



TECHNICAL FIRE ANALYSIS

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Education

University of Maryland, University College

Online – Fire Science curriculum – 3 credit hours

Luzerne County Community College

A.A.S. Degree in Fire Science, May 2007 (Academic Honors)

Pennsylvania State Police Academy

Promoted to the rank of Trooper, July 1992

Lackawanna Junior Community College

Graduate – Act 120 Municipal Police Officer Training Class, 1990

Experience

1. January 2012 – Present: Technical Fire Analysis, LLC (Owner/Fire Investigator)

- Conduct fire origin & cause investigations for insurance companies, law firms, manufacturers
- Investigated in excess of 900 fires since inception of company

2. February 1992- January 2012: Pennsylvania State Police

Duties included the following assignments:

- Patrol Trooper (8 years)
- Forensic Services Unit (2 years)
- Assistant/Deputy Fire Marshal (5 years part time / 10 years full time)
 - ❖ Investigation of over 800 fires since being assigned in 1995 as either the lead or secondary investigator.
 - ❖ Over 1500 hours of Fire/Arson related training which includes courses at the National Fire Academy, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and numerous State and Local level courses.

- ❖ Involved in the preparation and ignition of approximately 100 training related fires that were used for education purposes at various classes I have been involved in as an instructor.
- ❖ Developed / co-developed and presented a number of training courses that focus on fire/arson investigation.
- ❖ Qualified as an expert witness in fire origin and cause determination in Carbon, Luzerne, Monroe County courts. Expert testimony was also offered at district court level in the same counties as well as civil depositions on 25+ occasions.

3. **1990 – 1992:** **Kidder Township Police Department** **Patrol Officer**

- Enforce the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Enforce the local ordinances enacted by the governing body
- Answer calls for assistance
- Investigate crimes and traffic accidents
- Interview involved parties

4. **1980 - 1987:** **Klitsch Electric** **Laborer**

- Employed on a part-time & summer basis with family owned electrical contracting business
- Installed new electrical service, conductors and devices in new construction (residential & commercial)
- Troubleshoot electrical problems to identify the problem and correct same

Professional Publications/Presentations

- Developer – *Hero to Zero – Firefighter Arsonist* program; Pennsylvania Association of Arson Investigators.
- Subject Matter Expert: 2010: United States Fire Administration – National Fire Academy: R205 Fire/Arson Program
- College Instructor: Fall 2010 Semester: Luzerne County Community College – Fire Science Program; Taught semester session on Fire Investigation (FST251)
- National Volunteer Firefighter Council (NVFC) – Committee member responsible for the development of a White Paper dealing with Firefighter Arson and how to combat it on a nationwide level.

Certified Fire Investigator

- Pennsylvania State Certified Fire Investigator, Certification #146 (OSFC)
- International Association of Arson Investigators, Certification # 29-067 (IAAI)
- Nationally Registered Fire Investigator, Certification # 51467 (NBFSBQ)
- National Association of Fire Investigators, Certification # 17922v (CVFI)

Certified Instructor

Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

- Pennsylvania State Certified Fire Instructor I, Certification # 820 (OSFC)
- Nationally Registered Fire Service Instructor I, Certification # 60484 (NBFSBQ)
- Pennsylvania State Certified Fire Instructor II, Certification # R201 (OSFC)
- Nationally Registered Fire Service Instructor II, Certification # 595143 (NBFSBQ)
- Former Adjunct Suppression Instructor – Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

National Fire Academy – Former Adjunct Instructor

- Fire and Arson Investigation
- Forensic Evidence Collection
- Fire Cause Determination for Company Officers

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives – Former Contract Instructor

- Fire/Arson Investigation (USFA-ATF)

Fire Service Certifications

- Firefighter I Pennsylvania Certification # 4291
National Certification # 50912
- Firefighter II Pennsylvania Certification # 1313
National Certification # 60409
- Fire Officer I Pennsylvania Certification # 521
National Certification # 185509
- Fire Inspector I Pennsylvania Certification # 003393 (expired)
National Certification # 230060

Memberships in Fraternal, Civic Clubs and Organizations

- Pennsylvania Association of Arson Investigators (PAAI) – Currently hold the position of 2nd Vice President
- Lehigh and Northampton Counties Fire Investigation Training Association – former committee member
- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
- National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)
- National Association of Subrogation Professionals (NASP)
- National Fire Protection Association

- Firefighter (Retired) – Local Volunteer Fire Company

Miscellaneous

- Licensed Private Investigator in Pennsylvania & New Jersey
- Commercial Drone Pilot – FAA Part 107 Certified for small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS)

