

Professional Summary:

Mr. Sword's professional career includes 32 years with the City of Providence Fire Department. During that time, his career progressed from Firefighter/EMT, fire investigator, arson squad member, to managing the activities and staff within the Arson Squad and Fire Investigation Unit.

Mr. Sword has been a certified ignitable liquid detection canine handler since 2019 certified by the Maine State Police. In addition, Mr. Sword has completed hundreds of hours in tested fire investigation specific course work through multiple agencies, including, the National Fire Academy and the New York State Fire Academy. Mr. Sword has completed in excess of 500 fire scene investigations since 2013 to include: commercial, residential, fatal residential fires, vehicle and marine.

As the person in-charge of the Arson Squad, his responsibilities included supervising investigative staff, coordinating investigations with federal and local officials, and conducting cause and origin investigations for residential, commercial, and motor vehicle fires. In addition, as a law enforcement officer he interviewed and interrogated arson suspects, executed arrest warrants, and testified in the prosecution of state arson cases.

Areas of expertise include:

- Origin and Cause
- Incendiary fires
- Evidence collection
- IGL Canine Team

Licenses and Certifications:

Certified Fire Investigator, IAAI, Certificate #51-062810

Certified Evidence Collection Technician, IAAI, Certificate #632

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, NAFI, Certificate #20496-12791

Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator, NAFI, Certificate #20496-12791v

Certified Fire Investigator 1, State of New York

Certified Fire Investigator 2, State of New York

Certified Fire Investigator 1033, NFPA Pro board

Certified Fire Inspector 1031, NFPA Certificate #CFI-15-0197

Certified IGL Canine Handler, Maine Criminal Justice Academy 2019, Retired

Private Detective License, State of Rhode Island

Court Qualifications/ Depositions:

Litigation CV available upon request.

Professional Experience:

City of Providence Fire Department Fire/Arson Investigator 2013-2024
City of Providence Fire Department Firefighter/EMT 1992-2024
City of Providence Fire Department IGL K9 Team handler 2019-2024

Specialized Education:

Fire death investigations, RI IAAI, 2025, 16 hours
Hazwopper refresher, EFI Global, 2025 8 hours
Hypothesis testing and case study, RI IAAI, 2025. 4 hours
Fire Investigation & Bias, RI IAAI, 2025, 3 hours
Fatal fire investigations, IAAI CFITrainer.net, 2025
Commercial kitchen fires #2, IAAI CFITrainer.net, 2025
Investigative resources, RI-IAAI, 2024 tested
921, 1033 and 1321 update, RI-IAAI, 2024 tested
Kitchen appliance failures and Commercial Kitchen fires-RI IAAI, 2023 8 hours tested
Lithium-ion battery fires and Post blast Investigations- RI IAAI, 2023 8 hours tested
Fire Investigation: Electrical Systems- FEMA-NFA, 2022, 45 hours tested
Heating system failures- RI IAAI, 2022, 8 hours tested
Fire scene photography- RI IAAI, 2022, 16 hours tested
Fire alarm/sprinkler and appliance failures- RI IAAI, 2021, 16 hours tested
Report writing- RI IAAI, 2021, 4 hours tested
BCI- Criminal Investigation and Scientific Evidence- RISCL-URI, 2020-2021 10 credits tested
Fire investigator health and safety- RI IAAI, 2021, 2 hours tested
Legal aspects of Fire Investigation- RI IAAI, 2020, 6 hours tested
Vehicle fire investigations- RI IAAI, 2019, 20 hours tested
Evidence handling procedures- RISCL, 2019, 4 hours
IGL Canine academy- Maine Specialty Dog, 2019 200 hours tested
Appliance fire forensics- RI IAAI, 2018, 16 hours tested
Fire Investigation: Forensic Evidence- FEMA-NFA, 2018, 40 hours tested
John Reid Interview and Interrogation- Coventry PD and John Reid, 2018, 28 hours
Documenting death investigations-RISCL, 2018, 8 hours
Electrical fire investigation- NYS Academy of Fire Science, 2018, 20 hours tested
Interview/Interrogation and Courtroom Testimony- FEMA-NFA, 2018, 80 hours tested
Arson: Case Investigation, licenses, and best practices- J. Lentini, 2018, 3 hours
Arson and the Insurance Industry- RI IAAI, 2018, 4 hours tested
68th Providence Academy of Criminal Justice- City of Providence, 2017, 300 hours tested
Interviewing techniques for the Fire Investigator- NYS Academy of Fire Science-2017, 20 hours tested
Fire Investigative Photography- NYS Academy of Fire Science, 2017, 20 hours tested
Fire/Arson Investigation Seminar-NYS Academy of Fire Science-2016, 12 hours tested
Butane Hash Oil fires- NE Assoc. of Fire Marshals-2016, 8 hours tested
Fire Investigation- NYS Academy of Fire Science, 2016, 80 hours tested
Fire Behavior and Arson Awareness & Principles of Fire Investigation- NY State Fire Academy, 2015, 36 hours tested
NFPA 1031 Fire Inspector- RI State Fire Marshals, 2015, 200 hours tested

Investigating the Vehicle fire- Metro Fire/Arson Inv. Assoc., 2014, 6 hours tested
Advanced Fire investigation Training- RI IAAI, 2014, 40 hours tested
CFI trainer.net – IAAI, 2013-2023, 266 hours tested

Education:

High School Diploma, Cranston High School East, Cranston, RI, 1984

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
Rhode Island Association of Arson Investigators (RI IAAI)
National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)
International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)
Rhode Island Criminalists Association (RICA)