

Metts Hardy, IAAI-CFI, CFEI, CHMT
Vice President, Fire Investigations
Fire Investigator Practice Leader

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Years' Experience: 36

Professional Summary:

Mr. Hardy has over 36 years conducting fire service and insurance related origin and cause investigations, specializing in fires and explosions in residential/commercial property, vehicles, etc. He has conducted in excess of 3,000 fire origin and cause investigations. He has attended and instructed numerous seminars and continued education programs related to Fire Investigation and NFPA 921 for both public and private sector investigators. He is an IAAI Certified Fire Investigator, Certified Fire/Explosion Investigator, Pro-Board Certified, Fire Causation Instructor, Certified Hazardous Materials Technician, and a licensed Private Investigator. He has qualified and provided expert witness testimony in state and federal courts in the field of origin and cause of fires and explosions in MS, LA, KY, and TN.

Licenses and Certifications:

National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications, #304063, 2011
Certified Fire Investigator, IAAI, #04-112034, 2011
Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, NAFI, #3808-544, 1992
Certified Fire Causation Instructor, TN, 1991
Certified Hazardous Materials Technician, GA, #1000, 1992
Private Investigator, TN, #0000086
Private Investigator, SC, #PCD1513
Private Investigator, KY, #KY-0045

Project Experience:

Confidential Client, Tennessee
Fire Investigation

Conducted origin and cause investigation of a fire in a four story nursing home that resulted in multiple fatalities. Investigation included fire dynamics and fire spread, as well as failure analysis to determine the fire cause.

Confidential Client, Tennessee
Explosion Investigation

Conducted origin and cause investigation into an explosion and fire at an insured residence. Investigation resulted in determining that the fire was a fraudulent and intentional act as a result of disconnecting the propane supply line to the HVAC and initiating a fire with kerosene until the fire reached the escaping gas, which caused the explosion and destruction to the home.

Project Experience (Continued),

Legal Client, Tennessee

Personal Injury Defense

Conducted an origin and cause investigation into a gas leak and ensuing fire that critically burned a construction worker. The worker filed suit against the city and numerous other parties in connection with the event for his injuries. Investigation determined that the incident was the result of negligence of the individual filing suit. The case was subsequently withdrawn.

Confidential Client, Tennessee

Fire Investigation

Conducted an origin and cause investigation into a fire loss that destroyed million plus dollar residence, personal property, and vehicle. Investigation determined fire intentionally started by homeowner or his agent. The insurer denied coverage and the case was adjudicated in Federal Court. The court found the insured was responsible and the insurer prevailed as well as awarded all costs.

Professional Experience:

EFI Global, Inc., 1998 – Present

Vice President, Fire Investigations, November 2013 – Present

Regional Vice President, Eastern Region, 2005 – October 2013

District Manager/Senior Investigator, April 1996 – July 1998

INS Investigations Bureau, Inc., Special Agent/Senior Investigator; September 1986 – March 1996

Newell Investigative Services, Special Investigator, August 1985 – September 1985

Equifax Insurance Services, Fire Investigator, February 1985 – August 1985

Bolivar County Fire Department, Firefighter, Investigator/Command Officer/Firefighter/EMT, November 1974 – August 1986

Specialized Education:

Fire/Arson Detection, National Fire Academy, Jackson, Mississippi

Electrical Fire Investigation, University of Alabama - Birmingham

Fire Investigation of Electrical Causes, University of Southern Mississippi

Advanced Arson, Mississippi State Fire Academy

Fire/Arson Investigation, International Association of Arson Investigators

Cause and Origin on Fires, Tennessee State Fire Marshall's Office

Fire Investigation Techniques, Tennessee International Association of Arson Investigators

Arson Detection Instruction Training, Tennessee State Fire School

Hazardous Material Emergency Response, Georgia Institute of Technology

Cause and Origin of Fires and Explosions, Eastern Kentucky University

Fire/Arson Detection, National Fire Academy

Fire Investigation, Tennessee Advisory Committee on Arson

Scientific Method for Fire Investigation & Explosion Investigation, CFITrainer.net / IAAI

Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling, CFITrainer.net / IAAI

Arc Mapping Basics, CFITrainer.net / IAAI

Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, CFITrainer.net / IAAI

Specialized Education (Continued),

The Hazwoper Standard, CFITrainer.net / IAAI
Effective Investigation and Testimony, CFITrainer.net / IAAI
Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations, CFITrainer.net / IAAI
Fire Protection Systems, CFITrainer.net / IAAI
Insurance and the Fire Investigation, CFITrainer.net / IAAI
Asbestos Awareness Training, EFI Global
NFPA 921 & 1033 2014 Edition: Important Revisions, CFITrainer.net / IAAI
Residential Electrical Systems, CFITrainer.net / IAAI

Education:

Delta State University, Business Major (non-degreed)
Cleveland High School, Cleveland, MS

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
Tennessee Chapter IAAI
National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)
Tennessee Advisory Committee on Arson
National Fire Protection Association

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Accidental Fire Causes
Fire Investigation, Level II
Fire Cause and Origin
Fire Cause Recognition
Practical View of NFPA-921
Vehicle Fire Investigation
"Moot Trial for New Trial Attorneys", Nashville Bar Association, 1987
"National Fire Academy's Fire and Arson Detection" Robertson County
Fire Department, January, 1992
Wilson County Emergency Management Agency, September, 1992
"Fire Cause and Origin" Motlow State Community College, March, 1994
"Evidence Collection Practices According to NFPA 921" State Farm Insurance Company,
November, 1996
"Large Loss Management" Florida IAAI, September 1998.
Tennessee Advisory Committee on Arson, Annual Seminars, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1997
"Interviewing Emergency Responders" National Society of Professional Insurance
Investigators, March 2005
"Vehicle Fire Investigation" Florida Advisory Council on Arson Prevention, November
2007
"Fire Investigation for Reliable Results" Manufacturer's Alliance
Products Liability and Product Safety Council, October 2008

Publications and Presentations:

Hardy, E. Metts, "Fire Origin and Cause – The Latest Developments," Western Region
PLRB (Property Loss Research Bureau) Conference, Dallas, TX, September 2012.
Hardy, E. Metts, "Encouraging Signs for Fire Safety." Occupational Health & Safety
Magazine, August 2005.