

Professional Summary:

Mr. Cottingham has over 26 years of experience as a fire origin and cause investigator working within the fire service. He has investigated and/or supervised well over 2000 fire and explosion incidents. Many of these investigations have involved product liability/subrogation issues, multi-million-dollar loss exposures and those with multiple fatalities. He also has over 16 years of experience inspecting new construction and existing occupancies for compliance with state building, mechanical, electrical and fire codes.

Areas of Expertise:

- Fire Investigations - Origin and Cause
- Fire Investigations - Incendiarism
- Fire Investigations - Liability
- Fire Investigations - Subrogation
- Fire Investigations - Heavy Equipment, Farm Equipment and Implements, Automobile

Licenses and Certifications:

Certified Fire Investigator (IAAI-CFI) International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), 2004, Certification # 14-055, Re-certifications: 2009, 2014, 2019 & 2024

Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator (CFEI) - National Fire Investigators Association (NAFI), 1999, Registration # 6361-2302, Re-certifications: 2004, 2009, & 2014

Fire Investigator I, State of Indiana Public Safety Training Institute, 1998, Certification #34619

Master Fire Prevention/Inspection, Office of the Indiana State Fire Marshal Certification #34619 (53-005)

Certified Building Inspector, International Conference of Building Officials 1993, Certification #66269

Certified Combination 1 & 2 Family Dwelling Inspector (Building Mechanical, Plumbing & Electrical), International Conference of Building Officials, 1993, Certification #65208

Master Electrician License, Issued by the City of Bloomington, 1995, 2004, License #1566

Court Qualifications/ Depositions:

Litigation CV available upon request.

Professional Experience:

EFI Global, Inc. /Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc. and EFI Global, Inc, Special Investigator, Senior Investigator

August 2004 to Present

City of Bloomington Indiana Fire Department, Fire Inspection Officer, December 1996 to July 2004

Ellettsville Fire Department, Ellettsville, Indiana, Volunteer Firefighter, April 1994 through August 2001
City of Bloomington Indiana, Code Enforcement, Chief Building Official, March 1993 to December 1996
City of Bloomington Indiana, Code Enforcement, Code Enforcement Officer, May 1990 to March 1993
City of Bloomington, Code Enforcement, Housing Code Inspector and Assistant Officer, July 1988 to May 1990
Indiana State Fire Prevention & Building Safety Commission, Member of Task Force to adopt 1996 Indiana 1 & 2 Family Dwelling Code, January 1994 through November 1995

Specialized Education:

IAAI Indiana Chapter 14, Fire Investigation Conference, Indianapolis, IN. August 2022, 23 Hours (tested)
IAAI Indiana Chapter 14, Fire Investigation Conference, Indianapolis, IN. August 2019, 24 Hours (tested)
IAAI Indiana Chapter 14, Fire Investigation Conference, Indianapolis, IN. August 2018, 24 Hours (tested)
Environmental Management Institute, Inc., Asbestos Operations & Maintenance Refresher, September 2017, 4 Hours (tested)
IAAI Indiana Chapter 14, Fire Investigator Conference, Indianapolis, IN. August 2018, 24 Hours (tested)
Environmental Management Institute, Inc., Asbestos Operations & Maintenance Refresher, September 2016, 4 Hours (tested)
IAAI Indiana Chapter 14, Fire Investigation Conference, Plainfield, IN. August 2016, 21 Hours (tested)
Environmental Management Institute, Inc., Asbestos Operations & Maintenance Refresher, September 2015, 4 Hours (tested)
IAAI Indiana Chapter 14, Fire Investigation Conference, Plainfield, IN. August 2015, 21 Hours (tested)
IAAI Chapter 14, Indiana Fire Investigation Conference, Plainfield, Indiana August 2014, 21 Hours (tested)
OSHA 29 Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals February 2014, 1 Hour (tested)
DeLisle, Asbestos Operations & Maintenance Refresher, February 27, 2013, 8 Hours (tested)
DeLisle, Asbestos Operations & Maintenance, February 2012, 16 Hours (tested)
International Association of Arson Investigators, Indiana Chapter, Processing The Fatal Fire Scene, January 2012, 12 Hours, (tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net

Natural Gas Systems, June 2023, 3 Hours (tested)
Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction, June 2023, 3 Hours (tested)
Critical Thinking Solves Cases, June 2023, 4 Hours (tested)
Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Design Basics, June 2023, 3 Hours (tested)
Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, June 2023, 3 Hours (tested)
Understanding Fire Through the Candle Experiments, June 2023, 4 Hours (tested)
Basic Electricity, June 2023, 4 Hours (tested)
Natural Gas Systems, June 2023, 3 Hours (tested)

Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Causes, June 2023, 3 Hours (tested)

Fire Effects Part 2: Combustion By-Products Effects, May 2023, 3 Hours (tested)

Fire Effects Part 1: Heat Effects on Fuels, May 2023, 3 Hours (tested)

The Impact of Ventilation in Building Structure Fire Development, November 2016, 4 Hours, (tested)

Process of Elimination, December 2015, 4 Hours, (tested)

NFPA921 and 1033 2014 Editions: Important Revisions, May 2014, 3 Hours, (tested)

Documenting the Event, January 2014, 4 Hours, (tested)

Introduction to Evidence, January 2014, 4 Hours (tested)

Fundamentals of Interviewing, January 2014, 4 Hours (tested)

Ethics and the Fire Investigator, January 2014, 3 Hours (tested)

Explosion Dynamics, January 2014, 4 Hours (tested)

Arc Mapping Basics, June 2012, 4 Hours, (tested)

Fire Investigator Scene Safety, December 2011, 3 Hours (tested)

National Society of Professional Insurance Investigators, Advanced Insurance Fraud, 16 Hours, Untested November 2009

International Association of Arson Investigators and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Advanced Arson and Investigative Techniques for the Insurance Industry, FLETC, Glynco, Georgia, November 2008, 41 Hours (tested)

Fire Findings, Investigation of Gas and Electric Appliance Fires, Benton Harbor, Michigan, November 2007, 30 Hours (tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Robinsonville, Mississippi, Vehicle Fire Investigation, March 2006, 20 Hours (tested)

Illinois Chapter-International Association of Arson Investigators, Whittington, Illinois, Fire Investigation Conference, May 2005, 14 Hours (tested)

Unified Investigations & Sciences, Insurance Investigations, Dallas, Texas, May 2005, 40 Hours

IAAI Chapter 14, Indiana Fire & Arson Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 2004, 24 Hours

Indiana University Law School, Expert Witness Experience, Bloomington, Indiana, June 2004, 8 Hours

Department of Justice, Domestic Terrorism, Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane, Indiana, November 2003, 8 Hours

IAAI Chapter 14, Annual Fire Investigation Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 2003, 22 Hours

Indiana University Law School, Expert Witness Experience, Bloomington, Indiana, June 2003, 8 Hours

International Code Council, Overview of the 2000 International Fire Code, Indianapolis, Indiana, April 2003, 8 Hours

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Explosives Destruction Techniques, Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane, Indiana, October 2002, 40 Hours

IAAI Chapter 14, Annual Fire Investigation Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 2002, 22 Hours (tested)

National Training School, Fire Alarm Installation Methods, Bloomington, Indiana, May 2002, 18 Hours (tested)

IAAI Chapter 14, Annual Fire Investigation Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 2001, 22 Hours (tested)

Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates, The Reid Method of Criminal Interviews and Interrogation, Bloomington, Indiana, March 2001, 21 Hours (tested)

IAAI Chapter 14, Electrical Fire Investigation, Bloomington, Indiana, September 2000, 8 Hours (tested)
IAAI Chapter 14, Annual Fire Investigation Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, May 2000, 28 Hours
IAAI Chapter 14, Evidence Collection, Preservation & Storage, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 1999, 8 Hours (tested)
International Association of Arson Investigators, Expert Courtroom Testimony Fisher's Indiana, February 1999, 20 Hours (tested)
Office of the Indiana State Fire Marshal, Treatment for Juvenile Firesetters, Indianapolis, Indiana, February 1999, 6 Hours
Fire Inspectors Association of Indiana, Juvenile Firesetter Intervention, Brownsburg, Indiana, December 1998, 8 Hours
Office of the Indiana State Fire Marshal, John Barracato, Arson Investigation, Indianapolis, Indiana, December 1997, 12 Hours

Education:

Ball State University, Muncie, IN, September 1978 to May 1982

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
National Fire Investigators Association (NAFI)
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
Indiana Chapter-International Association of Arson Investigators, (Board of Directors: 2001-2005)

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Mr. Cottingham has been lead instructor for two classes of Fire Investigator I, and all of his students have passed their certifications. He has also been the instructor for Fire Inspector I. Throughout his career in the fire service he developed numerous fire prevention and education programs. He has spoken numerous times to civic groups and at career days about the fire service.

NFPA 1033 Refresher course, 2-hour module on electricity and electrical systems
Documenting and Recording the scene (8-hour presentation)
Fire Origin (8-hour presentation)
"K" rated fire extinguishers in commercial kitchens
Fire in the workplace
Portable fire extinguishers in the work place
Fire Prevention for High school health class
Fire prevention for 2nd grade Allstate, "Be cool about fire safety"
Fire prevention for pre-schools