

Michael J. Ling | Midwest District Fire Principle, IAAI-CFI (V), NAFI-CFEI

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Ling has over 2500 hours of fire investigation related training that has extended over 20 years of experience as a fire origin and causation investigator working within both the public and private sectors.

Mr. Ling has personally investigated or supervised over 3000 fire and explosion incidents that have involved commercial and residential properties, vehicles, agricultural and construction equipment. These investigations have included fatalities, complex multi-million-dollar losses, fraud, product liability and subrogation issues.

Mr. Ling is a Certified Fire Investigator through the International Association of Arson Investigators and the National Association of Fire Investigators and meets the National Board for Fire Service Professional Qualifications of NFPA 1033. He has also received the Motor Vehicle Fire Credential Endorsement through the International Association of Arson Investigators. He has been accepted as an expert witness in State and Federal Courts and has provided testimony in both criminal and civil cases.

Licenses and Certifications:

Certified Fire Investigator, International Association of Arson Investigators, Certificate Number 30-018, (2005, 2010, 2015, 2020)

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators, Certificate Number 13358-7856

Meets NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator, Certificate Number 223654, (2005, 2010, 2015, 2020)

Motor Vehicle Fire Credential Endorsement, International Association of Arson Investigators (2016, 2020)

Certified Law Enforcement Officer, State of Iowa, Law Enforcement Academy January 1988

State of Minnesota, Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training P.O.S.T. Certified License Number 9566, August 1987

Certified Fire Investigator, State of Missouri, 2014039889

Certified Private Investigator, State of Iowa, 94766

Certified Private Investigator, State of Illinois, 0129-29247

Certified Private Investigator, State of Minnesota, #828

Certified Private Investigator, State of Wisconsin, #11412 – 063

Certified Private Investigator, State of Nebraska, #1366

Professional Experience:

EFI Global, Service Center: Chicago, IL, Senior Fire Investigator Team lead, 2013-Present
Unified Investigations and Sciences, Inc., Service Center: Chicago, IL, Senior Fire Investigator Team lead, 2013-Present
Unified Investigations and Sciences, Inc., Service Center: Chicago, IL, Senior Fire Investigator 2005-Present
Ames Arson Task Force, Ames Iowa, Fire Investigator, 1996-2005
Ames Police Department, Ames, IA, Police Officer, 1987-2005

Military Experience:

United States Army, Stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas & Vicenza, Italy, Achieved Rank of Sergeant 1978 -1985

Specialized Education:

Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, Training in compliance with NFPA 1033 for fire investigations, Johnston, Iowa, September 2022 16 hours tested
Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, Training in compliance with NFPA 1033 for fire investigations, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, September 2021 10.5 hours tested
EFI Global Continuing Education Program, Respiratory Protection Training, December 11, 2020, 1.5 hours tested
Testimony Reference NFPA 921 & 1033, Presented by Fire Service Training Bureau, Division of the Iowa State Fire Marshal's Office, Ames, IA October 24, 2019, 6 hours Tested
Advanced Asbestos Awareness, OSHA 29 CFR 1926.1101, Presented by ClickSafety.Com, September 7, 2019, 2 hours tested
Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, Training in 1033 for fire investigations, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, September 2019 16.5 hours tested
Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, Training in 1033 for fire investigations, Ames, Iowa, September 2018 18.5 hours tested
Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, Training in 1033 for fire investigations, Ames, Iowa, September 2017 19.5 hours tested
Unified investigations & Sciences, In-service Webinar Series, Essentials of NFPA 1033, June 2016 – January 2017, 8 hours tested
Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, Training in 1033 for fire investigations, Council Bluffs, Iowa, September 2016 19.5 hours tested
Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, Training in 1033 for fire investigations, Davenport, Iowa, September 2015 19.5 hours tested
Asbestos Operations and Maintenance Refresher, OSHA 29 CFR 1926.1101, Presented by Unified Investigations and Sciences, Inc., February 2014, 16 hours tested
Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, West Des Moines, Iowa, September 2014 19.5 hours tested
Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals, OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1200, Presented by Unified Investigations and Sciences, Inc., February 2014, tested
Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, West Des Moines, Iowa, September 2013 19.5 hours tested
NFPA 921 and The Daubert Expert, Brian Henry, Esq., Unified In-Service Training, Atlanta, Georgia, July 24, 2013, 8 hours

Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, West Des Moines, Iowa, September 2012 19.5 hours tested

OSHA Annual Refresher with Asbestos Awareness, presented by Association of Bay Area Governments Training Center, February 2012, 8 hours tested

Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, West Des Moines, Iowa, September 2011 19.5 hours tested

