
James Wedemeier | Senior Fire Investigator, IAAI-CFI NAFI-CFEI CFII MO-CFI

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Professional Summary:

Investigator Wedemeier has 35 years of experience in the public fire industry having performed numerous fire investigations on a variety of structures, facilities and vehicles. His expertise includes fire investigations, fire inspections, training, fire suppression and Incident Command responsibilities. Mr. Wedemeier has responded to over 15,370 incidents, 5,385 have been fire related, which have enabled him to experience and investigate a wide range of fire causes and events. In the private sector Mr. Wedemeier has conducted over 461 fire investigations. As a lead fire investigator, he has also interfaced with Missouri and Illinois Fire Marshal's Office, St. Louis Fire Department Investigation Unit, St. Louis City and St. Louis Regional Bomb and Arson Unit, ATF, and various independent fire departments and fire districts in both Illinois and Missouri. He is currently certified as an IAAI-CFI, NAFI-CFEI, CFII and MO-CFI.

Mr. Wedemeier was formerly certified in all automotive fields and diesel engines by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence. He was also formally certified as an Inspector Mechanic by the Missouri State Highway Patrol. This training has given him a distinct advantage while conducting origin and cause investigations on heavy equipment, vehicles, and engines

Licenses and Certifications:

- Certified Fire Investigator, IAAI-CFI, Certificate No. 10-031411, Effective March 14, 2011
- Certified Fire Investigator, Pro Board # 379077, Effective March 14, 2011
- Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, NAFI-CFI, #11258-5323, Effective March 18, 2006
- Certified Fire Investigator Instructor, NAFI-CFII, #11258-53231, Effective March 13, 2006
- Certified Fire Investigator, State of Missouri, MO-CFI, NFPA, 1033-2009 Effective July 1, 2003
- Certified Professional Firefighter I & II, State of Missouri

Project Experience:

Project experience includes thousands of fire related calls and fire investigations involving residential, commercial, industrial structures and vehicles over a 34-year span in the public sector, with 17 years in the private sector.

Professional Experience:

- EFI Global, Inc., Fire and Explosion Investigator, 2004 - Present
- City of St. Louis Fire Department, Fire Battalion Chief 2001 - Present
- Fire Captain 1994 – 2001
- Firefighter 1987 – 1994

Specialized Education:

CFITrainer.net Programs Completed, 284 Tested Hours, International Association of Arson Investigators, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

Lithium-ion Battery Fires 2022 CFITrainer.net
Principles of Fire Investigation Multi-Program 2021 CFITrainer.net
Charting Your Career Path in Fire Investigation 2021 CFITrainer.net
Introduction to Youth Set Fires 2021 CFITrainer.net
Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake, and Accessory Systems 2021 CFITrainer.net
2020 NFPA and Fire Investigation 2020 CFITrainer.net
Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical, and Fuel Systems 2020 CFITrainer.net
Fire Investigation for Fire Officers 2020 CFITrainer.net
Introduction to Appliances 2020 CFITrainer.net
Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Causes 2020 CFITrainer.net
Fire Chemistry 2019 CFITrainer.net
Fire Flow Analysis 2019 CFITrainer.net
Understanding Undetermined 2019 CFITrainer.net
Discovery in Civil Cases 2018 CFITrainer.net
Discovery in Criminal Cases 2018 CFITrainer.net
Investigating Natural Gas Systems 2017 CFITrainer.net
Residential Natural Gas Systems 2017 CFITrainer.net
Residential Electrical Systems 2017 CFITrainer.net
Basic Electricity 2017 CFITrainer.net
Process of Elimination 2017 CFITrainer.net
Thermometry, Heat, and Heat Transfer 2017 CFITrainer.net
The Deposition part one 2016 CFITrainer.net
The Deposition part two 2016 CFITrainer.net
Process of Elimination 2015 CFITrainer.net
NFPA 921 and 1033 2014 Additions: Important Revisions 2014 CFITrainer.net
How First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation 2013 CFITrainer.net
Ethics and the Fire Investigator 2013 CFITrainer.net
DNA 2012 CFITrainer.net
Critical Thinking Solves Cases 2012 CFITrainer.net
Using Resources to Validate Your Hypotheses 2012 CFITrainer.net
Search and Seizure 2012 CFITrainer.net
Charleston Sofa Super Store Fire 2012 CFITrainer.net
The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921 2012 CFIT
NFPA 1033 and Your Career 2012 CFITrainer.net
Communicating the Value of Membership in the IAAI 2012 CFITrainer.net
Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report 2012 CFITrainer.net
Potential Value of Electronic Evidence in Fire Investigations 2011 CFITrainer.net
Fire Protection Systems 2011 CFITrainer.net
The Fire Investigator and 2011 NFPA 921 Changes 2011 CFITrainer.net
Explosion Dynamics 2010 CFITrainer.net
Fire Investigator Scene Safety 2010 CFITrainer.net
Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling 2010 CFITrainer.net
An Analysis of the Station Nightclub Fire 2010 CFITrainer.net

