John M. Ticer | Fire Investigator, IAAI-CFI, IFSAC-CFI, IFSAC-FF1

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Ticer has over 950 hours of fire investigation related training that has extended over 27 years of experience as a fire origin and causation investigator working within the public sector. Mr. Ticer also has over 500 hours of additional training in the area of explosives and post blast investigations and 200 plus hours of hazardous labs/hazardous materials training.

Mr. Ticer has investigated or supervised over 1200 fire and explosion related incidents that have involved commercial and residential properties, vehicles, agricultural and construction equipment. These investigations have included fatalities, complex multi-million-dollar losses and fraud issues.

Mr. Ticer is a Certified Fire Investigator through the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) and a Certified Fire Investigator I through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and meets the Professional Qualifications of NFPA 1033. He has also been a Certified Explosives Technician through the FBI-Hazardous Devices School, Certified Clandestine Lab Investigator, Certified Fire Fighter I and Certified Hazardous Materials Technician. He has been accepted as an expert witness in State and Federal Courts and has provided testimony in both criminal and civil cases.

Licenses and Certifications:

- PI licensed in Missouri (2023028544), Nebraska (1818) and Iowa (156388).
- Certified Fire Investigator, International Association of Arson Investigators, Certificate number 30-016 (2005, 2020, 2025)
- Certified Fire Investigator I, International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (2009)
- Certified Explosives Technician/Post Blast Investigator, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)/Hazardous Devices School (1999, 2002, 2005, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2019)
- Certified Fire Fighter I, International Fire Service Accreditation Congress, (1997)
- Certified Hazardous Materials Technician, Fire Service Training Bureau (2002)
- Certified Clandestine Lab Investigator, State of Iowa (1999-2022)
- Certified Law Enforcement Officer, State of Iowa, Department of Public Safety Academy (1990)
- Certified Accelerant Canine Handler, United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) (2003, 2006-2013)
- Tested Training Certificate Obtained. IAAI - Iowa Chapter. 15.50 Tested Hours.

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Professional Experience:

EFI Global
Service Center: Minneapolis, MN
Fire Investigator
2023-Present

Iowa State Fire Marshal's Division/Department of Public Safety
Council Bluffs, IA
Special Agent Fire Investigator/Bomb Tech
1998-2023

Iowa State Fire Marshal's Division/Department of Public Safety
Des Moines, IA
Fire Inspector
1992-1998

Iowa Department of Public Safety/Capital Police Division
Des Moines, IA
Police Officer
1990-1992

Military Experience:

United States Air Force
Omaha, NE
Sergeant
1986-1990

Specialized Education:

- IAAI - Iowa Chapter Annual Training Conference, September 15-17, 2026
- CFI Trainer - Understanding Undetermined, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), 11/24/25
- Lighting Fundamentals, IAAI CFITrainer.net, May 2025, 3 hours tested
- Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, training compliant with NFPA 1033 for fire investigations, Johnston, IA September 2024, 17 hours tested.
- Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, training compliant with NFPA 1033 for fire investigations, Johnston, IA September 2023, 16 hours tested.
- Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, training compliant with NFPA 1033 for fire investigations, Johnston, IA September 2022, 16 hours non-tested.
- International Training Conference, IAAI, Allentown vehicle explosion, fire fatality investigations, arson case in Brazil, Investigator Behavioral Health, Fire suppression in cooking operations, Health and Safety, Kansas City FF fatality case study, strengthening fire and explosion investigations, developing a hypothesis, and vehicle fire investigation – Determining the Origin, Jacksonville, FL April 2022, 34 hours tested.
- Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, training compliant with NFPA 1033 for fire investigations, Cedar Rapids, IA September 2021, 16 hours tested.
- Fire Investigation for the First Responder, Fire Service Training Bureau, Johnston, IA December 2020, 16 hours non-tested.

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- Testimony Reference NFPA 921 & 1033, Fire Service Training Bureau, Ames, IA October 2019, 6 hours tested.
- Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, training compliant with NFPA 1033, Cedar Rapids, IA September 2019, 16.5 hours tested.
- Bomb Technician Recertification, FBI/HDS School, Huntsville, AL June 2019, 40 hours tested.
- Electrical Aspects, IAAI/Fire Service Training Bureau, Ames, IA November 2018, 24 hours tested.
- Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, training compliant with NFPA 1033, Ames, IA September 2018, 18.5 hours tested.
- Improvised Explosives (IED) Electronics Course, AT Solutions, Des Moines, IA April 2018 non-tested.
- FBI Post Blast Investigator School, Omaha, NE 40 hours non-tested.
- Evidence Collection, latent prints and DNA, Fire Service Training Bureau, November 2017, 4 hours non-tested.
- Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, training compliant with NFPA 1033 for fire investigations, Ames, IA September 2017, 19.5 hours tested.
- Iowa and Nebraska Chapter, IAAI Joint Fire and Arson Conference, training compliant with NFPA 1033 for fire investigations, Council Bluffs, IA September 2016, 19.5 hours tested.
- Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, compliant with NFPA 1033 for fire investigations, Davenport, IA September 2015, 19.25 hours tested.
- Advanced Origin and Cause, Fire Protection and Fire Investigator Ethics, Grinnell Mutual Insurance & Iowa Chapter of IAAI, Council Bluffs, IA November 2014, 8 hours tested.
- Iowa Chapter, IAAI Fire and Arson Conference, compliant with NFPA 1033 for fire investigations, West Des Moines, IA September 2013, 19.5 hours tested.
- 1033 for Fire Investigators, Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau & Iris Fire Investigations Inc. Ames, IA April 2013.

