

Richard Ritchie, IAAI-CFI (V) CFEI | National Fire Science Principal

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Ritchie has more than 15 years in public and private service conducting fire and explosion investigations. Prior to joining EFI Global and Unified Investigations, he was employed with the City of Gulfport Mississippi where he served in the Gulfport Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau and Code Enforcement offices. During that time, he was responsible for conducting fire and life safety inspections, fire and explosion investigations, public education and public service announcements. He also guest lectured the Southern Mississippi Criminal Investigations Class on more than one occasion. He has testified in the Eastern District Court of Texas, County Court and Arkansas State Court. He is domiciled in Benton, Arkansas and available to investigate fires in Arkansas, western Tennessee, north and west Mississippi, eastern Oklahoma and southern Missouri.

Licenses and Certifications:

Missouri Division of Fire Safety-Fire Investigator (1033-2014)

Private Investigator, Missouri Board of Private Investigator & Private Fire Investigator Examiners, License # 2018015698

Private Investigator, Louisiana State Board of Private Investigators, License #10145-082222-LA

Unarmed Private Investigator, Oklahoma-CLEET, License # 0161499-1000362

Private Investigator, Arkansas State Police Private Investigators Division, License # CPI000113

Private Investigator, Department of Commerce and Insurance, TN, License # 00007569

Certified Fire Investigator, Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions & Professional Registration, MO, License # 2018015698

Certified Fire Investigator with Vehicle designation, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI-V), Certificate #44-042802

Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigation, FL, Certificate #13544-7891

Fire Investigator NFPA 1033, ProBoard, Certificate # 294779 Certified Fire Investigator/NFPA 1033, Mississippi State Fire Academy

Certified Fire Inspector I, International Code Council, Certificate # 5317081-66 Certified Fire Inspector I, NFPA, Certificate # CFI-07-0189

Certified Fire Inspector II, Mississippi State Fire Academy



Certified Fire Inspector II, International Code Council, Certificate # 8001397-67 Certified Fire Inspector II, NFPA, Certificate # CFI-07-7044

Certified Fire Instructor I, Mississippi State Fire Academy

Project Experience:

Confidential Client, AR Fire Investigation

Conducted an origin and cause investigation of a fire that occurred in a new piece of heavy farm equipment. Investigation resulted in the identification of manufacturing defect in affected piece of equipment that resulted in subrogation recovery.

Confidential Client, AR Fire Investigation

Conducted an origin and cause investigation of a fire that occurred in a large multi-family residential complex and resulted in the total loss of the structure. Managed multi-scene examinations with over 40 experts and council in attendance. Additional fires had occurred prior to the investigation and during the investigation on the property. The investigation resulted in determining that all 7 fires were intentional. A tenant interviewed during the neighborhood canvass was identified as a suspect and an arrest was made by authorities in connection with the incidents.

Confidential Client, AR Fire Investigation

Conducted an origin and cause investigation of a fire that occurred in large single-family residence. Investigation revealed that the cause was accidental and related to a rodent inside a control board for a geo-thermal heating and air unit.

Confidential Client, AR Fire Investigation

Conducted an origin and cause investigation of a fire that occurred in a large multi-family residential structure and resulted in the total loss of the structure. Investigation resulted in the determination that the fire was the result of improperly discarded smoking materials on a porch deck by a tenant and/or their guest.

Professional Experience:

EFI Global, Inc. West Region Fire Science Principal, 2021-current

EFI Global, Inc District Fire Science Principal, 2018-2021

Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc., Team Lead/Sr. Fire Investigator, 2012-2018

EFI Global, Inc., Fire Investigator, 2011-2012

Gulfport Fire Department, Fire Inspector/Investigator, 2006-2011

Specialized Education:

NFPA 1033 and Your Career (update) 3 hours tested, IAAI-CFTtrainer.net 10/8/2025

Understanding Large Equipment Thermal Events- 8 hours tested, IAAI-AR Conference.

