

Don Dahl | Senior Fire Investigator, IAAI-CFI (V)

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Dahl has investigated and assisted in the examination of over 350 fire scenes, over 280 since moving into the private sector from the public sector in 2015. These have included residential buildings, commercial buildings, farm buildings, automobiles, boats, marinas, wildland – urban interface sites, farm and heavy equipment. The investigations have included explosion scenes, fatalities, and subrogation losses. He has been a fire service investigator for two different combination fire departments in South Carolina and Kentucky. He is an IAAI - Certified Fire investigator (with Motor Vehicle Endorsement) and a IAMI - Certified Marine investigator. He has completed the IAAI's Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony Course and has given depositions. He was also involved in starting a county-wide Arson Task Force in Oldham County, Kentucky. Mr. Dahl is a licensed Private Investigator in Kentucky, Indiana, and West Virginia.

Area of Expertise

- Fire Investigations - Origin and Cause
- Fire Investigations - Incendiarism
- Fire Investigations - Liability
- Fire Investigations - Subrogation
- Fire Investigations - Heavy Equipment and Automobile
- Fire Investigations - Marine Incidents

Licenses and Certifications:

Private Investigator, Kentucky, #BPIPIN00218673
Private Investigator (P. I. Firm), Indiana, #PI20700099
Private Investigator (P. I. Firm), West Virginia, #29672
Private Investigator, Ohio, # 20231100506278
Certified Fire Investigator (with MV Endorsement), IAAI, #02-032036
Certified Fire Investigator, Pro-Board, #365143
Certified Marine Investigator, IAMI, #167
Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, NAFI, #18545-10336

Professional Experience:

EFI Global, Senior Fire Investigator, Louisville, KY 2023 - Present
EFI Global, Fire Investigator, Louisville, KY 2014 - 2023
Oldham County Arson Task Force, Fire Investigator, Oldham County, KY 2008 - 2014
North Oldham Fire District, Assistant Chief, Fire Investigator Goshen, KY 2000 – 2014
Bonnie Brook Fire Department, Firefighter/Engineer, Beach Park, IL 1994 – 1999
Ashley River Fire Department, Training Officer, N. Charleston, SC 1983 – 1994

United States Navy (retired), Senior Chief Petty Officer, 1979 – 1999

Specialized Education:

Comprehensive Training Event for Marine Investigators – IAMI Training Seminar:

Cooking Heating Appliances, 2 hours (tested) 2025

Cargo and Shipping Fires, 2 hours (tested) 2025

Complex Marine Fires Part 1 & 2, 4 hours (tested) 2025

Explosions Part 1 & 2, (tested) 2025

Lithium-Ion Batteries 2 hours (tested) 2025

Engine and Exhaust Systems, 2 hours (tested) 2025

Comprehensive Training Event for Marine Investigators, 24 hours (tested) IAMI Training Seminar, Las Vegas, NV 2023

Comprehensive Training Event for Marine Investigators, 32 hours (tested) IAMI Training Seminar, Orlando, FL 2022

Respiratory Protection Training, 1.5 hours (tested), EFI Global, 2020

Fire Investigator Health and Safety in the Post-fire Environment, 2 hours (tested) EFI Global, 2020

Asbestos Awareness Training, 1.5 hours (tested) EFI Global, 2020

Marine Fire Investigations, 4 hours (tested), IAMI, 2020

Spontaneous Combustion, 1 hour (tested), EFI Cont. Ed. Program 2019

NFPA's Alternative Fuel Vehicles - Online Training, 4 hours (tested) 2019

Historical Development of Fire Codes, 1 hour (tested), EFI Global Cont. Ed. Program 2019

Timelines as an Analytical Tool, 1 hour (tested), EFI Global Cont. Ed. Program 2019

Marine Fire Investigations 12 hours (instructional), IAMI, 2018

Asbestos Operations & Maintenance Worker Course, 16 hours (tested), 2018

Mechanical Gas Systems, ATF BATS 8.1 Vehicle Fire Theory, Ignition Sources and Live Vehicle Burn, 16 hours (instructional), IAAI, 2017

Essentials of NFPA 1033, on-line 8 hours (tested), Unified, 2016-2017

Hazmat First Responder Operations Training, on-line 8 hours (tested) 2015

Live Fire Training Seminar 8 hours (instructional), Unified, 2015

Specialized Training in the Modern Techniques of Fire and Arson Investigation 32 hours (tested), IAAI, 2015

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1200 Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals, 1 hour (tested), Unified, 2015

Forensic Investigation & Continuing Education for Private Investigators and Engineers, 16 hours (instructional), Unified, 2015

Juvenile Fire Setting, Combining Fire Science with Circumstantial Evidence and Logic, Forensic Analysis, Arson Physical Evidence Training, 16 hours (tested), IAAI, 2015

Live Fire Training for Investigators, 12 hours (instructional), Kentucky State Arson Task Force, 2014

Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony Course, 40 hours (tested), IAAI, 2014

Advanced, Arson, & Explosion Investigation Training, 21 hours (tested), NAFI, 2013

Investigating Fires with Fatalities, Detection of Deception in Interviewing, 16 hours (instructional), NAFI, 2012

Basic Fire, Arson and Explosion Investigations, 20 hours (instructional), Pewee Valley Fire Protection District, 2009

Dane County Arson Response Initiative (DCARI) on-line courses:

Timeline Analysis, 1-hour (tested) 2021

Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing, 1.5 hours (tested) 2021

CFI Trainer.Net on-line courses, IAAI:

