

Heather Herbold | Fire Investigator, NAFI-CFEI(V), IAAI-FIT, ECT

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Professional Summary:

Ms. Herbold has an extensive background in the Fire and Emergency services. She joined the fire service in 1999, holding positions of Paramedic, Firefighter, and Swiftwater Rescue Instructor. She was responsible for fire suppression, and fire prevention, as well as medical emergencies of any kind. She holds the certifications of Missouri State licensed Paramedic, Firefighter I & II, Fire Officer I & II, HazMat Operations Level, and Fire Department Driver/Operator. She has earned an Associate of Applied Science in Paramedicine (Cum Laude), and a Bachelor of Science in Fire, Arson & Explosion Investigations (Summa Cum Laude) from Eastern Kentucky University in 2023.

Ms. Herbold is a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator through the National Association of Fire Investigators, Fire Investigation, and Evidence Collection Technician through the International Association of Arson Investigators and meets the National Fire Protection Agency – *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigators* (NFPA 1033). She has extensive experience in conducting thorough and accurate investigations to determine origin, cause, and responsibility for fires and explosions. She has managed subrogation, and liability claims independently and as part of joint exam teams for residential, commercial, industrial, and automotive equipment. She possesses a strong understanding of the scientific methodology, fire science, fire dynamics, and forensic analysis techniques. Her expertise includes, analyzing fire patterns, fire dynamics, collecting and preserving evidence, interviewing witnesses, and preparing detailed reports. She is also well versed in local, state, and federal laws and regulations related to fire investigations. Ms. Herbold is skilled in working with local and state law enforcement agencies, fire departments, insurance companies, and legal professionals to ensure that investigations are conducted thoroughly and efficiently. She is dedicated, detail oriented, and committed to using her skills to deliver high quality results.

Licenses and Certifications:

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators, Certificate #26556-15966

Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators, Certificate #26556-15966v

Certified Fire Investigation Technician, International Association of Arson Investigators, Certificate #1410269

Certified Evidence Collection Technician, International Association of Arson Investigators, Certificate #1015

Certified Fire Investigator, State of Missouri #7MO-007473

Certified State of Missouri Firefighter I & II

Certified State of Missouri Fire Officer I & II
Certified State of Missouri Fire Service Driver/Operator/Pumper
Certified State of Missouri Hazardous Materials, Operations Level
Licensed Paramedic, State of Missouri, License #P11481
Licensed Private Fire Investigator, State of Missouri, License #2023040325
Licensed Private Fire Investigator, State of Illinois, PERC #129.489331
Licensed Private Investigator, State of Iowa, License #155634

Professional Experience:

EFI Global, Fire Investigator, Chicago Service Center, 2023-Present
SSM St. Mary's Health Center, ED Paramedic, St. Louis, MO, 2022-2023
Pyr-Tech, Inc., Fire Investigation-Internship, Collinsville, IL, 2022-2023
Valley Park Fire Protection District, Firefighter/Paramedic, Valley Park, MO, 2018-2022
Metro North Fire Protection District, Firefighter/Paramedic, St. Louis, MO, 2017-2018
Mehlville Fire Protection District, Firefighter/Paramedic, St. Louis, MO, 1999-2017
Christian Hospital, Paramedic, St. Louis, MO, 1991-1999

Education:

Bachelor of Science, Fire, Arson, and Explosion Investigation, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY, 2023
- Course work included investigative best practices, origin and cause determination, utilizing the scientific method, fire behavior, fire chemistry, fire dynamics, explosion dynamics, electrical systems, failure analysis, documentation, evidence collection procedure, criminal and civil process, building construction and codes, NFPA 921, NFPA 1033.
Associate in applied science, Paramedic Technology, St. Louis Community College, St. Louis, MO, 2021
George Mason University, Biology / Chemistry course work. Fairfax, VA, 1988-1991
Missouri State University, Springfield, MO, 1986-1988, General studies

Specialized Continuing Education:

Basic Electricity, CFI Trainer, 4 hrs., 06/04/2023
Basic De-escalation Techniques, MO-ATC, 4 hrs., 5/16-18/2025
Building Confidence in Origin & Cause Determinations, 2024 IAAI-ITC, 4 hrs., 4/27/2024
Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator, 28 hrs., 9/15/25-9/18/25
Charting Your Career Path in Fire Investigation, CFI Trainer, 3hrs. 7/11/2022
Comprehensive Interviewing: The P.E.A.C.E. Method of Non-Confrontational Interviewing, MO-ATC, 4 hrs., 5/16-18/2025
Confirmation & Expectation Bias: How Do You Un-ring the Bell? , 2024 IAAI-ITC, 4 hrs., 4/27/2024
Discovery in Civil Cases, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs. 06/26/2022
Discovery in Criminal Cases, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs., 06/26/2022
DNA, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs., 09/15/2022
Documenting the Event, CFI Trainer, 4 hrs., 02/10/2022
Effective Investigation and Testimony, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs., 06/28/2023

