

## Vern Canon, IAAI-CFI | Senior Fire Investigator

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### Professional Summary:

Mr. Canon spent over 30 years in the fire service starting as a volunteer firefighter in 1973, was hired as a fire prevention officer/firefighter in 1982 and was eventually promoted to Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal. During his fire service career he investigated various types of fires for origin and cause, worked as a law enforcement officer in conjunction with enforcement of laws relating to fires and firefighting, was well versed in local, state, and national fire and building codes, and he reviewed construction plans and observed the testing of various fire protection, detection, and suppression systems. He developed, implemented, and supervised various fire inspection programs. He supervised daily and emergency fire department operations including responding to fires, vehicle accidents, and other types of emergencies. He also worked several years for a local ambulance service and an Emergency Medical Technician and worked at a local community college as a mechanic and bus driver. In 2010, he went to work for Unified Investigations & Sciences. He is currently a Senior Fire Investigation and has expertise on the following areas:

- Determining origin and cause of fires and explosions in structures.
- Determining origin and cause of fires and explosions in vehicles and equipment
- Evaluation of fire suppression and detection systems
- Fire and life safety in buildings

### Licenses and Certifications:

Asbestos Operations and Maintenance

Certified Fire Investigator, International Association of Arson Investigators, Certificate 22032731;  
National Board of Fire Services Certified, Certificate 294786

Certified Fire Investigator, California Conference of Arson Investigators, Certificate #581

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators, Certificate #3434-0345

Private Investigator, California Bureau of Security & Investigative Services

Fire Investigator I, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #880263

Fire Investigator II, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #870167

Fire Prevention Officer I, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #771416

Fire Prevention Officer II, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #870149

### Licenses and Certifications (Continued):

Firefighter I, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #007508  
Fire Officer, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #015342  
Fire Prevention Officer, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #15  
Certified Uniform Fire Code Inspector, UFC Association, Certificate #500378-000  
Fire Protection Specialist, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #000048

### Professional Experience:

EFI Global - Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc., Senior Investigator,  
2012 to present Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc., Special  
Investigator, 2010 to 2012  
Nevada County Consolidated Fire District, Battalion Chief & Fire Marshal, 1982 – 2010  
Sierra Community College, Mechanic and Bus Driver, 1980 – 1982  
Lincoln's Ambulance Service Emergency Medical Technician, 1975 – 1980  
Grass Valley Fire Department, Firefighter/Marshal/Investigator, 1973 – 1991  
Watt Park Fire Protection District, Firefighter/Assistant Fire Chief/Captain 1973 – 1991

### Specialized Education:

California Conference of Arson Investigators, CCAI, 2019  
Fire Chemistry, IAAI, CFITrainer.net, 2018  
California Conference of Arson Investigators, CCAI, 2018  
Fire Protection Systems, IAAI, 2018  
Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction, IAAI, 2018  
The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, IAAI, 2018  
Electrical smart meter fires and evidence, IAAI California Roundtables, 2017  
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association  
of Arson Investigators, 2017  
Essentials of NFPA-1033, Unified Investigations & Sciences; In-service Webinar Series; 2017  
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association  
of Arson Investigators, 2016  
Post flashover fires, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2016  
Understanding the Fire Investigator's Job, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2016  
Use of drones for fire investigation, IAAI California Roundtables, 2016  
Spray-on polyurethane insulation, IAAI California Roundtables, 2016  
Smart meters, IAAI California Roundtables, 2016  
Vessel Fires, IAAI California Roundtables, 2016  
Charleston Sofa Super Store Fire, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2015  
A Ventilation-Focused Approach to the Impact of Building Structures and Systems on Fire  
Development, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2015  
Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2015  
Diesel exhaust regeneration systems and particulate filters, IAAI California Roundtables, 2015  
U.S. Product Safety Commission, Working with Fire Investigators, IAAI California Roundtables,  
2015  
Fire Debris Evidence Handling, IAAI California Roundtables, 2015  
Self-Heating and Ignition of Vegetative Materials, IAAI California Roundtables, 2015

