

James “Doug” Burns | Senior Fire Investigator, Asbestos Inspector, IAAI-CFI, NAFI-CFEI & CVFI

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Burns has more than 20 years of experience in the public fire service, with over two decades in the fire investigation/fire prevention industry. He has serviced the private insurance industry as a fire origin and cause investigator for over 16 years. He is retired from the position of Battalion Chief/ Fire Investigator with the City of Somerset Fire Department and has authored hundreds of origin and cause fire investigation reports for the private and the public sector. He has worked numerous fires involving fire fatalities and multi-million-dollar losses.

Mr. Burns has expertise in the fields of:

- Fire Origin and Cause Investigation
- Hazardous Materials Technician
- Asbestos Inspection

Licenses and Certifications:

Certified Asbestos Inspector Initial, Kentucky License # 73812

Certified Fire Inspector Level 1, Kentucky Department of Building and Construction

Certified Fire Investigator, International Association of Arson Investigators, 02-061(28474)

Certified Fire and Explosives Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators, 14536-7594v

Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators, 14536-7594v

Certified Kentucky Emergency Medical Technician, Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, 1037951

Level II Fire Service Instructor, Kentucky Fire Commission, 4608

Certified OSHA Hazardous Materials Technician

Certified Firefighter I & II, International Association of Fire Service Accreditation, 759262, 822580

Private Investigator, Kentucky, # KY 136082

Private Investigator, Ohio, # 201211196306

Private Investigator, Tennessee. # 8138

Private Investigator, West Virginia

Private Investigator, Indiana

Project Experience:

Fire Investigation – Louisville, KY

Reconstructed the remains of a room in the driveway to identify that an unattended candle caused the fire. Also identified the tampering with the smoke alarm system prevented earlier notification of the fire.

Fire Investigation - Goshen, KY

An analysis of a 1.5 +/- million dollar building used for the owner's game room. Identified that a heating appliance was improperly installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Fire Investigation – Stony Fork, KY

Analysis of a residential fire with three separate points of origin. Identified matches as the item used to ignite the fire. Claim denied at corporate level.

Court Qualifications/ Depositions:

Litigation CV available upon request.

Professional Experience:

Somerset Police Department, Safety Officer, Duties included, but not limited to the patrol and citation of parking violations within the corporate city limits of Somerset. 1991-1992

Somerset Police Department, Office Clerk. Duties to include, but not limited to filing of citations and entering data for tracking of motor vehicle accidents, Finger printing and photography of shoplifters, and development of their photos for criminal case files. 1994-1995

City of Somerset Fire Department, Battalion Chief/Fire Investigator. Duties to include, but not limited to coordinating and commanding fire suppression personnel in fire & rescue emergencies, Investigate the Origin and Cause of fires for the Commonwealth of Kentucky within Somerset and Pulaski County, Instruct emergency service personnel in various techniques in handling emergency scenarios. 1995 to July 2015 (Retired)

EFI Global-Senior Fire Investigator. Duties to include, but not limited to Investigate, Inspect and Interpret evidence of fire/explosion damage to residential and commercial buildings, vehicles, etc. and determining the origin and cause of fires/explosions. Asbestos Inspection Initial and Hazardous Materials Technician 2007 to present

Specialized Education:

Commercial Kitchen Fires 1: Fundamentals, CFITrainer.net, April 3, 2024, Tested
Open-source Intelligence in Tactical Investigations and Investigating Explosion Incidents and Victim Protocols, KY IAAI, March 13-15, 2024, Tested
Fire Death Investigations, Investigating Mobile Fires, Fire Evidence Collection, KY IAAI, March 15-17, 2023, Tested
Alternative Fuel Vehicles, CFITrainer.net, February 27, 2023, Tested

Challenges to Experts Qualifications, Methodology, & Opinions, Cancer Awareness, Coordination of a public/private Joint examination of a large and complex scene, KY IAAI, March 17 & 18, 2022, Tested

Photovoltaic Cells & Systems, CFITrainer.net, January 22, 2022, Tested

Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake, and Accessory Systems, CFITrainer.net, January 22, 2022, Tested

Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Design Basics, CFITrainer.net, January 7, 2022, Tested

Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical, and Fuel Systems, CFITrainer.net, January 6, 2022, Tested

Using Resources to Validate your Hypothesis, CFITrainer.net, January 6, 2022, Tested

Understanding Fire Through the Candle Experiment, CFITrainer.Net, January 6, 2022, Tested

The Deposition Part 2: Questioning Tactics and Effective Response, CFI Trainer.net, July 2, 2021, Tested

Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Fires, CFI Trainer.net, April 19, 2021, Tested

The Deposition Part 1: Format, Content, and Preparation, CFI Trainer.net, September 23, 2020, Tested

Vacant and Abandoned Buildings: Hazards and Solutions, CFI Trainer.net April 20, 2020, Tested

The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921, CFI Trainer.net, April 20, 2020, Tested

Introduction to Appliances CFI Trainer.net, April 20, 2020, Tested

Discovery in Criminal Cases, CFI Trainer.net, April 19, 2020, Tested

Residential Natural Gas Systems, CFI Trainer.net, April 09, 2020, Tested

Residential Electrical Systems, CFI Trainer.net, April 09, 2020, Tested

Fire Flow Analysis, CFI Trainer.net, April 09, 2020, Tested

Charting Your Career Path in Fire Investigation, CFI Trainer.net, April 09, 2020, Tested

Modern Techniques of Fire and Arson Investigation (32 hours), Tennessee IAAI, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, August 2019, tested.

