County, May 4, 2016  
CIV 524889, attny: Wm Smith
- Werfeli vs Allstate, civil, Superior Court, Sonoma County, # SCV 244758, attny: March 2011  
Curtis Morris
- American Intl' vs East Wind, civil, Superior Court, Marin, #CV051160, attny: Oct. 2006  
Marilyn Raia, Bullivant-Hauser
- Ewing Trust vs Roycis (roofing), Superior Court, San Francisco Nov. 2004
- Rombauer vs Miners-Pisani, Superior Court, Napa County, Civil, 26-13833 July 2003
- Seto vs PG+E, Superior Court, San Francisco, #303500 June 2002
- Chase vs Morris, Superior Court, San Francisco, #98-9007 Dec. 1999
- Shipp vs State Farm Insurance, Superior Court, Contra Costa County, #C9602078 Oct. 1998
- State of Cal. vs June Julien, Municipal Court, South San Francisco, #9800597 1998
- Nick vs Renfro, Superior Court, San Francisco, #96-6993 Sept. 1996
- People of State of California vs Kelleher, Kivilahti, Kenzy, Municipal Court of Feb. 1985  
County of San Mateo, State of California, # 84-02595

Depositions: 55

Trials: 12

Arbitration: 3

Mediation: 4

Prove up: 1

See Testimony Trial and Deposition Addendum

## **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.