

C. Lee Newcomb | Fire Investigator, IAAI-CFI

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Newcomb has 30 years of investigative experience in law enforcement, the fire service, and private industry. He has specialized in fire and explosion investigations for 19 of those years. To date, Mr. Newcomb has either lead or assisted with the investigation of over 900 fire and explosive incidents of all types, including large losses, accidental, natural, and criminal/incendiary fires including homicides. These incidents have included structure fires, vehicle fires, heavy equipment, wildland, and marine fires. Many of these investigations have led to criminal convictions or guilty pleas in Court. He served as a volunteer and/or part-time fire fighter for 12 years. Mr. Newcomb earned an Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate and is certified as a Level II fire fighter. Mr. Newcomb retired from law enforcement with 28 years of service.

Areas of Expertise:

- Fire & Explosion Investigations
- Criminal Investigations
- Law Enforcement Operations
- Fire Suppression
- Hazardous Materials Response

Licenses and Certifications:

Certified Fire Investigator, International Association of Arson Investigators, #24-091366

Certified Fire Investigator, North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal

Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate, NC Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission

Criminal Justice Instructor, NC Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission

(General, Instructor Orientation, Hazardous Materials/WMD)

Fire Fighter (Level II), NC Office of State Fire Marshal

Hazardous Materials Operations, NC Office of State Fire Marshal

Private Investigator, State of North Carolina, #762820

Private Investigator, State of South Carolina, #RD 260135

Private Investigator, State of Virginia, #99-739191

Project Experience:

Fatal Fire Investigation Fayetteville, NC

Lead the origin and cause examination of a residential structure fire which resulted in the deaths of a mother and her two children. Determined the fire was caused by a nail impinging of a 220V electrical line which fed the HVAC system resulting in high resistance heating over time.

Arson Investigation Fayetteville, NC

Lead the cause and origin examination of a residential structure fire where the fire had been intentionally set by the husband-and-wife homeowners. Charges were filed and the defendants plead guilty to lesser charges.

Court Qualifications / Depositions:

Litigation CV available upon request.

Professional Experience:

EFI Global, Fire Investigator, Oct. 2023 – Present
Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Instructor, Fayetteville Technical Community College 2003 – Present
North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (1998-2023)
Assistant Special Agent in Charge (Southeastern District) (6/15 – 2/23)
Assistant Special Agent in Charge (Fire/Arson Program Coordinator) (6/10 – 6/15)
Special Agent (Fire/Arson) (2/06-6/10)
Criminal Specialist (Computer Crime Agent) (3/04-2/06)
Special Agent (Criminal) (2/98 – 3/04)
Nash County Sheriff's Office (1995-1998)
Criminal Investigator (7/97 – 1/98)
Patrol Corporal (7/96 – 7/97)
Patrol Deputy (1/95 – 7/96)
Cumberland Road Fire Department, Fire Fighter
Part Time Fire Fighter 2014 – 2020
Volunteer Fire Fighter 2008 – 2014

Specialized Education:

Fire Effects Part 1, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2025
Fire Effects Part 2, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2025
Marine Fire Science, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2025
International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI) 2025 Conference, International Association of Marine Investigators, 2025
IAMI 2025 Marine Insurance Fraud
IAMI 2025 Marine Identification (Vessels)
IAMI 2025 Hull Identification (HIN) Recovery
IAMI 2025 Federal Carriage Laws
IAMI 2025 Testifying on the Stand
IAMI 2025 Marine Accident Investigation
IAMI 2025 Maritime Law
IAMI 2025 Lithium-Ion Batteries
IAMI 2025 Engines and Exhaust Systems
IAMI 2025 Admiralty Law
Water Heater Failures, International Association of Marine Investigators, 2025
HazWoper Refresher Training, EFI Global, 2025
Wildland Fires, EFI Global, 2025

