Nick Steker | Senior Fire Investigator, IAAI-CFI, IAAI-CI, NAFI-CFEI

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Steker has over 20 years' experience in firefighting, code inspections and fire/explosion investigations. For the last 16 years he has assisted or led in over 1500 fire/explosion investigations. As a lead investigator he has investigated residential, commercial and industrial structures, and has investigated numerous motor vehicles. Mr. Steker is also a fire investigation certified instructor. He has also interacted with local, state and federal agencies which include Chicago Fire Department Office of Fire Investigations (OFI), The Illinois State Fire Marshal – Arson Division, and The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Fire Arms (BATF). Prior to becoming a fire investigator Mr. Steker has extensive experience in firefighting, building construction and code enforcement. He also has knowledge with insurance policies and identification of potential subrogation. Mr. Steker is also an elected trustee for the Village of Westchester serving in his third term.

- Fire Origin and Cause Determination
- Explosion Origin and Cause Determination
- Motor Vehicle Origin and Cause Determination
- Bi-Lingual with emphasis in Spanish
- NFPA 1033 Compliant

Licenses and Certifications:

IAAI-CFI, #12-184

IAAI-CFI

IAAI-ECT

CFEI, NAFI, #8015-4276

Fire and Arson Investigator, IL

Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist, IL

Fire Inspector, NFPA

Fire Inspector I, IL

Evidence Technician, IL

Hazardous Materials Technician, IL

Project Experience:

Franklin Park, IL Juvenile Aggravated Arson

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Fire investigation in a single family residence that was followed by a homicide. Juvenile subject was arrested and successfully convicted.

Travel Inn Broadview, IL Aggravated Arson
Fire investigation in a two story motel that led to the successful prosecution and conviction of the offender.

Matt Pak Franklin Park, IL
Large Commercial Fire Loss Fire investigation in a block long commercial structure. The fire was determined to have been caused by self-heating from a volatile substance that was contaminated during transport.

Maywood, IL Aggravated Arson-Multifamily Dwelling
Fire investigation in a large multifamily apartment building that led to the successful confession and conviction of the offender. Company Name, City, ST

Professional Experience:

EFI Global, Inc. Chicago, Illinois, Senior Fire Investigator, 2013 – Present
Triton College, River Grove, Illinois, Fire Science Adjunct Faculty, 2012 – Present
Rayburn Fire Scene Investigations, LaGrange Park, Illinois, Fire Investigator 2003 – 2013
Village of Rosemont, Rosemont, Illinois, Fire Inspector, 2001 – 2011
Village of Franklin Park, Franklin Park, Illinois, Lieutenant/Investigator, 1999 - Present

Specialized Education:

2017
IAAI Independent study "Thermometry, Heat, and Heat Transfer"
IAAI Independent study "Understanding the Fire Investigators Job: A Guide for Non-Investigators"
IAAI Independent study "Introduction to Youth Set Fires"
IAAI Independent study "Legal Aspects of Investigating Youth-Set Fires"
IAAI Independent study "Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical and Fuel Systems."
IAAI Independent study "Residential Natural Gas Systems"
IAAI Independent study "Ethical Duties Beyond the Fire Scene"
OSFM Health and Safety Officer
OSFM Fire Department Safety Officer

2016
OSFM Chief Fire Officer
OSFM Training Manager
IAAI Independent study "The Deposition Part 2"
IAAI Independent study "Investigating Fire and Explosion Incidents Involving a LODD"
IAAI Independent study "Investigating Natural Gas Systems"

2015
Appointed Training Officer Franklin Park Fire Department
IAAI Independent study "The Deposition Part 1"
IAAI Evidence Technician
IAAI International Training Conference- Chicago

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IAAI Independent study "Accreditation, Certification, and Certificates"

2014

OSFM Rope Ops

IAAI Independent study "Process of Elimination"

IAAI Independent study "Ethics and Social Media"

IAAI Independent study "Residential Electrical Systems"

IAAI Independent study "Basic Electricity"

