

William “Billy” Benzur | Fire Investigator, IAAI-CFI, CFEI, PI

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Professional Summary:

William Benzur is a multilingual, Certified Fire Investigator through the International Association of Arson Investigators and Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator through the National Association of Fire Investigators with 7 years of fire investigation experience. Previously he worked as a Certified Fire Investigator and Certified Firefighter through the State of Georgia, serving Baldwin County for 7 years. He has successfully testified as an expert in Fire Origin and Cause in State Court in Baldwin County, Georgia. Also serving as the Training Officer at Baldwin County Fire Rescue, Mr. Benzur spent 5 years educating Public Safety personnel of all ranks from various agencies, and he has successfully completed more than 2500 hours of formal training in topics relevant to his work as a Fire Investigator. Additionally, Mr. Benzur served as a fire administrator for 4 years providing leadership, creating policy, and managing staff. Areas of Expertise:

- Residential Structures
- Commercial Structures
- Passenger Vehicles
- Commercial Vehicles
- Heavy Machinery
- Fire Fatalities
- Youth Fire Setters
- Open Source Intelligence
- WinDo: Window and Door Inspection and Testing
- Spanish (10 years formal education)
- French (2 years formal education)
- German (1 year formal education)

Licenses and Certifications:

Certified Fire Investigator, International Association of Arson Investigators, #08-073165

Private Detective, Board of Private Detectives & Security Agencies, GA, #PDE051030

Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators, #22859-13180

Certified Fire Investigator, Firefighter Standards & Training Council, GA, #INV-378AXN-2014

Certified Firefighter, Firefighter Standards & Training Council, GA, #FF-378AXN-2013

Certified Fire Investigator, Pro Board National Professional Qualifications

Certified Firefighter, Pro Board National Professional Qualifications

Certified Fire Instructor, Pro Board National Professional Qualifications

Certified Evaluator, Pro Board National Professional Qualifications

Certified Hazardous Materials Technician, Pro Board National Professional Qualifications

Certified Hazardous Materials Operations, Pro Board National Professional Qualifications

Certified Hazardous Materials Awareness, Pro Board National Professional Qualifications

Project Experience:

Commercial Structure Fire - Confidential Client, GA

Investigation of a fire in a chemical plant.

Approximately 275 gallons of off-quality batch ignited from an exothermic reaction. Failure analysis was performed while collaborating with senior staff from various facility operations to effectively eliminate potential failures in the production process. Investigation revealed a drain valve in the mixing vessel was not secured with its linchpin and was partially open during the production process, allowing some of the initial chemical to escape, which resulted in a final product with an improper ratio of materials.

Commercial Structure Fire – Confidential Client, GA

Investigation of a fire in a facility whereby a non-profit organization raised funds through its use as a nightclub.

Extensive demolition had taken place prior to the scene examination and the alterations precluded determining an origin or cause. Surveillance footage was acquired, converted to compatible format, and analyzed to effectively eliminate an intentional human act as the cause of the fire.

Residential Structure Fire - Confidential Client, GA

Investigation of a kitchen fire involving uninsured tenants and total loss. The tenants claimed they witnessed the electric range malfunction and threatened to sue for damages. Effective interviews, neighborhood canvass, and scene examination revealed the tenants made false claims about their actions and the incident; the fire was caused by a cooking accident.

Residential Structure Fire - Confidential Client, GA

Investigation of a fire that occurred in the kitchen which was being remodeled. None of the occupants spoke English; consequently, interviews were conducted entirely through Spanish communication. The origin was determined to have been in the refrigerator and interview with the owner revealed the appliance age exceeded the statute of repose.

Heavy Machinery Fire - Confidential Client, GA

Investigation of a skid steer loader that caught fire during operation; project involved an initial scene examination and joint examination with engineers at the manufacturer's facility. It was determined the fire was caused by a hydraulic line failure and the hot surface ignition of its fluid.

Heavy Machinery Fire - Confidential Client, GA

Investigation of a large cotton harvester that caught fire during operation; project involved an initial scene examination, transport monitoring, and joint examination with engineers at the manufacturer's facility. The owner's hand tool was present on the front of the machine during the initial site visit; however, the accompanying parts for the tool could not be accounted for. Ultimately, a foreign object could not be ruled out as having caused friction or sparks within the machine.

Baldwin County Fire Rescue**Passenger Vehicle Fire**

Investigation of a convertible car with multiple instances of small burns in the passenger compartment. The owner reported the burns as vandalism to local law enforcement, who encouraged the woman to readmit herself to psychiatric care. Fire Department responded and personnel attributed the burning to an unknown failure in the mechanisms operating the convertible top; however, investigation revealed that the burns were the result of a handheld mirror that had been sitting on the backseat reflecting sunlight and was exacerbated by the summer heat.

Baldwin County Fire Rescue, Milledgeville, GA**Residential Structure Fire**

Investigation of a fire that Fire Department personnel attributed to careless smoking. Behavior analysis of a juvenile occupant identified a disposition of guilt and the scene investigation revealed remains of matches in the area of origin. Upon interviewing the juvenile, he confessed to using matches to start a fire on the couch and covering it with a pillow.

Baldwin County Fire Rescue, Milledgeville, GA**Residential Structure Fire**

Investigation of a residential structure fire that Fire Department personnel attributed to a cooking accident. Analysis of the control knob for the stove revealed it was turned "on" after the fire, during firefighting operations and further investigation revealed the fire was intentionally set with an ignitable liquid.