Hazwopper Refresher, Hazardous Materials Symposium, Ames Iowa, October 21, 2010 8 hours

Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, West Des Moines, Iowa, September 2010 19.5 hours tested

Aspects of Fire Investigation & Spoliation, Presented by Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc Frankfort, IL, September 2009 16 hours tested

Vehicle Fire Investigation, Presented by Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc Rosemont, IL May 12, 2009, 8 hours tested

National Farm Subrogation Claims Symposium, Minneapolis, MN, June 2008, 8 hours

Investigations of Electrical & Appliance Related Fires, presented by IAAI, March 2008, 24 hours

Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, Des Moines, Iowa, September 2007 21 hours

Special Investigations Seminar, Sponsored by IA /NE SIU Association, Ashland, NE April 2007, 12 hours

IAAI (CFITrainer.net):

Understanding Undetermined, June 13, 2022. 3 hours tested

Emerging Technologies in Fire Investigation, April 14, 2022, 3 hours tested

Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Fires, April 14, 2022, 3 hours tested

Introduction to Youth Set Fires, April 14, 2022, 3 hours tested

Charting Your Career Path in Fire Investigation, March 14, 2022, 3 hours tested

Basic Electricity, April 13, 2022, 4 hours tested

Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Design Basics, December 2, 2021, 3 hours tested

Alternative Fuel Vehicles, November 30, 2021, 3 hours tested

Introduction to Appliances, November 30, 2021, 3 hours tested

What the Insurance Professional Needs to Know About Fire Investigations November 30, 2021, 3 hours tested

Motor vehicles: transmission exhaust brake and accessory systems Sept 2, 2020, 3 hours tested

Motor vehicles: engine ignition, electrical and fuel systems, September 2, 2020 3 hours tested

Discovery in Civil Cases, September 12, 2018, 3 hours tested

Knowledge 1 Motor Vehicle Fires, Tier 1, September 2, 2016, 8 hours tested

Accreditation, Certification, and Certificates, December 2015 3 hours tested

NFPA 921 and 1033 2014 Editions: Important Revisions

Documenting the Event, February 2014 4 hours tested

Search & Seizure, February 2014; 4 hours tested

Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations, February 2014; 4 hours tested

Ethics & Social Media, February 2014; 3 hours tested

Using Resources to validate your Hypothesis, August 2013, 2 hours tested

Writing the initial Origin and Cause Report, March 2012, 4 hours tested

The Potential Value of Electronic Evidence in Fire Investigations, December 2011, 4 hours tested

Arc Mapping Basics, November 2011, 4 hours tested

Fundamentals of Interviewing, August 2010, 4 hours tested

Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab, May 2010, 4 hours tested

Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction, May 2010, 4 hours tested

Motive Means and Opportunity: Determining Responsibility in an Arson Case, August 2009, 4 hours

Vacant and Abandoned Buildings: hazards and Solutions, September 2008, 4 hours

Fire Investigator Scene Safety, March 2008, 3 hours
Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene, January 2008, 4 hours
Introduction to Evidence, January 2008, 4 hours
Critical Thinking Solves Cases, January 2008, 4 hours
Insurance and the Fire Investigation, March 2007, 4 hours
Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, September 2006, 4 hours
Ethics and the Fire Investigator, July 2005, 3 hours
The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, October 2005, 3 hours-tested
Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling, August 2005, 4 hours tested

Education:

Bachelor of Science, Major in Law Enforcement, Minnesota State University
Mankato, Minnesota, July 2003
Automotive Mechanics Certificate, Prairie Lakes Vocational School, Worthington, MN
(2 year) May 1978

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators, (IAAI)
International Association of Arson Investigators, Iowa Chapter
National Association of Fire Investigators
National Fire Academy Alumni Association
Iowa State Police Officers Association
Ames Policeman's Benevolent Association
Numerous Insurance Claims Associations
Minnesota State University Alumni Association

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Investigative Interviewing and Statement Taking
Insurance Fraud Red Flags
Accidental Fires
Vehicle Fires
Agricultural Equipment Related Fires
Origin and Cause Investigations, what you should expect from your expert

Honors and Awards:

Investigator of the Year Award, Unified Investigations & Sciences, 2010
Pinnacle Award, Investigations, Unified Investigations & Sciences, 2012 - 2013
Pinnacle Award, Investigations, Unified Investigations & Sciences, 2015
Pinnacle Award, Top Ten, Unified Investigations & Sciences, 2017
Pinnacle Award, Top Five, EFI Global, 2019
Pinnacle Award, Top Five, EFI Global, 2021 - 2022