

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:

Process of Elimination, CFITrainer.net, 8/1/2024
Residential Natural Gas Systems, CFITrainer.net, 7/2024
Fire Chemistry, CFITrainer.net, 7/2024
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