10/14/2025

Live Burn Demonstration (fire dynamics and scene inspection)-8 hours tested, IAAI-AR Conference, 10/15/2025
Nation Insurance Crime Bureau overview (investigation resources) 2 hrs tested, IAAI-AR Conference, 10/16/2025
Ethics in Fire investigation-2 hours tested, IAAI-AR Conference, 10/16/2025
Farm Equipment Fire Investigations - 4 hours tested, IAAI-AR Conference, 10/16/2025
Lightning Fire Cause Investigation - 3 hours tested, IAAI-CFITrainer.net, 8/5/2025
Origin & Cause Hypothesis Testing Fundamentals - 3 hours tested, IAAI-CFITrainer.net, 8/5/2025
Lightning Fundamentals - 3 hours tested, IAAI-CFITrainer.net, 4/30/2024
Examination of Smart plugs 12/12/24 live event 2 hours tested, CFITrainer.net, 1/3/2025
Fatal Fires: Investigation 3 hours tested, CFITrainer.net, 1/2/2025
Commercial Kitchen Fires 2: Investigation 3 hours tested, CFITrainer.net, 1/2/2025
Fatal Fires: Fire effects on the body 3 hours tested, CFITrainer.net, 12/10/2024
Investigation of fuel gas fires and explosions 4 hours tested, IAAI-AR fall conference, 10/23/2024
Interviewing techniques and tips 4 hours tested, IAAI-AR fall conference, 10/22/2024
Fire protection structures and systems 8 hours tested, IAAI-AR fall conference, 10/22/2024
Fire evidence: collection, preservation, and analysis 4 hours tested, IAAI-AR fall conference, 10/21/2024
Investigation residential electrical systems 4 hours tested, IAAI-AR fall conference, 10/21/2024
NFPA 1321 (8hr) Local Fire Agencies and Their Role (4hr) IAAI-AR. April 17-18, 2024
Donning and Doffing PPE (3hr), IAAI-CFITrainer.net, Feb. 13, 2024
Commercial kitchen fires fundamentals:1 (3hr) IAAI- CFITrainer.net, Feb. 8,2024
Fire Investigation for the Insurance Industry multi-program, IAAI-CFITrainer.net, 31 hours, Oct. 25, 2023
Personal Protective Equipment for post-fire scenes, IAAI-CFITrainer.net, 3 hours Oct. 25, 2023
Agriculture & Heavy Equipment Fires (2hr) Gas Leaks & Explosions (2hr) IAAI-AR multiple presenters, Oct. 5-6, 2023
Chimney Fires (1hr) Electrical Basics For the Fire Investigations (3hr) IAAI-AR multiple presenters, Oct. 5-6, 2023
Juvenile Fire setter (4hr) IAAI-AR multiple presenters, Oct. 5-6, 2023
Fire Effects part 2: Combustion By-Products Effects, CFI Trainer.net, 5/24/2023 3 hours
NFPA 1033 & 921: 2022/2021 Editions Important Updates, CFI Trainer.net, 5/3/23 3 hours
Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams, CFI Trainer.net, 5/3/23 3 hours
Site Safety Assessment, CFI Trainer.net, 5/3/23 3 hours
Fire Effects part 1: Heat effects on fuels, CFI Trainer.net, 4/18/23 3 hours
Recorded statements, evidence collection, Res elect & Fires, Solar & Battery stg, IAAI-AR Spring Conf. multiple presenters, 4/14/2023 12 hours
Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Fires, IAAI-2021
Lithium-Ion Battery Fires, IAAI-2021
Alternative Fuel Vehicles, IAAI-2021
Photovoltaic Cells & Systems, IAAI-2021
NFPA 1033 refresher, Lithium Batteries, Understanding Subrogation, LP & Gas fires, IAAI-Arkansas Chapter 2021 Introduction to Appliances, IAAI, 2020
Principals of Fire Investigation Multi-Program, IAAI-2020
Fire Investigation for Fire Officers Multi-Program, IAAI, 2020
Respiratory Protection Training, EFI Global, 2020
Asbestos Awareness Training, EFI Global, 2020
Preventing Occupational Exposures to Carcinogens, IAAI, 2020
IAAI-CFI(V) designation

