

Gary A Nickerson | Senior Fire Investigator, IAAI-CFI

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Professional Summary:

Gary Nickerson retired from the Olathe Kansas Fire Department with over 32 years of experience in public service including fire suppression, hazmat, fire code inspections, fire investigations and law enforcement. In his final position as the Senior Captain in the Fire Marshal's office, he supervised 3 full-time inspectors/investigators. Additional duties included commercial plan reviews, commercial inspections and public education for a city of 130,000. Mr. Nickerson joined EFI Global in 2015 as a fire investigator and subsequently was promoted to Senior Fire Investigator in 2018. Mr. Nickerson has investigated over 1100 fires representing the City of Olathe, major insurance companies, subrogation firms and individuals. He has testified as an expert in both criminal and civilian courts.

Licenses and Certifications:

Certified Fire Investigator, IAAI, #07-102114
Certified Fire Investigator, Missouri, #15-028
Licensed Private Detective, Kansas #D-5659
Licensed Private Fire Investigator, Missouri #2015012336

Project Experience:

The Royale at CityPlace, Overland Park, KS Multi-Family Residential Building

Fire occurred in a multi-family, multi-story residential building under construction. 26 single family homes were damaged from flying embers. Total loss over \$50 million.

Courtyard Marriott, Oak Grove, MO Hotel Room Fire

Investigation revealed the room's PTAC unit was the ignition source. Further investigation revealed multiple units in same building, all under recall for a fire related issue.

AutoGrill – HSM Host, Lambert International Airport, Saint Louis, MO

Commercial fire in fast food restaurant

Fire in busiest restaurant in this terminal. Dealing with TSA created numerous issues outside the normal investigation. Investigation revealed duct cleaning company not cleaning per NFPA codes.

Professional Experience:

EFI Global Inc., Senior Fire Investigator, 2018 - Present
EFI Global Inc., Fire Investigator, 2015-2018
Olathe Fire Department, Senior Captain | Senior Fire Inspector | Fire Investigator | Incident Safety Officer, 2011-2014
Olathe Fire Department, Fire Inspector | Fire Investigator | Incident Safety Officer, 2008-2011
Olathe Fire Department, Shift Fire Investigator, 2006-2008

Olathe Fire Department, Captain – Suppression, 1990-2008
Olathe Fire Department, Firefighter – Suppression, 1982-1990

Specialized Education:

AI for Fire Investigation, KCIAAI, 2/6/2025
Fire Investigator Health and Safety, KCIAAI. 2/6/2025
Forensic Anthropology, KCIAAI, 2/6/2025
Neosha Fire Case Study, KCIAAI, 2/5/2025
Insurance Fraud, KCIAAI, 2/5/2025
NFPA 1321 Fire Investigation Units, KCIAAI, 2/4/2025
Investigations involving special needs children, KCIAAI. 2/4/2025
NFPA 921 Updates, KCIAAI, 2/4/2025
Lithium-Ion Batteries, EFI Global, 1/29/2025
How to Properly Document a Vehicle and Related Sampling, EFI Global, 10/23/2024
CSST - Products, Codes, Lightning Interaction and Related Fires, EFI Global, 9/18/2024
The Scientific Method, Sedgwick, 7/10/2024
Forensic Investigation of Chimney, Fireplace, and Wood-Fueled Appliance Fires, Sedgwick, 6/12/2024
Depositions Are You Ready, EFI Global, 5/8/2024
Marine Fire Investigation Basics for Small Recreational Vessels, EFI Global, 4/10/2024
Stains to Flames: Spontaneous Combustion Fires, National Association of Subrogation Professionals, 3/12/2024
Hazard Communication, 360 Training, 3/5/2024
Kansas City Arson Task Force - Daubert in Missouri - March 2023
Kansas City Arson Task Force - Complex Fire Investigations - March 2023
Kansas City Arson Task Force - Investigating Grain Elevator Fires and Explosions - March 2023
Kansas City Arson Task Force - DME additive in Propane - March 2023
Kansas City Arson Task Force - Car Fire Investigations - March 2023
Kansas Chapter of IAAI – Fire Dynamics – Tested – February 2021
Cozen O’Connor – Subrogation Arising from Commercial Kitchen Fire Losses – September 2020
CFI Trainer – 2021 NFPA 921 Chapter 6 Fire Patterns – Tested - August 2020
EFI Global Continuing Education Program – Fire Investigator Health and Safety in the Post-Fire Environment – June 2020
EFI Global Continuing Education Program – Berla Vehicle Data – Tested – June 2020
EFI Global Continuing Education Program – Asbestos Awareness – Tested – February 2020
CFI Trainer – Residential Electrical Systems – October 2019
CFI Trainer – Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust Brake, & Accessor Systems – October 2019
EFI Global Continuing Education Program – Spontaneous Combustion – September 2019
EFI Global Webinar – Historical Development of Fire Codes
EFI Global Webinar – Using Lightning Detection Network Reports – March 2019
Kansas City Arson Task Force Seminar – March 2019
CFI Trainer – Electrical Safety – February 2019
EFI Global Webinar – Vehicle Fluid Analysis January 2018
EFI Global Webinar – Asbestos Awareness November 2018
EFI Global Webinar – Using an electrical multi-meter – October 2018
Kansas IAAI Training Seminar – February 2018
Cozen O’Connor – Webinar – Fire and Fury-Recovery Opportunities from Spontaneous Combustion – March 2017
Kansas IAAI Training Seminar – February 2017

Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical, and Fuel Systems, CFI Trainer, August 2017
Missouri IAAI Training Seminar – June 2017
Kansas City Arson Task Force Annual Seminar – February 2017
Kansas City Arson Task Force Annual Seminar – March 2016
KSIAAI Annual Conference – February 2016
Investigating Natural Gas Systems – CFI Trainer – July 2015
Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab – CFI Trainer - July 2015
Spontaneous Combustion: Testing the Hypothesis – EFI Global In-Service Training – July 2015
Annual Seminar, Kansas City Arson Task Force, 2015
Basic Electricity, CFI Trainer, 2015
Arc Mapping Basics, CFI Trainer, 2015
Asbestos Awareness, National Environmental Trainers, 2015
Annual Seminar, Kansas City Arson Task Force, 2013
K-9 Accelerant & CAFS, Overland Park FD, 2013
Quarterly Training, Eastern Kansas Multi-County Arson Task Force, 2013
Interview and Interrogation, Eastern Kansas Multi-County Arson Task Force, 2013
Annual Seminar, Kansas City Arson Task Force, 2011
Quarterly Training, Eastern Kansas Multi-County Arson Task Force, 2011
Firearm POST re-certification, Olathe KS FD, 2010
NFPA 72 Symposium, Riverside Mo. FD, 2010
Inspection Training, Kansas Fire Marshal, 2010
Quarterly Training, Eastern Kansas Multi-County Arson Task Force, 2010
Annual Seminar, Kansas City Arson Task Force, 2010

Education:

Associate of Arts, Fire Service Administration, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, Kansas (1994)

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators
International Association of Arson Investigators – Kansas Chapter
International Association of Arson Investigators – Missouri Chapter

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Mystery Explosion at a fire in a Multi-Family Dwelling, EFI Global 2024
Lecturer: Arson Investigation, Johnson County Community College, 2017
Lecturer: Arson Investigator Procedures, Eastern Kansas Task Force, 2010
Lecturer: X-Rays and the Fire Investigator, Eastern Kansas Arson Task Force, 2009