### Specialized Education (Continued):

Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2015

Asbestos Operations and Maintenance-Initial, Environmental Safety Training Professionals, Ltd., 2015

Annual Refresher with Asbestos Awareness, 2014

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1200-Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals, Unified Investigations and Sciences, Inc., 2014

HAZWOPER Standard, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2014

Wildland Fire Investigations, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2014

NFPA 921 and 1033, 2014 Editions: Important Revisions, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2014

Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2014

Marijuana grow operations and honey oil extraction, IAAI California Roundtables, 2014

Ignitable liquids in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, IAAI California Roundtables, 2014

NFPA 1033 update, IAAI California Roundtables, 2014

Smart electrical and gas meters, IAAI California Roundtables, 2014

Evidence; collection and preservation, IAAI California Roundtables, 2013

Gas absorption refrigerator fires, IAAI California Roundtables, 2013

Fire weather and weather data for fire investigators, IAAI California Roundtables, 2013

Your Arson Investigation on Trial and Your Investigation Report Under the Microscope, IAAI California Roundtables, 2013

Documenting the Event, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2013

Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2013

Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, San Luis Obispo, CA, March California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2013

Asbestos Awareness-Annual Refresher, February 2013

Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2012

Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2012

Hazmat School – Annual Refresher with Asbestos Awareness, 2012

Arc Mapping Basics, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2012

Health and safety issues for fire investigators, IAAI California Roundtables, 2012

Bilancia Ignition Matrix, IAAI California Roundtables, 2012

Forensic fire scene photography, IAAI California Roundtables, 2012

Ground-fault and arc-fault breakers and other electrical issues, IAAI California Roundtables, 2012

Scene Safety, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2011

Preservation and collection of evidence during inclement weather conditions, IAAI California Roundtables, 2011

NFPA 921 and NFPA-1023 review and updates, IAAI California Roundtables, 2011

Large loss fire investigations, IAAI California Roundtables, 2011

Subrogation for both the public and private investigator, IAAI California Roundtables, 2011

Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2011

2011 Annual Seminar, Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, International Association of Arson Investigators, 2011

### Specialized Education (Continued):

Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2011  
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2010  
San Luis Obispo Fire Investigation Strike Team, San Luis Obispo Coroner Division, San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Department, Forensic Fire Death Investigation, 2010  
Advanced Explosives Recognition, Central Valley Arson Investigators, 2010  
Fire Prevention Professional Development Workshop, California Fire Prevention Institute, 2010  
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2010  
Forensic Fire Scene Reconstruction, DeHaan/Icove, Northern California Fire Prevention Officers Association, 2010  
Forensic Fire Scene Reconstruction, Northern California Fire Preventions Officers Association, 2010  
Situational awareness for fire investigators, IAAI California Roundtables, 2010  
Vessel (boat) fires, IAAI California Roundtables, 2010  
Hazards to fire investigations, IAAI California Roundtables, 2010  
Insurance issues and available assistance to investigators, IAAI California Roundtables, 2009  
IAAI and CFI Trainer.net programs, IAAI California Roundtables, 2009  
Vehicle fires and mechanical issues, May IAAI California Roundtables, 2009  
Insurance issues and fraud trends, IAAI California Roundtables, 2009  
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2009  
Fire Prevention Professional Development Workshop, California Fire Prevention Institute, 2009  
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2009

### Affiliations:

California Conference of Arson Investigators, Roundtable Coordinator  
International Association of Fire Investigators  
Sacramento – Sierra Regional Arson Task Force  
National Association of Fire and Explosive Investigators  
National Fire Protection Association,  
California State Fireman's Association  
California Fire Chief's Association; Northern California Fire Prevention Officers Association  
California Association of Licensed Private Investigators

### Publications and Presentations:

Fire Scene Examination of Burned Vehicle #4, Fire Arson Investigator, California Conference of Arson Investigators, Winter-2011

\*\*Court and Litigation CV available on request