Fireplace Systems, 3 hours (tested) 2026

Fatal Fires: Fire Effects on the Body, 3 hours (tested) 2026

Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Fires, 3 hours (tested) 2026

Sources of Information: Origin & Cause, 3 hours (tested) 2026

Fatal Fires: Investigation, 3 hours (tested) 2025

Donning and Doffing Personal Protective Equipment, 3 hours (tested) 2025

Emerging Technologies in Fire Investigation, 3 hours (tested) 2025

Commercial Kitchen Fires 2: Investigation, 3 hours (tested) 2025

Prev. Occupational Exp. to Carcinogens at Fire Scene, 3 hours (tested) 2024

Commercial Kitchen Fires 1: Fundamentals, 3 hours (tested) 2024

What the Ins. Professional Needs to Know About Fire Inv., 3 hours (tested) 2024

Personal Protective Equipment for Post-Fire Scenes, 3 hours (tested) 2024

Fire Effects Part 1: Heat Effects on Fuels, 3 hours (tested) 2023

Fire Effects Part 2: Combustion By-Products Effects, 3 hours (tested) 2023

Alternative Fuel Vehicles, 3 hours (tested) 2023

Understanding Undetermined, 3 hours (tested) 2022

Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations, 4 hours (tested) 2022

Lithium-Ion Battery Fires, 3 hours (tested) 2021

Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Design Basics, 3 hours (tested) 2021

Introduction to Youth-Set Fires, 3 hours (tested) 2021

Insurance and the Fire Investigator, 4 hours (tested) 2020

Fire Flow Analysis, 3 hours (tested) 2020

Introduction to Appliances, 3 hours (tested) 2020

Fire Chemistry, 3 hours (tested) 2019

Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene, 4 hours (tested) 2019

Introduction to Evidence, 4 hours (tested) 2019

Discovery in Criminal Cases, 3 hours (tested) 2019

Discovery in Civil Cases, 3 hours (tested) 2019

Knowledge 1 Motor Vehicle Fires Tier 1, 8 hours (tested) 2019

Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires Refresher, 4 hours (tested) 2019

Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Causes, 3 hours (tested) 2019

Charting Career Path in Fire Investigation, 3 hours (tested) 2019

Motor Vehicles: The Engine and Ignition, Electrical and Fuel Systems, 3 hours (tested) 2019

Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake and Accessory Systems, 3 hours (tested) 2019

Residential Natural Gas Systems, 3 hours (tested) 2017

The HAZWOPER Standard, 4 hours (tested) 2017

Ethical Duties beyond the Fire Scene, 3 hours (tested), 2016

Accreditation, Certification and Certificates, 3 hours (tested) 2016
Investigating Natural Gas Systems, 3 hours (tested) 2015
How the First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation, 2 hours (tested) 2015
The Deposition Part 2: Questioning Tactics and Effective Responses, 3 hours (tested) 2015
The Deposition Part 1: Format, Content and Preparation, 3 hours (tested), 2015
Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction, 3 hours (tested), 2014,
Fire Dynamics Calculations – Version 2.0, 4 hours (tested), 2014
Fire Protection Systems, 3 hours (tested), 2014,
Fire Investigator Scene Safety, 3 hours (tested), 2014
Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, 4 hours (tested), 2014
Explosion Dynamics, 4 hours (tested), 2014
Process of Elimination, 3 hours (tested), 2014
Electrical Safety, 3 hours (tested), 2014
Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab, 4 hours (tested), 2014
Wildland Fires Investigation, 5 hours (tested), 2014,
Basic Electricity, 4 hours (tested), 2014
NFPA 921 and 1033 2014 Editions: Important Revisions, 3 hours (tested), 2014
Using Resources to Validate Your Hypothesis, 2 hours (tested), 2014,
The Practical Application of the Relationship between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921, 2 hours (tested), 2014
The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, 3 hours (tested), 2014
Residential Electrical Systems, 4 hours (tested), 2014
Effective Investigation and Testimony, 3 hours (tested), 2013
Charleston Sofa Super Store Fire, 4 hours (tested), 2013
Ethics and the Fire Investigator, 3 hours (tested), 2013
Ethics & Social Media, 3 hours (tested), 2013
Understanding Fire through the Candle Experiments, 4 hours (tested), 2013
Documenting the Event, 4 hours (tested), 2011
DNA, 3 hours (tested), 2011
Investigating Fatal Fires, 4 hours (tested), 2011
Post Flashover Fires, 4 hours (tested), 2011
Search and Seizure, 4 hours (tested), 2011
Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator, 4 hours (tested), 2010
Fundamentals of Interviewing, 4 hours (tested), 2010
MagneTek: A Case Study in the Daubert Challenge, 2 hours (tested), 2010
Critical Thinking Solves Cases, 4 hours (tested), 2010
Arc Mapping Basics, 4 hours (tested), 2010
An Analysis of The Station Nightclub Fire, 4 hours (tested), 2010
A Ventilation-Focused Approach to the Impact of Building Structures and Systems of Fire, 4 hours (tested), 2010
Preparation for the Marine Fire Scene, 4 hours (tested), 2010

Education:

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Bachelor of Science, Workforce Education and Development (Magna Cum Laude), 1994
Harold Washington University, Associate in Arts, 1994

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI)
National Association of Fire Investigators, International (NAFI)
Bluegrass Claims Association

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Basic Arson Detection courses and Scene Preservation Techniques for fire service personnel
Conducted investigative case review training sessions for the Oldham County Arson Task Force