2013

IAAI Certified Instructor
IAAI Independent study "Preparation for the Marine Fire Scene"
OSFM Hazardous Materials Incident Command
OSFM Incident Safety Officer

2012

OSFM Fire Officer II
IAAI Independent study "NFPA 1033 and Your Career"
IAAI Independent study "The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921"
IAAI Independent study "Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report"
Illinois Fire Chiefs Assoc "FF Jose Mendoza" Scholarship recipient

2011

IAAI Independent study "A Ventilation-Focused Approach to the Impact of Building Structures and Systems on Fire Development"
IAAI Independent study "How First Responders Impact The Fire Investigation"
IAAI Independent study "DNA"
IAAI Independent study "Search and Seizure"
OSFM Instructor II
NIMS 100.b
NIMS 200.b
NIMS 300
NIMS 400
NIMS 800.b

2010

OSFM Hazardous Materials Tech A
ATF Advanced Origin and Cause and Courtroom Testimony
IAAI Independent study "Arc Mapping Basics"
IAAI Independent study "Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction"
IAAI Independent study "Effective Investigation and Testimony'
IAAI Independent study "Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab?"
IAAI Independent study "Electrical Safety"
IAAI Independent study "The HAZWOPER Standard"
IAAI Independent study "Fundamentals of Interviewing"
IAAI Independent study "Explosion Dynamics"
Fire Investigator Strike Force Annual Fall Seminar, Rosemont, IL
FEMA Professional Development Series

2009

IAAI independent study "Motive, Means, and Opportunity: Determining Responsibility in an Arson Case"

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National Fire Academy- Analysis of Arson Management
National Fire Academy- Forensic Evidence Collection
PATC- Hands on Electrical Fire/Arson Investigation
Pennsylvania Association of Arson Investigators- "Hero to Zero- Firefighter Arsonist"
Illinois Fire Safety Alliance- Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program Train-the-Trainer
The National Center for Forensic Science- Post Blast Investigation
The National Center for Forensic Science- Fire Dynamics

2008

IAAI independent study "Critical Thinking Solves Cases"
IAAI independent study "Postflashover Fires"
IAAI independent study "Vacant and Abandoned Buildings: Hazards and Solutions"
IAAI independent study "Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations"
IAAI independent study "Documenting the Event"
IAAI independent study "Fire and Explosion Investigations: Utilizing NFPA 1033 and 921"
IAAI independent study "Investigating Fatal Fires"
IAAI independent study "Understanding Fire Through the Candle Experiment"
IAAI independent study "Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene"
FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grants – Technical Advisory Committee
PATC- Fire Pattern Recognition
IL-IAAI Northern Zone Training Conference

Education:

Master of Science, Public Safety Administration, Lewis University, 2015
Bachelor of Science, Fire Service Management, Southern Illinois University, 2004
Associate Degree, Fire Science, Triton College, 1999

Affiliations:

International Association of Firefighters Local 1526 (Steward)
Associated Firefighters of Illinois (Political Education Committee)
IL Professional Firefighters Association
International Association of Arson Investigators
International Association of Arson Investigators, Illinois Chapter (Political Education Committee)
International Association of Arson Investigators, Wisconsin Chapter
International Association of Marine Investigators
National Association of Fire Investigations
MABAS Division 20 Fire Investigation Unit (Director)

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Arson-Triton College
Fire Investigation I- Triton College
Fire Investigation II- Triton College
Fire Service Law- Triton College
Advanced Burn Pattern Analysis

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Publications and Presentations:

CfiTrainer.net "How First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation" 2011

Honors and Awards:

2016	IAAI Distinguished Service Award Winner (George H. Parker Award)
2016	Gubernatorial Executive reappointment State of Illinois Fire Advisory Board
2014	Appointed State of Illinois SCAC Committee Chair for Fire Investigator 1033 Curriculum
2013	Gubernatorial Executive appointment State of Illinois Fire Advisory Board

**Litigation CV available upon request.

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