WEB - NOT HIRED

Training Addendum

October	2018	Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires – 2 Days International Association of Arson Investigators Reading, PA
September	2018	What the Insurance Professional needs to know Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
September	2018	Fire Chemistry Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
August	2018	Motor Vehicles – Part II Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
August	2018	Motor Vehicles – Part I Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
July	2018	Discovery in Civil Cases Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
July	2018	Residential Natural Gas Systems Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
June	2018	PAAI June Training Seminar State College PA
October	2017	Safety & Health Guidelines for O&C Investigators Mr. Michael Donahue – Presenter LANCFITA Seminar (10/25/17)
October	2017	Metallurgy and Fire Investigations Mr. John Gashinski- Presenter LANCFITA Seminar (10/18/17)
October	2017	Lithium Batteries/ Investigation of Related Fires Mr. Michael Eskra – Presenter LANCFITA Seminar (10/4/17)

September 2017 Fire Investigations & Defense Attorneys
Atty. Corey Kolcharno – Presenter
LANCFITA Seminar (9/27/17)

September 2017 Vehicle Fires
Mr. Barry Grimm – Presenter
LANCFITA Seminar (9/20/17)

September 2017 NFPA1033 Updates
Mr. George Wendt – Presenter
LANCFITA Seminar (9/13/17)

April 2017 Advanced Forensic Photography
International Association of Arson Investigators
Reading, PA

April 2017 Basic Forensic Photography
International Association of Arson Investigators
Reading, PA

March 2017 Thermometry, Heat, and Heat Transfer
Web Based Training Program
International Association of Arson Investigators

October 2016 Understanding the Fire Investigator's Job
Web Based Training Program
International Association of Arson Investigators

October 2016 Solar Photovaltaics Systems
Joe Camarota – Presenter
New Jersey - IAAI

October 2016 Giving Better Depositions
New Jersey - IAAI

October 2016 The Daubert Standard for Expert Testimony
LANCFITA

October 2016 Residential Electricity & Arc Mapping Review
Mr. David Cusatis – Presenter
LANCFITA

September 2016 Expert Report Writing
LANCFITA

September	2016	FSC Cigarettes Mr. James DeSimone – Presenter LANCFITA
September	2016	Residential Gas Supply & CSST Review Mr. Michael Zazula – Presenter LANCFITA
May	2016	Investigating Natural Gas Systems Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
May	2016	Legal Aspects of Investigating Youth-Set Fires Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
May	2016	Introduction to Youth-Set Fires Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
March	2016	Insurance and the Fire Investigation Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
September	2015	Subrogation & Proper Collection of Evidence LANCFITA
September	2015	Theories in Forensic Investigations & Litigation LANCFITA
September	2015	Fire Suppression Systems for the Fire Investigator Steven Schneider – Presenter LANCFITA
September	2015	Fire Related Death Investigation Corners: Zachary Lysek & Scott Grimm - Presenters LANCFITA
October	2014	Basic Electricity Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
October	2014	Process of Elimination Web Based Training Program

International Association of Arson Investigators

October	2014	Fire Detection System & Data Retrieval Mr. Tito Burgos – Presenter LANCFITA
October	2014	Automatic Fire Suppression System Failure Analysis Mr. James Valentine – Presenter LANCFITA
October	2014	NFPA 921 – 2014 Updates Mr. George Wendt – Presenter LANCFITA
September	2014	Modern Fire Dynamics & Flow Paths Mr. John Price – Presenter LANCFITA
September	2014	Explosion Dynamics Mr. Jamie Novak – Presenter LANCFITA
September	2014	Investigation of Pellet & Gas Burning Appliances Mr. Leo Herrmann – Presenter LANCFITA
September	2013	Commercial Kitchen Fire Investigation PAAI – Eastern Zone Training, 3 days Conshohocken, PA
August	2013	Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
August	2013	Using Resources to Validate your Hypothesis Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
August	2013	The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921 Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
August	2013	NFPA 1033 and Your Career Web Based Training Program

International Association of Arson Investigators

September 2012

Hands on Vehicle Fire/Arson Investigation
Public Agency Training Council
Wallingford, CT

June 2011

2011 Annual PAAI Seminar
"From the Fire Scene to the Courtroom"
State College, PA

September 2010

Expert Report Writing
Dr. David Icove
New Jersey Chapter - IAAI

August 2010

Fundamentals of Interviewing
Web Based Training Program
International Association of Arson Investigators

August 2010

Electrical Safety
Web Based Training Program
International Association of Arson Investigators

July 2010

Wildland Fire Investigation
Web Based Training Program
International Association of Arson Investigators

June 2010

2010 Annual PAAI Conference
Vehicle Fire Investigation
State College, PA

May 2010

Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction
Web Based Training Program
International Association of Arson Investigators

February 2010

Critical Thinking Solves Cases
Web Based Training Program
International Association of Arson Investigators