Wildland Fire Investigation, EFI Global, 2025
Lithium-Ion Battery Fires. EFI Global, 2024
Investigating Natural Gas Systems, CFI Trainer.net IAAI, 2024
Fire Chemistry, CFI Trainer.net IAAI, 2024
Marine Fire Basics for Small Recreational Vessels, EFI Global, 2024
Commercial Kitchen Fires 1: Fundamentals, CFI Trainer.net IAAI, 2024,
Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, & Brake Systems, CFI Trainer.net IAAI, 2024
Motor Vehicles: Engine & Ignition, Electrical, & Fuel Systems, CFI Trainer.net IAAI, 2024
Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator, CFITrainer.net/IAAI 2023
Explosion Dynamics, CFITrainer.net/IAAI 2023
Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Causes, CFI Trainer.net/IAAI 2023
Fire Flow Analysis, CFITrainer.net/IAAI 2023
NC/SC IAAI 2022 Documenting the Fire Scene
NC/SC IAAI 2022 Statement Analysis
NC/SC IAAI 2022 Challenges to Expert Qualifications
NC/SC IAAI 2022 The Team Approach – Achieving Maximum Potential
NC/SC IAAI 2022 Prevalence of Hypothesis at Fire Investigations
NC/SC IAAI 2022 Advanced Fire Scene Documentation
NC/SC IAAI 2022 Case Study – Maternal Filicide (Molly Delgado)
Trending Topics in Fire Investigations-Electrical Aspects, Asheville-Buncombe CC 2022
NC/SC IAAI 2021 Case Studies
NC/SC IAAI 2021 Statement Analysis
NC/SC IAAI 2021 Burn Boston Burn” (Boston Serial Arsonist)
NC/SC IAAI 2021 Ethics
NC/SC IAAI 2021 Battery Fires
NC/SC IAAI 2021 Evidence
NC/SC IAAI 2019 921-1033 Updates
NC/SC IAAI 2019 Expert Witness Testimony
NC/SC IAAI 2019 Interviewing Techniques
NC/SC IAAI 2019 Technical Report Writing
NC/SC IAAI 2019 Legal Updates
NC/SC IAAI 2019 Post Blast Investigations
NC/SC IAAI 2019 Understanding Basic Electricity
NC/SC IAAI 2019 Youth Fire Setter Intervention
Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony, IAAI 2014
OSHA Respirator Essentials and Fit Testing, UNC Health, 2014
The Utilization of NFPA 921 and NFPA 1033 in Fire Investigations, Fire Investigative Training Services 2014
Wildland Fire Case Development (FI 310), US Dept. Homeland Security/NC Dept. of Agriculture 2013
NCIAAI 2013 Legal Aspects of Discovery
NCIAAI 2013 Court Room Testimony
NCIAAI 2013 CV’s & Resumes
NCIAAI 2013 Car Fires
NCIAAI 2013 Ignition Analysis
NCIAAI 2013 Interviewing
NCIAAI 2013 Report Writing
NCIAAI 2013 Sketching
NCIAAI 2013 Criminal Forensics

NCIAAI 2013 Insurance Resources
NFPA 921 and 1033 Editions: Important Revisions, CFITrainer.net/IAAI 2013
Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, CFITrainer.net/IAAI 2013
NFPA 1033 and Your Career, , CFITrainer.net/IAAI 2013
The Scientific Method for Fire & Explosion Investigation, CFITrainer.net /IAAI 2013
Introduction to Evidence, CFITrainer.net/IAAI 2013
Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene, CFITrainer.net/IAAI 2013
Introduction to Fire Dynamics & Modeling, CFITrainer.net/IAAI 2013
Fire Protection Systems, CFITrainer.net/IAAI 2013
Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction, CFITrainer.net/IAAI 2013
Investigating Fatal Fires, CFITrainer.net/IAAI 2013
Investigation Motor Vehicle Fires, CFITrainer.net/IAAI 2013
Documenting the Event, CFITrainer.net/IAAI 2013

Education:

Bachelor of Arts in Economics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, May 1992

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Member since 2012
NC Chapter of International Association of Arson Investigators, Member since 2006
Former Training Committee and Chapter Treasurer-Director

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Criminal Investigation/Crime Scene Processing
Determining Origin and Cause
Evidence Collection
Fatal Fire Investigations
Fire/Arson Investigations
Interviewing
Report Writing
Arson for First Responders
Arrest Search & Seizure – Constitutional Law
Hazardous Materials Awareness/Response
Bloodborne Pathogens
Various Case Studies