

Thomas Saxton, IAAI-CFI, NAFI-CFEI, CCFI-C | Senior Fire Investigator

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Saxton has 40+ years of experience in the fire service, fire investigation, fire inspection, and fire safety education fields. He has experience in fire origin and cause investigations, including scene analysis, report writing, evidence collection, fire site documentation, photography, and multiagency coordination. Mr. Saxton has investigated over 600 fires as a public and private fire investigator, including over 200 since joining EFI Global in 2016. Mr. Saxton has served as an instructor for fire investigation and other disciplines of the fire service for over 20 years.

Experience/Expertise:

- Fire/Explosion Origin and Cause
- Vehicle Origin and Cause
- Marine Fires including commercial ship fires and explosions
- Coordination and management of multi-agency large loss incidents
- Fire Code Compliance
- Fire Protection Systems
- Industrial Safety Including Asbestos Compliance/AHERA

Licenses and Certifications:

Certified Fire Investigator, International Association of Arson Investigators, # 36-121908

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators, 13595-12028

Certified Canadian Fire Investigator, Level C. Certification date: July 15, 2019.

Licensed Private Investigator, Municipality of Anchorage # PD-1195

Licensed Private Detective, City of Fairbanks # 11997

Licensed Private Detective, State of Washington #5035

Project Experience:**Large and multi-loss fire investigations**

From 2016-present, has conducted multiple large-loss fire investigations, including commercial, heavy equipment, shop facilities, and several fatal fire incidents. Conducted multiple joint-party examinations of fire scenes.

Commercial Incinerator Explosion/Fire-Investigation

Led a team of government and technical specialists to determine origin and cause for a municipal incinerator explosion and fire in Barrow, Alaska. The investigation led to modifications to the incinerator system and to operating procedures at the facility.

Fire Station Loss, Kaktovik, Alaska

Municipal point-of-contact for investigation of a fire which destroyed a fire station in a remote Alaska village. Coordinated reconstruction efforts as fire department representative. Identified asbestos presence in fire debris area and worked with contractors to remediate reconstruction site.

Area-wide project coordinator, North Slope Borough Fire Department

While Assistant Chief of department, coordinated multiple large-scale projects to replace fire engines, establish a training organization, modernize fire stations, and initiate post-fire investigation procedures at multiple fire department locations throughout northern Alaska.

Court Qualifications/ Depositions:

Litigation CV available upon request.

Professional Experience:

EFI Global/Unified Fire Investigations, Inc., Fire Investigator, 2016 - present

North Slope Borough Fire Department-Asst. Chief/Instructor-2002-2015

Ilisagvik College, Adjunct Instructor, Fire and EMS, 2005-2013.

Specialized Education:**IAAI/CFI Trainer. Net**

Accreditation, Certification, Certificates International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

An Analysis of the Station Nightclub Fire, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

Arc Mapping Basics International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

Charleston Sofa Super Store Fire, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

Critical Thinking Solves Cases-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

DNA-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

Documenting the Event-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

Effective Investigation and Testimony-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Electrical Safety-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Ethics and the Fire Investigator-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Fire and Explosion Investigations: Utilizing NFPA 1033 and 921-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2011

Fire Chemistry-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2018

Fire Investigator Scene Safety-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2011

Fundamentals of Interviewing-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Introduction to Evidence-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2011

Investigating Fatal Fires-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Investigating Natural Gas Systems-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2011

The Impact of Ventilation in Building Structures on Fire Development-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2011

The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2011

Wildland Fire Investigation-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Fire Flow Analysis- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2020

Fire Investigation for First Responders- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2020

Introduction to Youth-Set Fires- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2020

Legal Aspects of Youth-Set Fires- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2020

Motor Vehicle Fire Investigations, P. 1- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2020

Motor Vehicle Fire Investigations, P. 2- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2020

Report Writing- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2020

CERTIFICATE: Fire Investigation for Fire Officers with Youth Fire-setting and Vehicle Fire Specializations-June, 2020

Specialized Training: Hazmat/Asbestos

OSHA Asbestos Awareness Training #1360, Safety Compliance Management, 2018

Essentials of NFPA 1033, Unified Investigations & Sciences, 2017

Class III Competent Person Asbestos Operations and Maintenance, PBS Environmental, 2017

Class III Competent Person Asbestos Operations and Maintenance, PBS Environmental, 2020. Annual Class III renewals. Current in 2022.

