

CURRICULUM VITAE
for
RICHARD B. GRUNBAUM, IAAI-CFI(V), CFEI, CVFI, CFII, ECT
Fire Origin and Cause Investigator
Private Investigator Licenses - CA PI20512

Fire Origin and Cause, Inc.
P.O. Box 4422 Huntington Beach, CA 92605
Email - rick@fireoc.com Web Page www.fireoc.com
Mobile 714-206-5424 - Office 877-300-3431

INVESTIGATIVE CAPABILITIES:

Qualified to conduct origin and cause investigations of fire and explosion incidents involving residential, commercial, industrial, automotive, marine, wildland, and hazardous materials environments. Investigative scope includes suspected arson, accidental ignition, chemical releases, and illegal discharges. Utilizes a systematic approach based on the Scientific Method as outlined in NFPA 921 (2024 edition), ensuring all hypotheses are tested against empirical data and scene evidence. Responsibilities include:

- Locating the area of origin or seat of explosion through burn pattern analysis, damage assessment, and witness correlation.
- Determining the ignition source and causal factors using forensic protocols and scene reconstruction.
- Collecting, preserving, and documenting physical evidence, including samples for laboratory analysis.
- Preparing comprehensive investigation reports tailored to legal and insurance audiences, incorporating origin and cause analysis, witness statements, annotated photographs, diagrams, and video documentation.
- Capturing aerial imagery and video using UAVs and documenting fire scenes with Matterport 3D scans for spatial accuracy and presentation clarity.
- Rendering professional opinions supported by documented methodology and scene findings.
- Providing expert testimony in legal proceedings, including case review, deposition, and trial support.
- Conducting hazardous materials investigations related to fires, spills, leaks, and environmental violations.

All investigative procedures strictly adhere to NFPA 921 standards to ensure defensibility, repeatability, and professional integrity.

FORMAL EDUCATION:

BS degree in Vocational Education, California State Long Beach.
AA degree in Fire Science, Santa Ana College, Santa Ana, CA.
High School Graduate, Edison High School, Huntington Beach, CA.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING:

CCAI – Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar – 28 Hours 10/25 - Tested
IAAI – Investigation of Marine Fire Investigation – 32 Hours 6/25 - Tested
CCAI – Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar – 28-hours 2/2025 - Tested
CCAI -Advance Fire Investigation Seminar – 28 – Hours 10/2024 - Tested
IAAI-ITC – Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar – 36 Hours 4/24 - Tested
CCAI – Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar – 10/2023 – 28 Hours - Tested
CCAI – Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar – 10/2022 – 28 Hours - Tested
IAAI – Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires – 24 hours 1/2022 - Tested
CCAI – Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar – 9/2021 – 28 Hours -Tested
CCAI – Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar – 2/2021 – 28 Hours - Tested
CCAI – Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar – 9/2020 – 28 Hours - Tested
CCAI – Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar – 9/2019 – 28 Hours - Tested
CCAI – Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar – 9/2018 – 28 Hours - Tested
IAAI – Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar – 4/2017 – 28 Hours - Tested
CCAI – Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar – 11/2017 – 28 Hours - Tested
CCAI – Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar – 1033 – 10/16 – 24 Hours - Tested
CCAI – Issues with Electrolux Dryer Fires and Arc Mapping – 6/2016
CCAI – Marine Fire Investigations 6/18
CCAI – “Burn to Learn” – 3/7/16 - Tested
CCAI - NFPA 1033 - 3/30/15 - Tested
IAAI - Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar - 4/2014 – 36 Hours Tested
IAAI - Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar - 5/2011 – 36 Hours Tested
NAFI - Advanced Fire Investigation Seminar - 3/2011
Fire Investigation 1 – State Fire Marshal’s Office
Fire Investigation 2 - State Fire Marshal’s Office
Fire Investigation 3 - State Fire Marshal’s Office
O.C.A.I – Kinesics Interviewing
Electrical Appliance Investigation – Public Agency Training Council
CSTI Haz-Mat Investigation
CSTI Officer Safety
C.C.A.I. Bi-Annual Seminars 1998 to Present
H.B.P.D. Psychological Profiling
Haz-Mat Flammable Liquids
Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms – Arson for Profit
C.C.A.I Seminar NFPA 921 – 8 Hrs.
C.C.A.I – Live Fire Tests – Doug Allen
C.C.A.I – Fire Death Investigation – Jim Allen
Public Agency Training Council – Vehicle Fires
IAAI – CFITrainer – Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical and fuel systems
IAAI – CFITrainer – Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake and Accessory Systems
IAAI – CFITrainer – Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical and fuel systems
IAAI – CFITrainer – The Scientific method for Fire and Explosion Investigation - Updated 2009