Court Qualifications/ Depositions:

Litigation CV available upon request.

Professional Experience:

EFI Global, Inc., Fire Investigator, 2018 – Present

Baldwin County Fire Rescue, Fire Investigator, 2011 – 2018

Cunningham Investigative Services, Fire Investigator Technician, 2012 – 2017

Georgia College, Safety Systems Technician Assistant, 2012 – 2013

Specialized Education:

Southeastern Annual Training Conference, International Association of Arson Investigators, 2019
Asbestos in Buildings: Work Practices, Triangle Environmental Consultants, Inc., 2019
Forensic Investigation, EFI Global, Inc, 2018
Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony, IAAI, 2018
Arc Mapping, CFI Trainer, 2018
Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, CFI Trainer 2018
Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, CFI Trainer, 2018
Basic Electricity, CFI Trainer, 2018
Georgia Basic Private Investigator Training, NITA, 2018
Urban Post Blast Investigation, GPSTC, 2018
Interviews and Interrogations, GPSTC, 2018
Hostage Negotiations, GPSTC, 2018
Criminal Investigations, GPSTC, 2018
Verbal Defense and Influence, GPSTC, 2018
Southeastern Annual Training Conference, International Association of Arson Investigators, 2017
Financial Identity Theft & Fraud, GPSTC, 2017
Security and Integrity, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, 2017
Arson Investigation Burn Cell Assistance, GPSTC, 2017
Emergency Operations Center, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, 2017
Pipeline Emergencies, GMA Gas Section, 2017
Southeastern Annual Training Conference, International Association of Arson Investigators, 2016
Liquefied Natural Gas / Liquefied Petroleum Fire Control, Atlanta Gas Light, 2016
Transitional and Interpersonal Leadership Training, GPSTC, 2016
Fire Department Supervision, GPSTC, 2016
Exercising Leadership to Facilitate Adaptive Change, GPSTC, 2016
Southeastern Annual Training Conference, International Association of Arson Investigators, 2015
Liquefied Natural Gas / Liquefied Petroleum Fire Control, Atlanta Gas Light, 2015
Security and Integrity, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, 2015
Pipeline Emergencies: Command Officer Strategies, GPSTC, 2015
Introduction to Color/Honor Guard, GPSTC, 2015
Structural Fire Control Instructor, GPSTC, 2015
Hazardous Materials Technician, GPSTC, 2015
Structural Fire Control, GPSTC, 2015
Southeastern Annual Training Conference, International Association of Arson Investigators, 2014
Infectious Disease Summit, GPSTC, 2014
Youth Fire Setting Prevention & Intervention Level II, GPSTC, 2014
Youth Fire Setting Prevention & Intervention Level I, GPSTC, 2014
Forensic Statement Analysis, GPSTC, 2014
Improvised Explosives Awareness & Demonstration, GPSTC, 2014
Southeastern Annual Training Conference, International Association of Arson Investigators, 2013
Public Information Officer, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, 2013
Physics of Forced Ventilation, GPSTC, 2013
Arson Investigation Level I, GPSTC, 2013
Principles of Building Construction, GPSTC, 2013

Arson Investigation Level II, GPSTC, 2013
Decision Making for Initial Company Operations, GPSTC, 2013
Preparation for Initial Company Operations, GPSTC, 2013
Fire Apparatus Driver and Pump Operator, Baldwin County Fire Rescue, 2013
Southeastern Annual Training Conference, International Association of Arson Investigators, 2012
Fire Instructor I, GPSTC, 2012
Emergency Medical First Responder, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2012
Interior Search and Rescue, Baldwin County Fire Rescue, 2012
ICS 100: Introduction to Incident Command System, FEMA, 2012
ICS 200: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents, FEMA, 2012
IS 700: Introduction to National Incident Management System, FEMA, 2012
IS 800: Introduction to National Response Framework, FEMA, 2012
NPQ Hazmat Awareness & Operations, Wilkinson County Emergency Management Agency, 2011
NPQ Firefighter I, Wilkinson County Emergency Management Agency, 2011

Education:

Bachelor's, Criminal Justice, Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA, 2014

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)
Georgia Fire Investigators Association (GFIA)

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Fire Investigation and Analysis
Fire Chemistry, Fire Science, and Fire Dynamics
Pro Board NPQ Firefighter I
Pro Board NPQ Hazardous Materials Awareness
Pro Board NPQ Hazardous Materials Operations
Structural Fire Control
Liquefied Natural Gas Fire Control
Liquefied Petroleum Fire Control
Fire Behavior and Ventilation
Jail Officer Response to Fire in the Jail
Respiratory Hazards for Fire and Hazardous Materials Incidents
Data Management Systems and Improving Insurance Class Rating
Ultra-High Pressure Fire Suppression
Modern Firefighting Strategies and Tactics
Firefighter Survival
Vehicle Extrication
Fire Officer Development
Department Policy, Procedures and Guidelines



Data Management Systems
Report Writing
Basic Life Support

Publications and Presentations:

Benzur, William. "Youth Fire Setters and the Juvenile Justice System: Lesson for Policy Makers." Criminal Justice Association of Georgia. November 2014.

Honors and Awards:

President's Volunteer Service Award-Gold Level, Corporation for National & Community Service, 2013
Male Volunteer of the Year, Georgia College, 2013