National Fire Academy

Basic Fire Investigation Course-National Fire Academy, 2011

Alaska Fire/Arson Association Training

AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 40-hour Investigation Training, 2010 AAFAI

Fire/Arson Training Seminar, 2017: (40 Tested Training Hours)

Basic Methodology-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar,

2017 Scientific Method-AAFAI Fire/Arson

Seminar, 2017 Fire Chemistry-AAFAI

Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017 Fire Science-AAFAI

Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Fire Dynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar,

2017 Fire Investigation-AAFAI Fire/Arson

Seminar, 2017 Fire Methodology-AAFAI

Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Fire Investigation Technology-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017
Fire Patterns-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017
Building Systems-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017
Electricity and Fire-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017
Safety-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017
Planning the Investigation-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017
Investigation Documentation-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017
Physical Evidence-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017
Fire Cause Determination-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017
Explosions-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017
Fire & Explosion Death/Injury-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017
Management of Complex Investigations-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

AAFAI Fire/Arson Training Seminar, 2018: (40 Tested Training Hours)

Fire Science-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018
Thermodynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018
Thermometry-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018
Fire Dynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018
Computer Fire Modeling-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018
Fire Investigation-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018
Fire Analysis-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018
Fire Investigation Methodology-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018
Evidence Documentation, Collection, and Preservation-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018
Electricity and Electrical Systems-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018
Fire Scene Photography/Low Light Photography-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018
Courtroom Testimony-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018

AAFAI Fire/Arson Training Seminar, 2019: (40 Tested Training Hours)

Advanced Fire Science Topics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019
Fire Chemistry-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019
Fire Dynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019
Fire Investigation-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019
Fire Analysis-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019
Fire Investigation Methodology-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019
Hazardous Materials-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019
Fire Protection Systems-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019
Electricity and Electrical Systems-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019
Private Fire Investigations (Instructor)-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Fire Investigation Methodology-(Instructor)-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019
Evidence Documentation, Collection, Preservation-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019
Explosion Dynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019
Fire Investigation Technology-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019
Fire Analysis-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019
Fire Dynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019
Thermodynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

AAFAI Fire/Arson Training Seminar, 2021: (40 Tested Training Hours)

Advanced Fire Science Topics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Fire Chemistry-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Fire Dynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Fire Investigation-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Fire Analysis-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Fire Investigation Methodology-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Hazardous Materials-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Fire Protection Systems-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Electricity and Electrical Systems-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Private Fire Investigations (Instructor)-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Fire Investigation Methodology-(Instructor)-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Evidence Documentation, Collection, Preservation-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Explosion Dynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Fire Investigation Technology-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Fire Analysis-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Fire Dynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021
Thermodynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021

AAFAI Fire/Arson Training Seminar, 2022: (40 Tested Training Hours)

Advanced Fire Science Topics-(sponsored by US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms)--AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2022
NFPA 921/1033 Overview
Origin Matrix Analysis
Fire Pattern Persistence Post Flashover
CFI Trainer Overview
Scene Safety
Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigation

Fatal Fire Investigations
Developing leads-arson investigations
NFT Call-Out: Austin, TX Bombing
Complex Fire Investigations/Scene Management
Investigative Timelines
ATF Resources
Internet of Things/Resource Sharing

Education:

Bachelor of Science, Broadcasting/Journalism-Charter Oak State College, New Britain, Connecticut-2006

Associate-Level Certificate, Paramedicine: Arapahoe Community College, Denver, Colorado-December, 1997

Associate of Science Degree, Fire Science: University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska-June, 1996

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators
National Association of Fire Investigators
International Association of Arson Investigators – Alaska Chapter
Alaska Association of Fire and Arson Investigators
Canadian Association of Fire Investigators

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Presenter/Instructor, Private Fire Investigation-Alaska Association of Fire and Arson Investigators—April, 2019, Ketchikan, Alaska
Fire Science-Associate Degree Program-Illisagvik College, Barrow, Alaska (Associate Professor)
Fire Investigation-North Slope Borough Fire Department
Fire Operations-North Slope Borough Fire Department

Publications and Presentations:

IFSTA-Fire Chief Officer-3rd Edition Review Committee 2013

Honors and Awards:

Public Safety Valor Award-North Slope Borough Police Department: 1994

Responder/Fire Officer of the Year-North Slope Borough Fire Department:
1993, 1999, 2000, 2006