
Michael J. Ling | Fire Investigator Team Lead, IAAI-CFI (V), NAFI-CFEI

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Ling has over 2000 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 1500 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)
- 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)
- Motor Vehicle Fire Credential Endorsement, International Association of Arson Investigators (2016)
- 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

Licenses and Certifications Continued:

- 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 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

Specialized Education Continued:

- 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):

- 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

IAAI (CFITrainer.net) Continued:

- 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:

Minnesota State University
Mankato, Minnesota
Bachelor of Science, Major in Law Enforcement
July 2003

Prairie Lakes Vocational School
Worthington, MN
Automotive Mechanics Certificate
(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

Affiliations Continued:

- 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:

- Pinnacle Award Investigations, Unified Investigations & Sciences, 2012 - 2013
 - Pinnacle Award Investigations, Unified Investigations & Sciences, 2015
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