IAAI – CFITrainer – Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling

SPECIALIZED TRAINING (Continued):

IAAI – CFITrainer – Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires

IAAI – CFITrainer – Introduction to Evidence

IAAI – CFITrainer – Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene

IAAI – CFITrainer – Understanding Fire through the Candle Experiments

IAAI – CFITrainer – Documenting the Event

IAAI – CFITrainer – Investigating Fatal Fires

IAAI – CFITrainer – Fire Investigator Scene Safety

IAAI – CFITrainer – Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations

IAAI – CFITrainer – Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator

IAAI – CFITrainer – An Analysis of the Station Nightclub Fire

IAAI – CFITrainer – Insurance and the Fire Investigation

IAAI – CFITrainer – Post Flashover Fires

IAAI – CFITrainer – Arc Mapping Basics

IAAI – CFITrainer – Fire and Explosion Investigations: Utilizing NFPA 1033 and 921

IAAI – CFITrainer – The HAZWOPER Standard

IAAI – CFITrainer – Preparation for the Marine Fire Scene

IAAI – CFITrainer – Electrical Safety

IAAI – CFITrainer – Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction

IAAI – CFITrainer – MagneTek: A Case Study in the Daubert Challenge

IAAI – CFITrainer – Wildland Fire Investigation

IAAI – CFITrainer – Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab?

IAAI – CFITrainer – The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 & 921

IAAI – CFITrainer – NFPA 1033 and Your Career

IAAI – CFITrainer – Ethics and the Fire Investigator

IAAI – CFITrainer - DNA

Serial Arson Analysis and Planning

COURSES AND SEMINARS INSTRUCTED:

Master Instructor for Santa Ana College, Santa Ana, CA – Fire Investigation 40 hour intensified class.
Numerous classes since 1978

Master Instructor for Santa Ana College, Santa Ana, CA – Fire Prevention 40 hour intensified class.
Numerous classes since 1978

Master Instructor for Santa Ana College, Santa Ana, CA – Basic Fire Academy – 8-hour class. Numerous
classes since 1996.

California Conference of Arson Investigators – Jan. 1998 – Investigative Resources on the Internet

California Conference of Arson Investigators – Jan. 2005 – Report Writing

Western States Auto Theft Investigators – Nov. 1999 – Investigative Resources on the Internet

Fire Investigation Report Writing

Fire Investigation Photography

Fire Cause and Origin, Strategy and Tactics

Incident Command System

COURSES AND SEMINARS INSTRUCTED(Continued):

Flammable Liquids in Fire Investigations

Fire Behavior

Vehicle Fire Investigation

Company Officer and Firefighter Recognition of Arson Fires

Guest Speaker at Numerous Community Meetings – Arson

Basic Cause and Origin – H.B.F.D Numerous Classes

TEST BURNS:

California Conference of Arson Investigators – Lithium-Ion batteries 10/2023

International Assoc. of Arson Investigators – Vehicle Fires 1/25/2022

California Conference of Arson Investigators – Structure Fires 11/2017

California Conference of Arson Investigators – Vehicle Fires

California Conference of Arson Investigators – Electrical Fires

City of Santa Ana – Structure Fires

City of Huntington Beach – Structure Fires

City of Huntington Beach – Flashover Chamber

Public Agency Training Council – Vehicle Fires

C.C.A.I. Electrical Fires – March 2008

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

International Association of Arson Investigators

California Conference of Arson Investigators

National Association of Fire Investigators

Orange County Arson Investigators (past)

International Association of Marine Investigators

National Fire Protection Association

Instructor for the State of California

Instructor for Santa Ana College – Investigation / Prevention

Orange County Fire Prevention Officers (past)

California Fire Chiefs Association (past)