

Brian Gray | Sr. Fire Investigator, IAAI-CFI, NAFI-CVFI

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Gray has over forty years of experience in the fire service and forty years' experience in fire origin and cause investigation. Mr. Gray has formerly served as the District Manager and District Fire Principal for the Pennsylvania region. He has been court qualified as an expert witness in fire origin and cause investigation. Mr. Gray is a certified fire instructor in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. Gray is a past chief and life member of the Holiday Park Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Gray is a member and past member of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) and is a Life Member and past director and past president of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the IAAI (PAAI). Mr. Gray's fire investigation experience includes managing and investigating more than 1,500 fire and explosion scenes across the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, Montana, New Mexico, Mexico and the islands of St. Marten and St Croix in the Caribbean. This experience includes commercial, industrial, residential and vehicle fires. Mr. Gray has also consulted on product subrogation and services liability resulting from accidental and incendiary fires. Mr. Gray has conducted origin and cause investigations within the following areas of expertise:

- Residential structure fires
- Commercial/Industrial fires
- Vehicle fires including commercial vehicles
- Heavy equipment/machinery fires
- Gas fires and explosions
- Product failure/liability claims
- Subrogation claims

Licenses and Certifications:

IAAI-CFI, #29-010
Certified Fire Investigator, National Board of Fire Service Professional Qualifications
Certified Fire Investigator, PA, #97
CVFI, NAFI #13019-V
Private Investigator, PA
Private Investigator, WV
State Fire Instructor, PA

Project Experience:

Cincinnati Insurance/ Law Offices of Robert Stutman, Fort Washington, PA Large Loss Fire Investigation

Fire Investigator and Project Manager for a multi-million dollar fire loss
An origin and cause investigation for a fire that destroyed a business causing extensive damage and collapse. Site exam and evidence examination occurred over several months. Examination revealed product defect and a large recovery for the client.

**Anstandig, McDyer & Yurcon, Pittsburgh, PA
Natural Gas Explosion**

An origin and cause investigation for a natural gas explosion that damaged several dwellings in a neighborhood. Injuries were sustained by a resident of the neighborhood. Identified other parties involved in the release of the natural gas.

**Zimmer Kunz PLLC, Pittsburgh, PA
Fatal Fire in a Power Plant**

An origin and cause investigation for a fire that occurred in an industrial setting under construction. Multi party examination occurring over several weeks to identify the origin and cause.

Court Qualifications/ Depositions:

Litigation CV available upon request.

Professional Experience:

EFI Global, Inc, Zelienople, PA, 2002 - Present
Senior Fire Investigator, 2002 – Present
Branch Manager, Pittsburgh Service Center, 2007 – 2022
Fire Service Line Principal – 2018 – 2022
District Manager, Pennsylvania District, 2020 - 2022
Robson Lapina, Inc., Fire Investigator, 1996 – 2002
Donald B. Cypher & Associates, Fire Investigator, 1993 – 1996
Holiday Park Volunteer Fire Department, Volunteer, 1975 – Life Member, former fire chief

Specialized Education:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Annual Seminar, 1986, 1987, 1994, 1996 through 2006, 2012
Pennsylvania Association of Arson Investigators Annual Seminar, 1983 – 2014, 2016-2019
National Fire Academy Fire Dynamics, 2004, 2005
Association of Home Appliance Manufactures 1998
Investigation of Gas and Electric Appliance Fires, Fire Findings Labs, 1997
CFI Trainer.Net, continual on-line training sponsored by the IAAI

Last ten years of training listed below:

2022 PAAI ATC, Process for Origin Determination, Evaluating Electrical Energy as an Ignition Source, Hypothesis Development in Fire Investigations: Theory and Development, 19.5 hrs. Tested
2020 CFI Trainer, Introduction to Evidence, 4 hrs. Tested
2020 CFI Trainer, Basic Electricity, 4 hrs. Tested
2020 CFI Trainer, Electrical Safety, 3 hrs. Tested
2020 CFI Trainer, Residential Electrical Systems, 4 hrs. Tested

2020 PAAI Jack Christmas Weekend, Profiling Youthful Fire Setters and Firefighter Arsonists, Recognition of Deception, Crime and Violence, Maternal Filicide-Molly Delgado Double Homicide, Field Interviews, 16 hrs. Tested

2019 CFI Trainer, Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, 4 hrs. Tested

2019 PAAI Jack Christmas Weekend, IAAI Fire Dynamics, Origin and Cause, Hazardous Materials Awareness Refresher, 12 hrs. Tested

