

Jason Horton | Fire Investigator, NAFI-CFEI, IAAI-FIT

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Horton has more than 20 years of experience in the fire service, fire investigation, and related fields. He has experience evaluation fires for origin and cause, scene analysis and documentation, evidence collection, field testing, and multi-agency coordination. He has investigated over 100 fire and explosion scenes as a public and private investigator; he has also taught fire investigation courses and topics to his peers.

Area of Expertise

- Structural Fire and Explosion Investigation
- Vehicle Fire Investigation
- Complex Fire Scene Management and Investigation

Licenses and Certifications:

Private Investigator, State of Washington, License #WA 21013737

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (NAFI-CFEI) National Association of Fire Investigators

Fire Investigation Technician (IAAI-FIT) International Association of Arson Investigators

Project Experience:

Fruit Packers Supply, Yakima, WA Cardboard Box Manufacturer

Lead Investigator on a commercial fire. The fire involved a large number of pallets of corrugated boxes and several pieces of heavy equipment with multiple federal and local agencies were involved.

Residential Structure Fire, Yakima, WA Complex Fire Investigation

Fire investigation assignment involving a structure and involving multiple points of ignition in multiple locations

Residential Structure Fire, Yakima, WA Fire Death Investigation

Fire investigation assignment of a residential structure involving the death of an occupant

Residential Structure Fire, Yakima, WA Fire Arson Investigation

Fire investigation assignment with Yakima Police and ATF involving several structures and leading to a conviction.

Professional Experience:

EFI Global, Investigator, 2021 – Present
City of Yakima Fire Department, Lieutenant EMT/Fire Investigator, 2012 – Present
City of Selah Fire Department, Fire Fighter EMT, 2001 – 2012

Specialized Education:

Motor Vehicle Fire Investigation-3 Day, IAAI, 2026
NFPA 1033 and Your Career 2025, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2026
Discovery in Civil Cases, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2025
Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Design Basics, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2025
Ethics in Social Media, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2025
Discovery in Criminal Cases, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2024
FI-210 Wildland Fire Origin & Cause Determination, NWCG, 2023
Writing the Initial Origin & Cause Report, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2023
Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Fires, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2023
Fire Flow Analysis, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2023
Fire Investigation for Fire Officers, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2023
How First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2023
Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2023
Lithium-Ion Battery Fires, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2021
Giving Stronger Deposition and Trial Testimony, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2021
The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2021
Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2021
Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators, 2020
Basic Electricity, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2020
Fundamentals of Interviewing, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2020
Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2020

Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Causes, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2020

Giving Stronger Deposition and Trial Testimony, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2020

The practical application between NFPA 921 & 1033, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2019

Ethics and the Fire Investigator, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2019

Electrical Safety, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2019

Fire Death Investigations, IAAI (Washington State Chapter), 2019

HAZWOPER Standard, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2019

NFPA 1033 and Your Career, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2019

Fire Investigator Scene Safety, IAAI / CFI Trainer, 2019

Practical Kinesic Interview & Interrogation, Public Agency Training Council, 2018

Youth Fire Setting Prevention and Intervention, National Fire Academy, 2015

Washington State Hazardous Materials Technician, Washington State Patrol, 2015

Education:

Bachelor of Arts, Fire Administration, Western Oregon University, Monmouth, OR, 2016

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA, 1995

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), National membership #1403037

National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI), National membership #25453

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Instructed Class in Basic Fire Investigation, Yakima Fire Department, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Honors and Awards:

Rusty Hauber Award (Fire Fighter of the Year), City of Yakima Fire Department, 2018