

## **Steve Davis, GCA, FCLA**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Mr. Davis is an investigator with Fire Cause Analysis. He assists other investigators in processing and documenting fire and explosion scenes.

Mr. Davis is an Insurance Special Investigator, Private Investigator, and Forensic Lock Smith with experience investigating more than 100 fires, including: incendiary fires, vehicle and structure fires, and heavy equipment fires. He also has experience investigating automobile accidents and thefts, workers compensation claims, and slip and fall claims.

Mr. Davis has been involved in the investigation of more than 60 fires involving structures, and heavy equipment where each fire had a value between \$250,000 and \$28M. He has also inspected and investigated more than 51 burned vehicles. Steve has regularly worked with Law Enforcement on criminal cases for Arson and Fraud cases and assisted other insurance professionals in preparing cases for Law Enforcement review.

Mr. Davis is a Director with the Central Valley Arson Investigators Association in California and has significant teaching and testimony experience. He is a California Licensed Private Investigator and has regularly assisted insurance professionals in preparing cases for Law Enforcement review.

Mr. Davis' passion is as a Custom Car and Street Rod Builder. He is Certified as a Street Rod and Classic Car Appraiser.

### **Professional Experience**

- Fire Cause Analysis 08/2025 to Present
  - Investigator
- Sentry Insurance 03/2017 to 07/2025
  - Special Investigator, Sr. 03/2017 to 03/2025

Mr. Davis was promoted to Special Investigator, Sr. in 2017. This role brought some new responsibilities on the large loss / arson fires. In 2018 his responsibility changed on the large loss / arson fire from West of the Mississippi to the United States.

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**FIRE INVESTIGATION - EVIDENCE HANDLING & STORAGE - FORENSIC ENGINEERING - WATER LOSS - TECHNICAL - SERVICES**

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Over the next eight years he participated in the scene investigations for possible incendiary fires along with doing in-person interviews with the suspected persons involved in the fire and conducting examinations under oath.

Mr. Davis conducted investigations in Central California for automobile theft claims, workers compensation claims, and bodily injury claims. He was also responsible for reviewing the work of other investigators.

- Special Investigator 03/2014 to 03/2017

Mr. Davis began working for Sentry Insurance in 2014 as a Special Investigator. In addition to the regular investigations, he was responsible for investigating large loss / incendiary fires that occurred west of the Mississippi.

When he was not working on a large loss fire, he was providing training to adjusters, agents, and other investigators. Mr. Davis was also responsible for working with Law Enforcement and District Attorneys on potential criminal cases involving an insurance policy.

- Farmers Insurance 1987 to 2014

Mr. Davis began with Farmers Insurance in 1987 as a claims adjuster. He was promoted to an Investigation Staff Specialist where he was responsible for working with Fire Investigators, Private Investigators, and Law Enforcement. His responsibilities included conducting investigations as Farmers Insurance transitioned to a Special Investigations Unit.

He continued working in the Special Investigations Unit as a Sr. Special Investigator and a General Investigator. During his time with Farmers Insurance, Mr. Davis investigated various fire losses, auto theft claims, and bodily insurance claims. He assisted in training of new and current investigators along with doing some training with local agents.

- California Highway Patrol, State Traffic Officer 01/1987 to 09/1987
- Fresno County Sheriff's Office - Reserve Deputy 08/1983 to 12/1986

## **Educational Background**

- California Highway Patrol Academy 1987
- B.S. Criminology - Fresno State University, Fresno CA 1986
- Tulare County Police Academy, Visalia CA 1983
- A.S. Criminal Justice - College of the Sequoias, Visalia, CA 1982

## **Designations and Certifications**

- Certified Automotive Locksmith - Assured Locksmith Training, Inc. 2010
- Fraud Claims Legal Associate - American Educational Institute, Inc. 1997
- Graduate in Claims Administration - American Educational Institute, Inc. 1995
- Legal Principals - American Educational Institute Inc. 1995
- Certificate in General Insurance - Insurance Institute of America 1990

## **Professional Licenses and Associations**

- State of California Private Investigator, License # PI11582
- California Licensed Private Investigator, # CAPI 26494
- California Association of Licensed Investigators
- Western States Auto Theft Investigators
  - Secretary 2016 to 2019, President 2019 to 2022, Vice President 2022 to 2025
- Central Valley Arson Investigators
  - Director at Large 2024 to present
- California Conference of Arson Investigators
- International Association of Special Investigators
- International Association of Arson Investigators
- Northern California Fraud Investigator Association
- High Technology Crime Investigation Association