Introduction to Evidence 2010 CFITrainer.net
Electrical Safety 2010 CFITrainer.net
Fundamentals of Interviewing 2010 CFITrainer.net
Insurance and the Fire Investigation 2010 CFITrainer.net
Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator 2010 CFITrainer.net
Documenting the Event 2010 CFITrainer.net
Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene 2010 CFITrainer.net
Motive, Means and Opportunity: Determining Responsibility in an Arson Case 2010 CFITrainer.net
Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations 2010 CFITrainer.net
Vacant and Abandoned Buildings: Hazards and Solutions 2010 CFITrainer.net
A Ventilation Focused Approach to the Impact of Building Structures & Systems on Fire 2010 CFIT
Effective Investigation and Testimony 2010 CFITrainer.net
Fire and Explosion Investigations: Utilizing NFPA 1033 and 921 2010 CFITrainer.net
Updated 2009 – The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation 2010 CFITrainer.net
Preparation for the Marine Fire Scene 2010 CFITrainer.net
The HAZWOPER Standard 2010 CFITrainer.net
MagneTek: A Case Study in the Daubert Challenge 2010 CFITrainer.net
Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction 2010 CFITrainer.net
Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab? 2010 CFITrainer.net
Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires 2010 CFITrainer.net
Understanding Fire through the Candle Experiments 2010 CFITrainer.net
Arc Mapping Basics 2010 CFITrainer.net
Post Flashover Fires 2010 CFITrainer.net

Additional Specialized Training

Training for the Deposition, EFI Global Education Program 2021
HazMat: Product Control, Fire Rescue One Academy 2021
Fire Investigator Health & Safety in the Post Fire Environment, EFI Global Education Program 2020
Spontaneous Combustion, EFI Global Education Program 2020
Asbestos Awareness Training, EFI Global Education Program 2020
Respiratory Protection Training, EFI Global Education Program 2020
Timelines As an Analytical Tool, EFI Global Education Program 2019
Fire Investigation Training Program, IAAI, Illinois Chapter, 2021
Fire Investigation Training Program, IAAI, Illinois Chapter, 2018
Fire Investigation Training Program, IAAI, Illinois Chapter, 2017
Fire Investigation Training Program, IAAI, Illinois Chapter, 2016
Spontaneous Combustion: Testing the Hypothesis, EFI Global Webinar, 2015
Fire Claim Cases: The Prepared Expert, EFI Global Webinar 2015
Fire Investigation Training Program, IAAI, Missouri Chapter, 2015
Kitchen Hoods 101 Webinar, Captive Aire Systems 2015
NFPA 1500 Hazmat Spill, Prevention, and Control, Target Solutions 2014
NFPA 1500 Combustible and Flammable Liquids, Target Solutions 2014
Introduction to Incident Command System ICS 100, Target Solutions 2014
ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incident ICS-200, Target Solutions 2014
NFPA 1001 Fire Detection, Alarm and Suppression Systems, Target Solutions 2014
NFPA 1001 Building Construction, Target Solutions 2014
NFPA 1001 Fire Prevention and Public Education, Target Solutions 2013
NFPA 1001 Ventilation, Target Solutions 2013
Incident Investigation, Target Solutions, 2013
Preservation of Evidence, Columbia Southern University, 2012

Structure Fire Seminar, Identifying Arson with Fire Investigation Basics. EFI Global 2011
Asbestos Awareness Training, EFI Global 2011
Grain Dust Explosion Hazards, AMD Milling Company 2010
Expert Courtroom Testimony Program, IAAI, 2010
Fire Investigation Training Program, IAAI, Missouri Chapter, 2009
Fire Investigation Training Program, IAAI, Missouri Chapter, 2008

Education:

Associate in Applied Science, Fire Protection Technology,
St. Louis Community College
May 18, 2012

Diesel-Gasoline Engine Mechanics and Diesel Electric Systems Technology
Certificate, Ranken Technical Institute St. Louis, Missouri
12-1980 to 3-1981

Automotive Maintenance Technology
Diploma, Ranken Technical Institute St. Louis, Missouri
8-1978 to 5-1980

Bishop DuBourg High School St. Louis, Missouri
Diploma 1973-1977

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), July 17, 2004 Chapters: Missouri,
Illinois, June 20, 2016
National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) March 13, 2006
Associate Member of Local 73 with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

City of St. Louis Fire Department, Forcible Entry 1996
City of St. Louis Fire Department, Fire Academy Class, 10 Weeks, Platoon Leader, 1991

Honors and Awards:

Police and Fireman's Insurance Association

- Heroes Hall of Fame Roster - 12/92

City of St. Louis, Mo Fire Department

- 8/14/21 St. Louis Missouri. Rescue of a citizen from the Mississippi River
- 1/10/96 Dumas, Arkansas. Rescue of one adult by administering CPR
- 12/29/95 2908 McNair. Rescue of one adult from the second floor.
- 6/6/95 501 North Tucker. Rescue of one adult from a third story ledge.
- 12/12/92 1117 Nth Grand. Rescue of one adult from a third story window.
- 11/29/89 3716A Finney. Rescue of one adult from a house fire.
- 7/22/88 52 Repertory Walk. Rescue of two persons from a house fire.
- 4/12/88 1419 Nth 8th Street. Rescue of child from a high-rise fire.