Accidental Common Causes, IAAI, 2019
Digital Photography, HAZMAT, Fire Stopping, IAAI – Arkansas Chapter, 2019
Fire Flow Analysis, IAAI, 2019
Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Causes, IAAI, 2019
Fire Investigation for Fire Officers, IAAI, 2019
Discovery in Criminal Cases, IAAI 2019
Understanding Undetermined, IAAI, 2018
Thermometry, Heat and Heat Transfer, IAAI, 2018
What the Insurance Professional Needs to Know about Fire Investigation, IAAI, 2018
Knowledge 1 Motor Vehicle Fires Tier 1, CFITrainer.net, 2018
Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake and Accessory Systems, 2018
Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical, and Fuel Systems, 2018
New Technology for the Fire Investigator, Heavy Equipment Fire Investigations, International Association of Arson Investigators-Arkansas Chapter, 2018
New Technology for the Fire Investigator, Fatality Fire Investigation, Sconce Safety Assessment, IAAI, Arkansas Chapter, 2018
1033 Qualifications & Knowledge, 921 Methodology, Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing, Residential Electrical System, International Association of Arson Investigators-Arkansas Chapter, 2017
Electrical Appliances/Devices Fires, Materials and Metallurgy, International Association of Arson Investigators-Arkansas Chapter, 2017
Fire Chemistry, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2017
Discovery in Civil Cases, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2017
Investigation Vehicle Fires, Electrical Evaluation of Vehicle Fires & Arc Mapping, Investigation Agricultural Equipment Fire, International Association of Arson Investigators-Arkansas Chapter, 2016
Post Blast Investigations, International Association of Arson Investigators-Arkansas Chapter, 2016
Ethical Duties Beyond the Fire Scene, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2016
Legal Aspects of Investigating Youth-Set Fires, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2016
Introduction of Youth-Set Fires, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2016
Investigating Fire and Explosion Incidents Involving a Line-of-Duty Death, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2016
NFPA 921/NFPA 1033, International Association of Arson Investigators-Arkansas Chapter, 2015
Hands-On Vehicle Fire/Arson Investigation, Public Agency Training Council, National Criminal Justice, 2015
Standard Electrical Arrangements, 3D Scanning, Lightning Protection, International Association of Arson Investigators-Arkansas Chapter, 2015
Accreditation, Certification and Certificates, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2015
The Deposition Part 2: Questioning Tactics and Effective Responses, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2015
The Deposition Part 1: Format, Content, and Preparation, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2015
Digital Documentation and Electrical Appliance Fire Investigations, International Association of Arson Investigators, 2014
Legal Aspects of Fire Investigation, International Association of Arson Investigators, 2014

Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemical, Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc., 2014
Process of Elimination, International Association of Arson Investigator-CFITrainer.net, 2014
NFPA 921 & 1033 2014 Editions: Important Revisions, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2014
Profiling the Arsonist by Subtype, International Association of Arson Investigators, 2013
Arc Mapping, Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc., 2013
Using Resources to Validate your Hypothesis, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2013
Ethics & Social Media, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2013
OSHA, Annual Refresher with Asbestos Awareness, Association of Bay Area Government, ABAG Training, 2012
NFPA 1033 and Your Career, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2012
The Practical Application of Relationship Between NFPA 1033 & NFPA 921, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2012
Investigations, Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc., 2012
HFA 921 and 1033, International Association of Arson Investigators-Arkansas Chapter, 2012
Fire Prevention & Investigation, International Association of Arson Investigators-Arkansas Chapter, 2011
The Potential Value of Electronic Evidence in Fire Investigations, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2011
Fire Protection Systems, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2011
How First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2011
Charleston Sofa Super Store Fire, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2011
DNA, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2011
Search and Seizure, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2011
Electrical Safety, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2010
Explosion Dynamics, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2010
Fundamentals of Interviewing, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2010
Wildland Fires Investigations, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2010
Fundamentals of Residential Building, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2010
Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2010
HAZWOPER Standard, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2010
Preparation for the Marine Fire Scene, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2010
Effective Investigation & Testimony, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2009
Arc Mapping Basics, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2009
Motive, Means & Opportunity: Determining Responsibility in an Arson Case, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2009
Post-Flashover Fire, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2009
Death Investigations, 2009
Spring Seminar, Mississippi Fire Investigators Association, 2009
5-Year Sprinkler Obstruction Inspection Webinar, Simplex Grinnell, 2009

Fire Service Instructor 1041-1, Mississippi State Fire Academy, 2009
Fire/Arson Fatality Fire Scene Investigation, Public Agency Training Council, National Criminal Justice, 2009
Interviewing/Interrogation Techniques and Courtroom Testimony, FEMA, National Fire Academy, 2009
Fire and Explosion Investigations: Utilizing NFPA 1033 & 921, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2008
A Ventilation-Focused Approach to the Impact of Building Structures and Systems on Fire Development, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2008
Vacant and Abandoned Buildings: Hazards and Solutions, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2008
Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2008
Understanding Fire Through the Candle Experiments, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net 2008
Investigating Fatal Fires, International Association of Arson Investigators-CFITrainer.net, 2008
Intensive Marine Port Area Counter-Terrorism, Great Southern Club, 2008
Fire/Arson Origin & Cause Investigations, FEMA, National Fire Academy, 2008
CB_Volume 1: Q-840 Coffee Break, Training Volume 1, Homeland Security National Fire Academy, 2008
Emergency Response to Terrorism: Self-Study, U.S. Department of Homeland Security National Fire Academy, 2008
Prevention and Deterrence for all Disciplines, National Center of Biomedical Research & Training Academy of Counter-Terrorist, 2008

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI-Arkansas) board member
International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI-Mississippi)
National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

USM-Arson: Law, Process and Court-Procedure

Honors and Awards:

Pinnacle Award -EFI Global 2018 Top 10
Pinnacle Award- EFI Global 2018 Investigations
Summit Award- Unified Investigations and Sciences, Spring 2015

Litigation CV Available Upon Request.