## **Specialty Knowledge and Skills**

- Custom Car and Street Rod Builder
- Certified Street Rod and Classic Car Appraiser
- K9 Agility Photographer

## **Teaching Experience**

- Instructor, Northern California Claims Conference, Sacramento, CA Annual Conference,  
Use of K9's in a fire scene 2024
- All Claims Conference, Forensic Lock Examination 2012

- Origin and Cause - Vehicle Fires to Farmers SIU 2012
- Vehicle Lock Examinations - To Farmers SIU
- Ignition Lock and Forensics 2010

## **Professional Development**

- 2025
  - CFITrainer.net
    - Insurance and Fire Investigation
    - Discovery in Civil cases
    - NFPA 1033 and your Career
    - Scientific Method of Investigation
    - Ethics and the Fire Investigator
    - Document the Event
    - Relationship between 1033 and 921
- 2024
  - CFITrainer.net
    - Examination of Smart Plugs
- 2022
  - Central Valley Arson Investigators
    - Hydrocarbon Detectors & K-9
  - Western States Auto Theft Investigators
    - Live Burn
- 2021
  - Central Valley Arson Investigators
    - Electrical Arc Mapping
- 2019
  - International Association of Arson Investigators
    - Fire Investigation
- 2018
  - Western States Auto Theft Investigators

- Auto Theft / Live Burn
  - International Association of Arson Investigators
    - Fire Investigation
- 2017
  - Western States Auto Theft Investigators
    - Auto Theft
  - International Association of Arson Investigators
    - Fire Investigation
- 2016
  - Western States Auto Theft Investigator
    - Auto Theft Investigation
- 2015
  - Central Valley Arson Investigators
    - Advanced Explosives Recognition
    - Basic Fire Chemistry
  - NCFIA Fraud Alliance
    - Fraud Course of Instruction
- 2014
  - NCFIA Fraud Alliance
    - Fraud Course of Instruction
- 2013
  - Central Valley Arson Investigator
    - Advanced Explosives Recognition
- 2012
  - Cal Fire
    - Fire Investigation 2A
  - Central Valley Arson Investigators
    - Advanced Explosive Recognition
  - North American West Vehicle Examinations
    - Burned vehicle examinations 21

- Non-burned vehicle exams 17
  - Origin and Cause 4
- 2011
  - Farmers Insurance SIU Conference
    - Structure Fire Investigation
    - Auto Theft and Ignition Locks
  - Northern California Fraud Investigators Association
    - Fraud Instruction
- 2010
  - Sacramento County District Attorney's Office
    - Evidence Photography
- 2007
  - Elk Grove Police Department
    - Auto Theft and Burn
  - Farmers Insurance SIU Conference
    - Fraud Instruction
- 2006
  - Northern California Fraud Investigators Association
    - Fraud Instruction
- 2005
  - Northern California Fraud Investigators Association
    - Fraud Instruction
- 2002
  - Western States Auto Theft Investigators
    - Auto Theft Investigation
- 2000
  - Northern California Fraud Investigators Association
    - Fraud Instruction
- 1999
  - Northern California Fraud Investigators Association

- Fraud Instruction
- 1998
  - Northern California Fraud Investigators Association
    - Fraud Instruction
- 1997
  - Northern California Fraud Investigators Association
    - Fraud Instruction
  - Central Valley Arson Investigators
    - Origin and Cause Investigation - Live Burn
- 1996
  - Central Valley Arson Investigators
    - Basic Fire Behavior
  - Northern California Fraud Investigators Association
    - Fraud Instruction
- 1994
  - Northern California Fraud Investigators Association
    - Fraud Instruction
- 1993
  - Northern California Fraud Investigators Association
    - Fraud Instruction
- 1992
  - Southern California Fraud Investigators Association
    - Fraud Instruction
  - Northern California Fraud Investigators Association
    - Fraud Instruction
- 1991
  - Western States Auto Theft Investigators
    - Auto Theft Investigation
  - Northern California Fraud Investigators Association
    - White Collar Crime

- 1990
  - Fresno Fire Department
    - Fire Scene/Arson Investigation
    - Controlled Burn