

Chris Palmer | Sr. Fire Investigator, IAAI-CFI

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Professional Summary:

Chris has over 31 years in public safety service with the last 14 years assigned primarily to fire investigations and law enforcement. Chris has personally conducted, participated and supervised investigations into residential, commercial, wildland, and vehicle fires. Those investigations included multi-million-dollar losses, insurance fraud, homicides/fatalities, and complex serial arson cases. Chris has testified as an expert witness 20 times in the Superior Court of California for fire origin and cause.

Licenses and Certifications:

- International Association of Arson Investigators, CFI, Certification # 22-0415135
- California State Fire Marshal (CSFM) – Fire Investigator 1 & 2
- California State Fire Marshal (CSFM) – Fire Officer
- National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) – FI 210 Wildland Fire O&C Determination
- National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) – FI 310 Wildland Fire Investigation Case Development
- California Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST) – Advanced Certificate
- California Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST) – Field Training Officer
- California Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST) – Supervisory Course
- Behavior Analysis Training Institute (BATI) – Interview and Interrogation Techniques
- Department of Justice / FBI – Post Blast Investigator School
- CAL OES – Terrorism and Homeland Security Specialist

Court Qualifications/ Depositions:

Litigation CV available upon request.

Professional Experience:

- EFI Global, Sr. Fire Investigator, November 2021 - present
- J.S. Held LLC - Senior Investigator II - January 2021 – November 2021
- CAL FIRE - Fire Captain Specialist / Peace Officer - 2008 – 2021
- CAL FIRE - Firefighter/Engineer/Captain - 1995 – 2008

United States Forest Service - Firefighter/Engineer - 1990 – 1995

Specialized Education:

Fire Effects Part 1, CFITrainer.net, 11/2023

Fire Effects Part 2, CFITrainer.net, 11/2023

Investigating Motor Vehicle Fire, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2021

Motor Vehicles: The Engine & The Ignition, Electrical, and Fuel Systems, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2021

Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake, & Accessory Systems, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2021

Lithium-Ion Battery Fires, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2021

Understanding Undetermined, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2021

Emerging Technologies in Fire Investigations, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2021

Critical Evaluation & Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Causes, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2021

Fire Flow Analysis, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2021

Introduction to Appliances, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2021

Accreditation, Certificates and Certifications, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2020

Residential Electrical Systems, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2020

Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2020

Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2020

Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2020

Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 & NFPA 921, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2020

Ethics and the Fire Investigator, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2020

The Potential Value of Electronic Evidence in Fire Investigations, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2014

Arc Mapping Basics, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2013

The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, CFITrainer.net, IAAI, 2011

NWCG - ICS 400 – Advanced Incident Command Systems, 2010

CSTI - Hazardous Materials Incident Commander, 2000

CSTI - Hazardous Materials Operational, 1992

CSTI - Hazardous Materials Decon, 2000

CSFM - ICS 401 – Safety Officer, 2005

CSFM – Confined Space Operations, 2004

CSFM – Fire Officer, 2014

CSFM – Fire Investigation Series, 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 1994/2008/2010/2010

CSFM – Fire Instructor 1, 2009

CSFM – Fire Control 3 Class, 1991

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
California Conference of Arson Investigators (CCAI)

Honors and Awards:

Superior Accomplishment Award, CAL FIRE, 2014