

Wendell L. Eaton | Sr. Fire Investigator, IAAI-CFI, NAFI-CFEI-CVFI, PI

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Professional Summary:

Wendell has over 31 years of experience in public safety serving as a firefighter paramedic, fire captain, and battalion chief. With over 19 years of experience investigating fires, Wendell has personally conducted over 800 fire investigations involving residential, commercial, wildland, vehicles, and human fatalities. As a Chief Officer in the fire service, he was responsible for the development of a 13-city regional fire investigation task force and served as the task force coordinator, where he participated and supervised investigations involving large losses, serial arson, and homicides. His experience as a Deputy Fire Marshal has provided him with a solid ability to understand and interpret the fire code, as his duties included the management of a fire prevention bureau. His experience extends beyond the public sector, where he has worked for four years as the lead fire investigator for a private forensic firm concurrently with his public service. Wendell has testified as an expert witness 27 times in the Superior Court of California for fire origin and cause in both criminal and civil cases.

Licenses and Certifications:

California Licensed Private Investigator (CA#189225)	2021
Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) International Association of Arson Investigators	2017
Wildland Fire O&C Determination (FI-210) National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)	2013
Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) National Association of Fire Investigators	2013
Certified Fire Investigator Level II, California State Fire Marshal	2013
Certified Fire Investigator Level I, California State Fire Marshal	2012
Post Blast Investigator School, FBI Los Angeles, CA	2012
Certified Fire and Explosive Investigator (CFEI) National Association of Fire Investigators	2011

Court Qualifications/ Depositions:

Litigation CV available upon request

Professional Experience:

Pasadena Fire Department, Battalion Chief,	2016 – 2022
Garrett Forensics, Lead Fire Investigator	2019 – 2022 (Concurrent)
Pasadena Fire Department, Fire Captain,	2005 – 2016
Pasadena Fire Department, Firefighter Paramedic,	1993 – 2005

Specialized Education:

Advanced Fire & Arson Investigation, California Conference of Arson Investigators San Luis Obispo, CA October 2023

Alternative Fuel Vehicles, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Basic Electricity, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Charting Your Career Path In Fire Investigation, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Causes, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Design Basics, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Fires, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Emerging Technologies in Fire Investigation, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Ethical Duties Beyond the Fire Scene, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Ethics & Social Media, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Fire Chemistry, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Fire Flow Analysis, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Fire Investigation for Fire Officers, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Introduction to Appliances, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Investigating Natural Gas Systems, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Lithium-Ion Battery Fires, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical, and Fuel Systems, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake, and Accessory Systems, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

NFPA 1033 & 921: 2022/2021 Editions Important Updates, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

NFPA 1033 and Your Career, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Photovoltaic Cells & Systems, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Preventing Occupational Exposures to Carcinogens at the Fire Scene, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Process of Elimination, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Residential Electrical Systems, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Residential Natural Gas Systems, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

The Potential Value of Electronic Evidence in Fire Investigations, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Understanding Undetermined, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

What the Insurance Professional Needs to Know About Fire Investigation, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2022

Thermometry, Heat, and Heat Transfer, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2017

Residential Electricity for Fire Investigators, Fire Findings, Benton Harbor, MI May 2016

Investigating Residential Dryer Fires, Fire Findings, Benton Harbor, MI May 2016

Advanced Fire & Arson Investigation, California Conference of Arson Investigators San Luis Obispo, CA November 2015

Forensic Fire Death Investigation, San Luis Obispo Fire Investigation Strike Team (SLOFIST) San Luis Obispo, CA 2015

AC/DC Electrical Systems and Hazards, CCAI Roundtable 09 2014

Advanced Fire & Arson Investigation, California Conference of Arson Investigators San Luis Obispo, CA 2014

Advanced Fire & Arson Investigation, California Conference of Arson Investigators San Luis Obispo, CA 2013

NFPA 921 and 1033 2014 Editions: Important Revisions International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2014

Vehicle Fire, Arson & Explosion Investigation Science & Technology Seminar, NAFI Lexington, KY. 2013

FI 210 – Wildland Fire Origin & Cause Determination, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, San Bernardino CA. 2013

Advanced Fire & Arson Investigation, California Conference of Arson Investigators San Luis Obispo, CA 2013

Forensic Vehicle Fire Investigation, San Luis Obispo Fire Investigation Strike Team (SLOFIST) San Luis Obispo, CA 2012

Motive, Means, and Opportunity: Determining Responsibility in an Arson Case, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2012

The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921, International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., CFITrainer.net 2012

Post Blast Investigator School, FBI Los Angeles, CA 2012

Fire Investigation 2B: Field Case Studies, California State Fire Marshal 2012

Fire Investigation 2A: Fire Investigation Techniques and Burns, California State Fire Marshal 2012

Electrical Fire Investigation, ATF Downey, CA 2012

Fire Dynamics for Investigators, ATF Downey, CA 2012

Officer Safety and Field Tactics, California Specialized Training Institute 2012

Education:

Associate of Science Fire Science Columbia Southern University, Orange Beach, AL 2017

Affiliations:

California Conference of Arson Investigators (CCAI)
International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)
International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Arson Investigations
Fire Investigations (Structure & Vehicle) using NFPA 921 Guidelines
Fire Investigation 1A
Fire Cause and Origin Determination

Fire Investigation, California State Fire Marshal Certified Firefighter 1 Academy
Awareness Level, Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings
Awareness Level, First Responder Operations: Terrorism Consequence Management
Emergency Medical Technician

Honors and Awards:

Employee of the Year, Pasadena Fire Department	2014
Unit Citation, South-Pasadena Police Department	2014
Fire Chief Letter of Appreciation, Pasadena Fire Department	2010
Unit Citation, Pasadena Fire Department	2007
Fire Chief Letter of Recognition, Pasadena Fire Department	2005
Fire Chief Letter of Commendation, Pasadena Fire Department	2002
Unit Citation, Pasadena Fire Department	2001