

## Andrew Comeau | Senior Fire Investigator, CFEI

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### Professional Summary:

Investigator Andrew Comeau offers experience investigating over 500 fire/explosions in the field, adhering to the principles, guidelines and standards set forth in NFPA doctrines 921 & 1033. His origin and cause experience encompasses a wide array of industrial, commercial, residential, motor vehicle and heavy equipment incidents. Comeau possesses a comprehensive background in leadership, strategic planning, and critical thinking, derived from conducting global operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of New Haven, West Haven, CT's prestigious, Dr. Henry C. Lee School of Criminal Justice, in Fire Science with a concentration in Investigation, further supported by a minor in Criminal Justice. Inv. Comeau is certified as Fire and Explosion Investigator by the National Association of Fire Investigators, International.

### Areas of Expertise:

- Fire/Explosion Origin & Cause Investigation
- Liability Defense/Subrogation Recovery Strategy Development
- Large Loss/Complex Case Incident Scene Management
- Comprehensive Data Collection, Insights & Analysis

### Licenses and Certifications:

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators, International (NAFI), #240023-13676

### Project Experience:

#### **Travelers Insurance, Baltimore, MD Liability/Explosion**

Fire/explosion incident at coal transportation railway and shipping port facility in Baltimore, MD resulting in tens of millions of dollars in damages to the facility and local neighborhood. Conducted a dynamic origin and cause investigation using an in-depth knowledge of NFPA 921, resulting in the successful orchestration of a release of potential liability for the insured.

#### **Travelers Insurance, Germantown, MD Incendiary/Fire**

Conducted a robust O&C investigation of a residential fire scene. Identified suspicious indicators of potential insured involvement in the ignition of the fire. Rigorous scene examination, interviewing and data analysis led to the conclusive determination of an intentionally set fire, successful prosecution, and withdrawal of the property claim valued above \$500K.

#### **Travelers Insurance, Cadillac, MI Subrogation/Fire**

Investigated a multi-million-dollar electrical fire at an insured's injection molding manufacturing facility. Rapid cross-country response allowed for identification of the root cause of the fire's ignition quickly and decisively. Clear communication of opinion and findings in this instance saved the carrier and their subrogation component valuable resources from flawed pursuit of a recovery

which was ultimately unsupported by the facts. Additionally, investigative findings were articulated in a manner dually practical for use in carrier's future risk assessment underwriting.

### **Court Qualifications/ Depositions:**

Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony Training, Fort Mill, SC, IAAI, 2019

### **Professional Experience:**

EFI Global, Senior Fire Investigator, 2023 – Present  
Travelers Insurance, Fire Investigator, 2020 – 2023  
Travelers Insurance, Fire Investigative Specialist, 2018 – 2020  
United States Army, Forward Observer, 2012-2015

### **Specialized Education:**

NFA – Foundational Concepts of Chemistry, 2017  
IAFC – Hydrogen Response Considerations, 2017  
IAFC – Propane Emergencies, 2017  
IAAI – Fire Chemistry, 2018  
IAAI – Accreditation, Certification, and Certificates, 2018  
IAAI – Arc Mapping Basics, 2018  
IAAI – Basic Electricity, 2018  
IAAI – Electrical Safety, 2018  
IAAI – Ethical Duties Beyond the Fire Scene, 2018  
IAAI – Introduction to Evidence, 2018  
IAAI – Introduction to Youth-Set Fires, 2018  
IAAI – Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction, 2018  
IAAI – Understanding Fire Through the Candle Experiments, 2018  
IAAI – Ethics and the Fire Investigator, 2018  
Travelers Fire Investigators Conference (4 days), 2018  
IAAI – Fire Investigator Scene Safety, 2018  
IAAI – Vacant and Abandoned Buildings: Hazards and Solutions, 2018  
IAAI – Residential Natural Gas Systems, 2018  
IAAI – Process of Elimination, 2018  
Travelers – Solar Thermal and Photovoltaic Systems, 2018  
Travelers – RC Fire Investigator Safety, 2018  
Travelers – Field Safety for the Outside Professional, 2018  
Travelers – Ladder Safety Video for Claim Professionals, 2018  
Travelers – Asbestos Awareness Training, 2018  
Travelers – Investigative Use of social media, 2018  
IAAI – Documenting the Event, 2018  
IAAI – Effective Investigation and Testimony, 2018  
IAAI – How First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation, 2018  
IAAI – Search and Seizure, 2018  
IAAI – Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene, 2018  
IAAI – Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, 2018  
Travelers TIS 102 (3 days), 2018  
IAAI – Critical Thinking Solves Cases, 2018

IAAI – Insurance and the Fire Investigation, 2018  
IAAI – Motive, Means & Opportunity, 2018  
FEMA – ICS 100, 2018  
FEMA – ICS 200, 2018  
IAAI – Fundamentals of Interviewing, 2018  
IAAI – The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, 2018  
IAAI – Managing Complex Fire Scenes, 2018  
IAAI, Rhode Island Chapter– Photography for the Fire Investigator, 2019  
IAAI, Massachusetts Chapter – Interviewing Techniques, 2019  
IAAI, South Carolina Chapter– Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony (3 days), 2019  
Rimkus Consulting – Live Burn Training Seminar, 2019  
Travelers – Fire Conference (4 days), 2019  
IAAI – Fire Flow Analysis, 2019  
IAAI – Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Causes, 2019  
Travelers – Vendor Manager Training (2 days), 2019  
IAAI – Fire Protection Systems, 2019  
IAAI – Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling, 2019  
IAAI – The Deposition: Part 1, 2019  
IAAI – The Deposition: Part 2, 2019  
IAAI – The Impact of Ventilation in Building Structures on Fire Development, 2019  
IAAI – Understanding Undetermined, 2019  
Donan – Investigating Clothes Dryer Fires, 2020  
IAAI – Introduction to Appliances, 2020  
IAAI – Investigating Fatal Fires, 2020  
Rimkus Consulting – Defining the Relationship Between Fire Investigator and Electrical Engineer, 2020  
Donan – Chimney Fires, 2021  
IAAI - NFPA 1033 and your career, 2021  
IAAI - Evidence Examination: 'What Happens at the Lab?', 2021  
IAAI - What the Insurance Professional Needs to Know About Fire Investigation, 2021  
Travelers – Smart Brevity, 2022  
Travelers – Woodward Wednesdays: Navigating the Rapidly Changing World of Professional and Financial Lines Insurance, 2023

### Education:

Bachelor of Science, Fire Science, University of New Haven, West Haven, CT, 2018

### Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)  
National Association of Fire Investigators, International (NAFI)

### Honors and Awards:

University of New Haven Dean's List, University of New Haven  
Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, US Army  
2x Army Commendation Medal, US Army

National Defense Service Medal, US Army  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, US Army  
Army Service Ribbon, US Army  
Overseas Service Ribbon, US Army  
NATO Medal, US Army  
Combat Action Badge, US Army  
2x Army Achievement Medal, US Army  
Norwegian Marsjmerket Badge, Norwegian Armed Forces