

Stephen J. Cunningham, IAAI-CFI | Fire Investigator

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Cunningham was a member of the Massachusetts State Police for 30 years. He retired in 2016 with the rank of Lieutenant. Mr. Cunningham spent the first twenty years with the State Police on patrol, as a Trooper, working out of Barracks in Leominster, Concord, and Revere. He testified numerous times in District and Superior Courts in Massachusetts.

In 2006, Mr. Cunningham was assigned to the State Fire Marshal's Office. In 2007, he was assigned an Accelerant Detection Canine (AK9). In 2009, Mr. Cunningham was promoted to Sergeant and assigned as the Team Leader for the central Massachusetts area. He later was moved to the eastern Massachusetts area. In the time that Mr. Cunningham handled the AK9 and became the team leader he was expected to respond to all fatal fires, large losses, and explosions. This response included 3 fires in which firefighters perished, as well as multiple fatalities in other instances. In 2015, Mr. Cunningham was promoted to Lieutenant and returned to patrol working as a shift commander in the troop headquarters covering central Massachusetts supervising the Troopers from 8 barracks. He has completed the Incident Command System to the 300 level.

In 2017, Mr. Cunningham joined Unified Investigations and Sciences as a fire investigator. In the time that Mr. Cunningham has worked for Unified, he has responded to numerous fires. Some of these fires have resulted multi-million dollar losses.

Licenses and Certifications:

CFI, IAAI #20-103130

CFEI, NAFI #13786-6975

Project Experience:

Massachusetts State Police Firefighter Fatalities

Mr. Cunningham was involved in the investigation of Firefighter fatalities in fires in Peabody, MA in 2011 and Boston, MA in 2014. These investigations involved working with investigators from police and fire departments at the city level, as well as investigators at the state and federal levels.

Massachusetts State Police Fatal Fires

Mr. Cunningham was involved in the investigation into the origin and cause of fires resulting in fatalities in numerous locations throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These investigations, in some cases, resulted in the prosecution of the responsible parties in cases of incendiary fires.

Project Experience (Continued):

Unified/Zurich, Groveland, MA Commercial Fire 2017

Lead investigator on a multi-million dollar loss involving multiple parties being placed on notice

Professional Experience:

Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc., Nashua NH January 2017- present
Massachusetts State Police, Framingham MA 1986-2016
Trooper, patrol, Leominster, Concord, Revere 1986-2006
Trooper, Fire Marshal's Office, Stow MA 2006-2015
Sergeant, Fire Marshal's Office 2009-2015
Lieutenant, patrol, Holden MA 2015-2016

Specialized Education:

Critical Thinking Solves Cases, CFI Trainer, IAAI, 2018
Evidence Examination: What Happens as the Lab?, CFI Trainer, IAAI, 2018
Fire Chemistry, CFI Trainer, IAAI, 2018
Fundamentals of Interviewing, CFI Trainer, IAAI, 2018
Insurance and the Fire Investigator, CFI Trainer, IAAI, 2018
Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations, CFI Trainer, IAAI, 2018
Postflashover Fires, CFI Trainer, IAAI, 2018
Incident Command System 300, Mass. State Police Academy 2015
Fire Investigation in the Digital Age, MA IAAI, 2015
Industrial Fires and Explosions, MA IAAI, 2014
National Grid energy Distribution Overview, MA IAAI, 2014
Final Alarm: Investigating Firefighter Fatalities, Metro Arson Investigation Assoc. 2013
Proper Handling of Evidence, MA IAAI, 2011
Explosives Laws and Case Preparation, Mass State Police, 2011
Boat & Marine Fire Investigations, MA IAAI, 2011
Incident Command System 200, Mass. State Police, 2009
Canine Utilization & Computer Modeling, MA Fire Academy 2009
Abandoned Buildings Project & 921 Code Updates for Large Scale Fire Investigations, MA IAAI, 2008
Improvised Explosives Awareness for the First Responder, Metro Arson Investigation Assoc. 2008

Education:

Bachelor of Science-Law Enforcement, Western New England College, Springfield, MA 1992

Affiliations:

International Association of Fire Investigators (IAAI)
National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

The Final Alarm: Investigating Firefighter Fatalities, Boston, 2013