

Professional Summary:

Mr. Vermeersch's experience in the fire industry spans approximately 30 years as a professional fire fighter. He has received advance training in Investigations, Fire, Hazard waste materials, Technical Rescue and Emergency Medical Services response. He has functioned as a lead Fire investigator, Preceptor for new fire investigators, Shift Captain, Interim Battalion Chief, and Firefighter/Paramedic.

Mr. Vermeersch is a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator through the National Association of Fire Investigators.

Mr. Vermeersch has extensive experience in conducting thorough and accurate investigations to determine origin, cause, and responsibility for fires and explosions. He has managed investigations involving residential, commercial, industrial, and automotive equipment. He has studied and taught fire behavior for his entire career concentrating on how fuels, weather, and fire department interventions can change behavior and patterns. He possesses a strong understanding of the scientific methodology, fire science, fire dynamics, and forensic analysis techniques. He is well versed in local, state, and federal laws and regulations related to fire investigations.

Licenses and Certifications:

Certified Fire Investigator, International Association of Fire Investigators, License # 16-092-062

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators, License # 28093

Fire Investigation Technician, International Association of Arson Investigators, License # 1414864

Minnesota State Fire Fighter License, Minnesota Board of Fire Training and Education, MN, License # 000077

Paramedic, National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, National, License # P0873354

Fire Officer II, International Fire Service Accreditation Council, MN, 1020787

Fire Instructor II, International Fire Service Accreditation Council, MN, 2068574

Firefighter II, International Fire Service Accreditation Council, MN, 367202

Live Burn Instructor/Instructor in Charge, International Fire Service Accreditation Council, MN, 2508

Technical Rescue (Rope), International Fire Service Accreditation Council, MN 2699407

Confined Space Rescue Technician

Haz Whopper/Haz Mat National Fire Protection Agency 472

Project Experience:

Cloquet Area Fire District, Cloquet, MN

Origin and Cause Investigation/ Commercial

Lead public sector investigator on a large commercial structure fire investigation. Worked with state and multiple insurance investigators to determine cause and origin. Investigation lasted several months including demolition and removal of material to facilitate investigation. Included engineers and insurance SIU resources.

Cloquet Area Fire District

Fatality Fire Investigation

Lead investigator for a Highrise fire fatality. Included cause and origin and reporting on incident to State of MN, Department, and Insurance Company.

Cloquet Area Fire District, Cloquet, MN

Incendiary Vehicle Fire Investigation

Lead Investigator for a vehicle fire close to a residence. Fire was incendiary in nature and included documenting and reporting to local law enforcement.

Professional Experience:

EFI Global, Fire Investigator, 2024-Present

Cloquet Area Fire District, Fire Investigator, 2019-Present

Cloquet Area Fire District, Firefighter/Paramedic, Captain, Interim Battalion Chief/1999-Present

FIRE Inc, Lead Instructor, 2005-Present

Lake Superior College, Instructor,

First Strike Safety Solutions, Rescue Technician/Instructor, 2006-2016

Mazeppa Fire Department, Firefighter, 1998-1999

Oronoco Fire Department, Firefighter/Lieutenant, 1992-2000

Gold Cross Ambulance, EMT/Paramedic, 1994-1999

Wireman Electric, Apprentice Electrician, 1993-1994

Koenig Electric, Apprentice Electrician, 1990-1993

Specialized Education:

Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony, IAAI, June 2024, 40 hours tested

Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction, CFITrainer.net, 2023

The Hazwoper Standard, CFITrainer.net, 2023

How First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation, CFITrainer.net, 2023

Insurance and the Fire Investigation, CFITrainer.net, 2023

Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, CFITrainer.net, 2023

MagneTek: a case study in the Daubert Challenge, CFITrainer.net, 2023

The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, CFITrainer.net, 2023
Vacant and Abandoned Buildings: Hazards and Solutions, CFITrainer.net, 2023
Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, CFITrainer.net, 2023
Understanding Undetermined, CFI trainer.net, 2023
Residential Natural Gas Systems, CFI Trainer.net, 2023
Discovery in Civil Cases, CFI Trainer.net, 2023
Thermometry, Heat, and Heat Transfer, CFI Trainer.net, 2023
The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, CFI Trainer.net, 2023
The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and 921CFI trainer.net, 2023
Site Safety Assessment, CFI Trainer.net, 2023
Residential Electrical Systems, CFI Trainer.net, 2023
Preparation for the Marine Fire Scene, CFI Trainer.net, 2023
NFPA 1033 and your Career, CFI Trainer.net, 2023
NFPA 1033 and 921: 2022/2021 Editions Important Updates, CFI trainer.net, 2023
Introduction to Evidence, CFI trainer.net, 2023
Fire Flow Analysis, CFI Trainer.net, 2023
Fire Effects part 1 and 2 heat Effects and Combustion Byproducts, CFI trainer.net, 2023
Fire Chemistry, CFI trainer.net, 2023
Explosion Dynamics, CFI Trainer.net, 2023
Ethics and the Fire Investigator, CFI Trainer.net,2023
Electrical Safety, CFITrainer.net, 2022
Basic Electricity, CFITrainer.net, 2023
Arc Mapping Basics, CFITrainer.net, 2022
An analysis of the Station Night Club Fire, CFI trainer.net, 2021
Fire Investigation Part I, MN State Fire Marshal, Kevin Mahle, 2019
Fire Investigation Part II, MN State Fire Marshal, Kevin Mahle, 2019
Burn to Learn, MNIAAI, Jamie Novak, 2017

Affiliations:

National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)
International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
Minnesota International Association of Arson Investigators (MNIAAI)
International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)
Minnesota Professional Firefighters (PMFF) Northern District At Large
Minnesota Board of Fire Training and Education

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Firefighter one and two
Fire Behavior
The Art of Reading Smoke
Flashover Simulator
Technical Rescue (Rope, CSR, Vehicle Machinery Rescue)
Live Fire (Structure, Compressed Gas, Vehicles,)
Incident Command
First In Tactics
Haz Mat Operations

Honors and Awards:

Firefighter of the Year, Cloquet Area Fire District, 2022
Meritorious Service, Cloquet Area Fire District, 2015, 2020
Distinguished Service, Cloquet Area Fire District, 2015
Medal of Heroism, Cloquet Fire Department, November 13, 2000
Award Name, Organization/Entity, Date