

Charles Williamson | Fire Investigator, IAAI-CFI, NAFI-CFEI

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Williamson has over thirty years of Fire Service experience. He has been a member of the Bethesda Volunteer Fire Department since June of 1990. He has served during this time as a Captain and Asst. Chief. Mr. Williamson was a firefighter with Rock Hill Fire Department from March 1992 to September of 1998. He then took a position as deputy fire marshal with the York County Fire Marshal's Office and served with them until October 2021 when he retired. He has now taken a position as a fire investigator with EFI Global. Mr. Williamson is a certified fire and explosion investigator with NAFI as well as an IAAI certified fire investigator. He has investigated over 675 fire scenes that have involved arson investigations, multimillion-dollar losses and numerous fatalities. Mr. Williamson has worked with Local, State and Federal agencies on many assignments in multiple capacities.

Areas of Expertise:

- Fire Investigation
- Explosives
- Hazardous Materials

Licenses and Certifications:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)-Certified Fire Investigator, (CFI)
Private Investigator, State of South Carolina, License # RD 246312
Private Investigator, State of North Carolina, License # 956821
Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators, # 26050-14824
NFPA Firefighter II Certification
SC Fire Marshal
Bosh CDR Tool Technician, Institute of Police Technology and Management

Project Experience:

Letter from Private Investigator Phil Brooks to York County Manager Mr. Shanahan on May 2015 in reference to outstanding investigation conducted by the York County Fire Marshal's Office investigators.

On June 6, 2017, Mr. Williamson conducted an investigation that was determined to be incendiary. During the criminal investigation a suspect was determined which was the boyfriend of the owner of the residence. During the fire investigation, Mr. Williamson and the York County Sheriff's Office received information that the suspect had killed his wife in Chester, SC, the previous year. This led Chester County Sheriff's Office and State Law Enforcement Division to re-open the death investigation. This led to the suspect being arrested for the murder of his wife and for the arson.

Court Qualifications / Depositions:

Litigation CV available upon request.

Professional Experience:

EFI Global, Fire Investigator 2021 – present
York County Dept of Fire Safety 1998 – 2021
Rock Hill Fire Department 1992 – 1998
Bethesda Volunteer Fire Department 1990 - present

Specialized Education:

Fire Effects Part , CFI Trainer, May 2023
Fire Effects Part 2, CFI Trainer, June 2023
Preparing For Expert Testimony, SC IAAI, June 2023
Wildland & Serial Arson Investigation – Case Building Techniques (8hrs.), NC/SC 2022
Case Study – Maternal Filicide (4hrs.) NC/SC 2022
Advanced Fire Fatality Scene Techniques (4hrs.) NC/SC 2022
Statement Analysis (8hrs.) NC/SC 2022
Documenting the Fire Scene (6hrs.) NC/SC 2022
The Team Approach (1hr.) NC/SC 2022
Electric Appliance Failure and Analysis, (16hrs.) SC IAAI- May 2022
Alternative Fuel Vehicle Safety Training for First Responders – Fire Service Edition –NFPA- November 2020
Alternative Fuel Vehicles Safety Training for Fire Responders – Fire Investigations –NFPA- October 2020
Fire & Explosion Investigations Involving Propane and Natural Gas- SC IAAI – September 2021
Management of Complex Investigations- SC IAAI – September 2020
Fire Chemistry-IAAI CFITrainer – March 2020
Advanced Fire Death Investigation- SC IAAI – January 2020
Wildland Fire Investigation- IAAI CFITrainer – September 2019
SCIAAI 2019 1st Quarter Training (Instructor: Jim Pharr) - SC IAAI – January 2019
York County Office of the Coroner – Responding to a Fire: Investigations for First Responders and the Charleston 9 and the Lessons Learned – November 2018
Fire Investigative Approaches Conference- SC IAAI – October 2018
Principles of Fire Investigation- SC IAAI – April 2018
Statement Analysis- SC IAAI – February 2018
Fire Investigative Approaches Conference- SC IAAI – Oct 2017
Vehicle Fire Investigation- SC IAAI – July 2017
Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical, and Fuel Systems- IAAI CFITrainer – May 2017
2017 ITC General Session Exam- International Association of Arson Investigators – April 2017
Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires- IAAI CFITrainer - April 2017
Crime Scene Investigation- SC IAAI – April 2017
Moderate Fire Investigation- SC IAAI – April 2017
Fire Investigative Approaches Conference- SC IAAI - Oct 2016
Serial and Major Arson Investigation- SC IAAI – September 2016
Richland County's Improvised Explosives AWR – II – June 2016
Richland County's Meth Lab AWR & ID – II – June 2016
SCIAAI 2016 1st Quarter- SC IAAI – April 2016

Fire Investigative Approaches Conference- SC IAAI – October 2015
Incident Response to Terrorist Bombing- SC IAAI – August 2015
New Mexico Tech – Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings Program, AWR Level Training – August 2015
New Mexico Tech – Prevention of and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents Program, AWR level Training – August 2015
Wildfire Origin & Cause- SC IAAI – June 2015
Crime Scene Photography- SC IAAI – March 2015
Fire Investigative Approaches Conference- SC IAAI – October 2014
Agricultural Equipment Fires- SC IAAI – September 2014
Deception Detection & Interviewing Techniques- SC IAAI – March 2014
Dept. of Energy, Tech.-Level Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training – February 2014
Real Life Experiences in Fire Investigations- SC IAAI – July 2013
York County Sheriff's Office – Interviewing – August 2013
How First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation -IAAI CFITrainer - – May 2013
Haz-Mat (Hazwoper) Tech. Refresher- SC Fire Academy – February 2013
Fire Investigative Approaches Conference- SC IAAI – October 2012
Evidence: From Fire Scene to Courtroom- SC IAAI – August 2012
Family Dwellings Electric and Fuel Gas Systems- SC IAAI – June 2012
Documenting the Event-IAAI CFITrainer – February 2012

Education:

Graduated from Northwestern High School, Rock Hill, SC 1990

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), Member since 2012
National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI), Member since 2021
SC Chapter of International Association of Arson Investigators, Member since 1999

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Firefighter II (Chap. 19 Fire Cause and Origin) – March 2020 (2hours)
Firefighter II (Chap. 19 Fire Cause and Origin) – March 2019 (2hours)