IAAI (CFITrainer.net):

- Fatal Fires: Investigation, January 2025, 3 hours tested.
- Commercial Kitchen Fires 2: Investigation, October 2024, 3 hours tested.
- Commercial Kitchen Fires 1: Fundamentals, October 2024, 3 hours tested.
- Fire Effects Part 1: Heat Effects on Fuels, April 2023, 3 hours tested.
- Fire Effects Part 2: Combustion By-Products Effects, May 2023, 3 hours tested
- Fire Protection Systems, January 2023, 3 hours tested.
- Lithium-Ion Battery Fires, January 2023, 3 hours tested.
- Investigating Natural Gas Systems, January 2023, 3 hours tested.
- Discovery in Civil Cases, February 2023, 3 hours tested.
- Using Resources to Validate your Hypothesis, February 2023, 2 hours tested.
- NFPA 1033 & 921 Updates, July 2022, 3 hours tested.
- Alternative Fuel Vehicles, December 2022, 3 hours tested.
- Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Fires, December 2022, 3 hours tested.
- Site Safety Assessment, December 2022, 3 hours tested.
- Intro to Youth Set Fires, January 2021, 3 hours tested.
- Legal Aspects of Youth Set Fires, January 2021, 3 tested hours.
- Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Design, February 2021, 3 hours tested.
- Impact of Ventilation in Building Structures on Fire Development, February 2021, 4 hours tested.

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- Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction, March 2021, 3 hours tested.
- Intro to Fire Dynamics and Modeling, March 2021, 4 hours tested.
- Residential Natural Gas Systems, March 2021, 3 hours tested.
- Photovoltaic Cells and Systems, October 2021, 3 hours tested.
- Fire Flow Analysis, January 2020, 3 hours tested.
- Fire Investigator scene safety, January 2020, 3 hours tested.
- Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, January 2020, 3 hours tested.
- Motor Vehicles: The Engine and Ignition, Electrical, and Fuel Systems, January 2020, 3 hours tested.
- Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake and Accessory Systems, January 2020, 3 hours tested.
- Charting Your Career, November 2020, 3 hours tested.
- The Deposition, parts 1 and 2, November 2020, 6 hours tested.
- Emerging Technologies in Fire Investigation, December 2020, 3 hours tested.
- Introduction to Appliances, December 2020, 3 hours tested.
- Critical Evaluation and testing of Accidental Causes, December 2020, 3 hours tested.
- Explosion Dynamics, February 2019, 4 hours tested.
- Understanding Fire through the Candle Experiment, February 2019, 4 hours tested.
- Hazwoper Standard, February 2019, 4 hours tested.
- Charleston Sofa Super Store fire, April 2019, 4 hours tested.
- Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, April 2019, 4 hours tested.
- DNA, October 2018, 3 hours tested.
- Critical Thinking Solving cases, November 2019, 4 hours tested.
- Physical Evidence at Fire Scenes, July 2018, 4 hours tested.
- Process of Elimination, October 2018, 3 hours tested.
- Thermometry, Heat and Heat Transfer, October 2018, 3 hours tested.
- Investigating Fatal Fires, December 2018, 4 hours tested.
- Electrical Safety, July 2018, 3 hours tested.
- Evidence Examination: What happens at the lab, October 2018, 4 hours tested.
- Fire Chemistry, October 2018, 3 hours tested.
- Introduction to Evidence, December 2017, 4 hours tested.
- Ethics and the Fire Investigator, October 2017, 3 hours tested.
- Basic Electricity, November 2017, 4 hours tested.
- Analysis of the Station Nightclub Fire, September 2017, 4 hours tested.
- Documenting the Event, September 2017, 4 hours tested.
- Residential Electrical Systems, November 2017, 4 hours tested.
- Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations, January 2016, 4 hours tested.
- Investigating Fire and Explosion Line of Duty Deaths, February 2016, 3 hours tested.

Education:

University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO)
Omaha, Nebraska
Graduated Cum Laude with bachelor's degree
Criminal Justice and Psychology
May 1990

Affiliations:

- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)

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- International Association of Arson Investigators, Iowa Chapter
- Iowa Department of Public Safety – Special Agents Association
- Treynor Volunteer Fire Department (1999-2008)
- Carlisle Volunteer Fire Department (1996-1998)

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

- Fire Investigations (College Level)
- Fire Investigations for First Responders
- Fire Behavior
- Motives
- Investigating Fatal Fires
- Investigative Interviewing
- Bombing Awareness
- Post Blast Investigation
- Hazardous Labs
- Multiple Case Study Presentations
- Report Writing
- Meth Lab Awareness/Response

Honors and Awards:

- Governor's Award for Arson Investigator of the Year, Iowa Chapter IAAI, 2009
- State Fire Marshal Commendation for serving as Bomb Squad Commander, Iowa SFM, 2012
- State Fire Marshal Commendation for serving as a Certified Accelerant Canine Handler for 11 years, Iowa SFM, 2014
- Director of Detection, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and President, Iowa Chapter of the IAAI, 2016-2022.

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