2019 PAAI ATC, Photovoltaic Systems, Lithium-Ion Battery Fires and Hazards, Investigating and Litigating Fire Losses for Subrogating Insurers, 21 hrs. Tested

2019 EFI Global, Timelines as an Analytical Tool, 1 hr. Tested

2018 PAAI Jack Christmas Weekend, Forensic Applications of Fire Protection Systems, Overview of the Investigation of Fires Involving Lighting Fixtures, Avoiding Investigative Pitfalls and Conduct Unassailable Scene Investigations Involving CSST/HVAC Systems, 14 hrs. Tested

2018 PAAI ATC, Electrical Grounding and Bonding, Origin Matrix Analysis, Arson/Homicide Case Review, Oxygen 101, Fireworks and PA Law, Evaluations of Gasoline Ignitions, Fire Scene to Report, Fire Scene Evidence, 22.5 hrs. Tested

2017 Wet Chemical Extinguishing and Kitchen Hood Mechanical Systems, 6 hrs.

2017 PATC Hands-On Vehicle Fire/Arson Investigation, 20 hrs., Tested

2017 ACFTA, Natural Gas 101 and Gas Appliance Overview, 6 hrs.

2017 PAAI ATC, Lab Testing, Evidence Packaging, Post Blast Investigation, Home Made Explosives, Kitchen Exhaust Hood, Fire Marshal Authority, Fire Investigator Review, and Arson Immunity – 32.5 hrs. Tested

2016 EFI Global, NFPA 1033/921 – Origin and Cause Investigation, 1 hr.

2016 CFI Trainer, Documenting the Event, 4 hrs. Tested

2016 CFI Trainer, The HAZWOPER Standard, 4 hrs. Tested

2016 PAAI ATC, Post Blast Basics, Death Scene Documentation, Fire Effects on the Body, Fire Protection Systems & The Power CV & Report Writing, 32.5 hrs. Tested

2015 EFI Global, Spontaneous Combustion – Testing the Hypothesis, 1 hr.

2015 EFI Global, Fire Claim Cases: The Prepared Expert, 1 hr.

2015 Basic Electricity, Utility Systems and Electrical Failures, 8 hrs.

2015 ACFTA, Instructor's Update, 2 hrs.

2015 PAAI Jack Christmas Weekend, Evidence Spoliation at Fire/Arson Scenes, 10 hrs. Tested

2014 CFI Trainer, Effective Investigation and Testimony, 3 hrs. Tested

2014 PAAI ATC, NFPA 1033, Trial Prep, Cell Phones, & Investigation 101. 33 hrs. Tested

2014 Allegheny County Fire Training Academy (ACFTA), Ventilation Flowpaths and Fire Growth, 4 hrs.

2013 IAAI-WV, Responding to and Investigating Natural Gas Fires in Residential, Pipeline, and Industrial Settings – 16 hrs. Tested

2013 EFI Global, Asbestos Awareness Training, 2 hrs.

2013 CFI Trainer, The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, 3 hrs. Tested

2013 PAAI Jack Christmas Weekend, Gas Explosions and Case Studies, Tested

2012 IAAI ATC, Tested

2012 PAAI Jack Christmas Weekend, Tested

2012 PAAI ATC, Current Trends and Techniques, Tested

2012 SEAK, How to be an Effective Expert Witness, Tested

2011 CFI Trainer Digital Photography, 4 hrs. Tested

Education:

Plum Senior High School 1974, Pittsburgh, PA 15239

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – Past Board of Directors Member
National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)
Pennsylvania Association of Arson Investigators (PAAI) – Past President

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Essentials of Firefighting
Arson Prevention
Fire Investigation
Church Fires
Fire Fighter responsibility in fire and arson investigation
Structural Fire Fighting
Fire and Arson Investigation
Vehicle Fires
Evidence Procedures
Fire Investigation & NFPA 921
Product failure and the CPSC
Hero to Zero firefighter arsonist program
Emergency Vehicle Driver Training (EVDT)
Incident Command, Response and Size Up
Gas Fires and Explosions – Case Study
Fatal Fires, Mercyhurst College lecture for Anthropology Class

Publications and Presentations:

Co-authored an article for the PAAI Newsletter in subrogation, August 1994
Authored an article “Are Fire Departments Costing the Insurance Industry Money?” – Fire Engineering, January 1997

Honors and Awards:

2nd Place Arson Photo Award, PAAI
Past President’s Award, PAAI June 1999
Honorary Life Membership, PAAI June 2000
Jack Mason Distinguished Service award 2022
Several Certificates of Appreciation from the PAAI over the years