Electrical Safety, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs., 06/09/2023
Emerging Technologies Fire Investigation, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs., 06/02/2023
Ethics and the Fire Investigator, CFI Trainer, 3hrs., 08/15/2022
Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab? , CFI Trainer , 4 hrs., 09/15/2022
Fire Chemistry, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs., 02/01/2023
Fire Effects Part 1: Heat Effects on Fuel, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs., 05/19/2023
Fire Effects Part 2: Combustion By-Products Effects, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs., 06/25/2023
Fire Flow Analysis, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs., 01/29/2022
Fire Pattern Recognition, Ventilation, and Flow Paths, GFIA Spring 2023, 6hrs. 04/09/2023
Fire Science as it relates to NFPA 1033, GFIA Spring 2023, 6hrs., 04/09/2023
Electrical Training, FL ATC 2022, 4 hrs., 04/09/2023
Exploring the Impact of Artificial Intelligence, 2024 IAAI-ITC, 2 hrs., 4/27/2024
Fuel Gas Fire & Explosion, FL ATC 2022, 4 hrs., 04/09/2023
Homemade Explosives & Clandestine Labs, MO-ATC, 3 hrs., 5/16-18/2025
Insurance Claims for Fire & Explosion Investigators, 2024 IAAI-ITC, 4 hrs., 4/27/2024
Introduction to Evidence, CFI Trainer, 4 hrs., 09/14/2022
Investigation Training Investigating Commercial, FL ATC 2022, 6 Hrs., 04/09/2023
Kitchen Fires Insurance and the Fire Investigation, CFI Trainer, 4 hrs., 06/25/2023
Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations, CFI Trainer, 4 hrs., 07/11/2022
Motive, Means, and Opportunity: Determining Responsibility in an Arson Case, CFI Trainer
4 hrs., 03/05/2022
NFPA 1033 & 921: 2022/2021, Editions Important Updates, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs., 01/31/2023
NFPA 1033 and Your Career, CFI Trainer, 2 hrs., 08/24/2022
NFPA 1321 – Standard for Fire Investigative Units, MO-ATC, 4 hrs., 5/16-18/2025
Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene, CFI Trainer, 4 hrs., 09/15/2022
Post flashover Fires, CFI Trainer, 4 hrs., 02/04/2022
Preventing Occupational Exposures to Carcinogens at the Fire Scene, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs.,
06/28/2023
Reaching In! Mental Wellness Strategies for First Responders, FL ATC 2022, 2 hrs., 04/09/2023
Search and Seizure, CFI Trainer, 4 hrs., 02/01/2023
Solar Panel Investigations & Safety, GFIA Spring 2023, 6 hrs., 04/09/2023
Solar Panels and Battery Banks, MO-ATC, 3 hrs., 5/16-18/2025
The Deposition Part 1: Format, Content, and Preparation, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs., 07/28/2022
The Deposition Part 2: Questioning Tactics and Effective Responses, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs.,
07/28/2022
The Impact of Ventilation in Building Structures on Fire Development, CFI Trainer, 4 hrs.,
06/24/2022
The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921, CFI Trainer, 2
hrs., 02/26/2022
The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs., 01/22/2022
The Use of Fire Dynamics for Origin Determination, 2024 IAAI-ITC, 4 hrs., 4/27/2024
Understanding CSST and Lightning-ATF, 2024 IAAI-ITC. 4 hrs., 4/27/2024
Understanding Fire Through the Candle Experiments, CFI Trainer, 4 hrs., 02/02/2023
Unusual Evidence Collection Procedures, GFIA Spring 2023, 6 hrs., 04/09/2023
What the Insurance Professional, CFI Trainer, 3 hrs., 06/25/2023,
Needs to Know About Fire Investigation Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, CFI Trainer,
3 hrs., 02/18/2022

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators, (IAAI)
International Association of Arson Investigators, Missouri Chapter (MO-IAAI)
International Association of Arson Investigators, Illinois Chapter (IL-IAAI)
National Association of Fire Investigators, (NAFI)
International Association of Fire Fighters, (IAFF) (retired)

Honors and Awards:

President's List (3.9+ GPA), Eastern Kentucky University, Fall 2021, Fall 2022
Dean's List (3.75+ GPA), Eastern Kentucky University, Fall 2021, Fall 2022
Latin Honors Graduate-*Summa Cum Laude*, Eastern Kentucky University, May 2023, Final GPA 4.0/4.0
Latin Honors Graduate -*Cum Laude*, St. Louis Community College, May 2021
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Xi Lambda Chapter, 2021