February 2010

Preparation for the Marine Fire Scene
Web Based Training Program
International Association of Arson Investigators

February 2010

Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab?
Web Based Training Program
International Association of Arson Investigators

February	2010	The HAZWOPER Standard Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
September	2009	Effective Investigation and Testimony Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
August	2009	Motive, Means & Opportunity: Determining Responsibility in an Arson Case Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
August	2009	Understanding Fire through Candle Experiments Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
August	2009	Investigating Fatal Fires Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
August	2009	Fire & Explosion Investigations: Utilizing 1033 & 921 Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
August	2009	Post Flashover Fires Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
August	2009	Arc Mapping Basics Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
July	2009	Enclosure Fires/ Fire Phenomena United States Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives Fire Research Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland
April	2009	Vacant and Abandoned Buildings: Hazards and Solutions Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
April	2009	Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene Web Based Training Program

		International Association of Arson Investigators
April	2009	Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
April	2009	Documenting the Scene Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
January	2009	Forensic Evidence Collection – Pilot Class National Fire Academy Emmitsburg, MD
April	2008	Short Course in the Documentation, Recovery & Interpretation of the Fatal Fire Victim Tripwire Operations Group Lackawanna County Public Safety Center
January	2008	HVAC Equipment & Electrical System Investigation PAAI – Winter Seminar State College, PA
September	2007	Introduction to Evidence Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
July	2007	Fire/Arson Investigation ATF/NFA Pilot Class National Fire Academy Emmitsburg, MD
January	2007	Basic Electrical Fire Investigation PAAI – Sponsored State College, PA
December	2006	Fire Dynamics Calculations Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
October	2006	Occupational Safety & Health Issues for Fire Investigators Montgomery County Fire Academy PAAI – Sponsored

September	2006	Enclosure Fires/Fire Phenomena United States Department of Justice Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives Fire Research Laboratory Beltsville, Maryland
May	2006	Fire Investigator Scene Safety Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
January	2006	Self Heating/Spontaneous Combustion Seminar National Fire Academy PAAI-Sponsored Emmitsburg, MD.
October	2005	The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
August	2005	Magnetek: A Case Study in the Daubert Challenge Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
August	2005	Ethics and the Fire Investigator Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
August	2005	Digital Photography for Fire Investigators Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
April	2005	Introduction to Fire Dynamics & Modeling Web Based Training Program International Association of Arson Investigators
March	2005	Fire Dynamics/ Fire Modeling National Fire Academy Emmitsburg, MD
January	2005	Fire Dynamics/Fire Modeling Seminar National Fire Academy PAAI – Sponsored Emmitsburg, MD.

August 2004 Advanced Origin & Cause/ Courtroom Techniques
Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
Brunswick, GA

May 2004 Fire Fatality Investigation
Public Agency Training Council
West Conshohocken, PA

April 2004 Fire Pattern Recognition & Identification
Public Agency Training Council
Allentown, PA

January 2004 Fire Dynamics/Fire Modeling Seminar
National Fire Academy - PAAI – Sponsored
Emmitsburg, MD

January 2004 Fire Arson Investigation
National Fire Academy
Emmitsburg, MD

December 2003 Investigating Fuel Gas Fires and Explosions
Public Agency Training Council
West Conshohocken, PA

April 2003 Juvenile Fire Setter Seminar
PA State Police Fire Marshal Division
Gettysburg, PA

April 2002 Appliance Fires & Tools of the Trade
Tri-Fire Consultants, Inc.
Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA

October 2001 Advanced Post Blast Examination
Protection Planning, Inc.
Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA

September 2001 Electrical Fire Investigation
Bucks County Community College
Doylestown, PA

February 2001 NFPA921 Seminar II
PA Association of Arson Investigators
Doylestown, PA

February	2001	NFPA921 Seminar I PA Association of Arson Investigators Doylestown, PA
April	1999	Post Blast Scene Examination Protection Planning, Inc. Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA
November	1995	Fire & Arson Investigation – Electrical II PA Fire Academy Lewistown, PA
October	1995	Advanced Fire & Arson Investigation PA Fire Academy Lewistown, PA
September	1995	Fire & Arson Investigation – Electrical I PA Fire Academy Lewistown, PA
May	1995	Arson Detection & Fire Investigation PA Fire Academy Lewistown, PA
March	1995	Building Construction (NC/FR) PA Fire Academy Lewistown, PA
March	1995	Building Construction (Ordinary) PA Fire Academy Lewistown, PA
May	1995	Intro to Practical Investigation of Fire Cause & Origin Public Agency Training Council Hershey, PA
May	1994	Arson Detection Seminar University of Delaware Wilmington, DE
May	1993	Fire Arson Investigation Bucks County Community College