Asbestos Inspector Refresher (4 hour), Resolutions Inc., February 2019, Tested

Understanding Undetermined, CFI Trainer.net, December 2018, Tested

Preparation for the Marine Fire Scene, CFI Trainer.net, September 2018, Tested

Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, CFI Trainer.net, September 2018, Tested

Modern Techniques of Fire and Arson Investigation (32.5 hours), Tennessee IAAI, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, August 2018, tested.

EMT Refresher (20 Hours), Lake Cumberland Firefighters Association, Somerset, Kentucky May 2018, Tested

Discovery in Civil Cases, CFI Trainer.net, December 2017, Tested

Fire Chemistry, CFI Trainer.net, December 2017, Tested

Motive, Means, and Opportunity: Determining Responsibility in an Arson Case, CFI Trainer.net, December 2017, Tested

Cyber Evidence for Investigators and Product Failure (16 Hours), Kentucky IAAI Conference, Bowling Green, Kentucky, October 2017, Tested.

Modern Techniques of Fire and Arson Investigation (32.5 hours), Tennessee IAAI, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, August 2017, tested.

Certified Asbestos Inspector Initial, (3 Day), Resolutions Inc., Nashville, TN, May 3, 2017, Tested

Safely Operating During Hostile Incidents and Civil Disturbances, Kentucky Fire Commission, Owensboro, KY, February 24-26, 2017, Non-Tested

Ethical Duties Beyond the Fire Scene, CFI Trainer.net, January 2017, Tested

Legal Aspects of Investigating Youth-Set Fires, CFI Trainer.net, January 2017, Tested

Modern Techniques of Fire and Arson Investigation (31.5 hours), Tennessee IAAI, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, August 2016, tested.

"Method of Instruction/Technology in the Classroom" (7 hours), Bryant Styles Officer School, Owensboro, KY February 25-28, 2016.

"Investigating Natural Gas Systems", IAAI CFITrainer.Net, December 07, 2015, Tested.

"How First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation", IAAI CFITrainer.Net, December 07, 2015, Tested.

"Insurance and the Fire Investigator", IAAI CFITrainer.Net, December 07, 2015, Tested.

"Assistant Instructor at the 2015 Pulaski County Fire and Rescue Association, Spring Fire School, Somerset, Kentucky, May 1-3, 2015, 10 hours training, tested.

"Hazardous Materials Technician Level Refresher", Opportunity Advance Innovation, Somerset, Kentucky, 8 hours Training, March 23, 2015

"Juvenile Fire Setter, Combining Fire Science with Circumstantial Evidence and Logic, Forensic Analysis, & Arson Physical Evidence Training". Georgetown, Kentucky, March 19-20, 2015, Tested.

"The Potential Value of Electronic Evidence in Fire Investigation". IAAI, CFITrainer.Net, January 26, 2015, Tested.

"Hazardous Materials Technician Level Refresher", Opportunity Advance Innovation, Somerset, Kentucky, 8 hours Training, March 22, 2014

"Ethics & Social Media", IAAI CFITrainer.Net, December 07, 2014, Tested.

"Post Flashover Fires", IAAI CFITrainer.Net, December 6, 2014, Tested.

"Fundamentals of Interviewing". IAAI CFITrainer.Net, December 13, 2014, Tested

"Basic Electricity". IAAI CFITrainer.Net, December 07, 2014, Tested

"Writing of the Initial Origin and Cause Report". IAAI CFITrainer.Net, December 19, 2014, Tested.

"Fire Protection Systems". IAAI CFITrainer.Net, December 31, 2014, Tested.

Asbestos Awareness Training, EFI Global Webinar, July 17, 2014.

"Modern Techniques of Fire and Arson Investigation", Tennessee IAAI, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, August 12-16 2013, Tested.

"Ventilation Effects on Fire Patterns and Stove Fired Intentional or Accidental", Kentucky IAAI, Georgetown, Kentucky, March 2013, Tested.

"NFPA 1033 and Your Career", International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc, CFI Trainer.net, March 2013, Tested.

"Effective Investigation and Testimony", International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFI Trainer.net, March 2013, Tested.

Hands on Electrical Fire Investigation, Public Agency Training Council, Louisville, Kentucky, December 2012, Tested.

Modern Techniques of Fire and Arson Investigation, Tennessee IAAI, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, August 2012, Tested.

"Fire Investigation Training in Fire Patterns, Meth labs and legal issues", Kentucky NSPII Somerset, Kentucky, November 2012.

Modern Techniques of Fire and Arson Investigation, Tennessee IAAI, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, August 2011, Tested.

Asbestos Awareness Training, EFI Global Webinar, March 2011.

"Forensic Evaluation of Vehicle Fuels, Physical Evidence and Structure Fires. What are the challenges?" Kentucky IAAI, Georgetown, Kentucky March 2011.

Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators, Lexington, Kentucky September 21-24, 2009.

"Forensic evidence collection, Interviewing techniques for arson investigators, and Flammable gas explosions", Kentucky IAAI, Georgetown, Kentucky, March 2009.

Education:

Bachelor of Science, Police Administration and Management with a minor in Fire Safety Engineering, Eastern Kentucky University, 1994

Associates of Applied Science, Fire and Rescue Technology, Kentucky Community and Technical College System, 2002

Affiliations:

National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)
International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
Kentucky Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators
Tennessee Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators
Retired Battalion Chief/Investigator, Somerset Fire Department
High Street Baptist Church, Deacon

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Mr. Burns has instructed firefighters, fire service personnel and the Insurance Industry personnel on a wide array of topics ranging from Fire Prevention to Fire Investigation. Topics recently covered include "Meth Lab recognition and the Insurance Industry" as well as "Fire Pattern Recognition".

Mr. Burns has conducted lectures in Fire Investigation Techniques on "Contamination to Decontamination, How to Keep from Spoiling Your Claim".