

Robert Drake | Fire Investigator, CFEI, CVFI, IAAI-FIT

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Drake has over 30 combined years of fire service and has personally investigated or supervised over 900 structural & vehicle fire investigations. Investigations include fires and explosions, involving fatalities, fraud, arson and subrogation losses.

Mr. Drake has over 15 years of experience conducting and directing origin and cause investigations of fires and explosions involving vehicles, single, multi-family, and business occupancies that resulted in serious injuries, single and multiple fatalities. He brings with him the practical awareness and skills to identify and preserve a scene and physical findings concerning criminal, civil, and subrogation issues. Bob has also had formal "Background Investigation" training through Wyoming Department of Public Safety. With his formal training and real-life experience as a Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator, he has attained a working knowledge of fire suppression, detection and notification systems. Mr. Drake also has a good understanding of the NFPA Codes and holds a current NFPA and State of Michigan Fire Inspector 1 Certification.

Mr. Drake has collaborated with the Wyoming Police Department to assist with investigating accidents, disasters and arson investigations to streamline the processes.

Mr. Drake was also elected to the Board of Directors for the Michigan Chapter of the IAAI in 2019.

Licenses and Certifications:

International Association of Arson Investigators, Fire Investigator Technician,

Public Agency Training Council, Fire Pattern Certification

National Association of Fire Investigators, Vehicle Fire Investigator, Cert # 19616-11796v,

National Association of Fire Investigators, Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, Cert# 109616-11796v

Fire Findings, Investigation of Gas and Electric Appliance Fires

National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications Fire Investigator, NFPA 1033-2009

Certificates of Training from Michigan State Police, Fire Investigator I & II, Vehicle Fires

State of Michigan Certified Fire Inspector I License# 13-071

National Fire Protection Association, Certified Fire Inspector I, Cert# CFI-13-0087

Project Experience:

**Hotel Fire Loss
Warren, MI**
Insured: Extended Stay of America

**Hospital Fire Loss
Manistee, MI**
Insured: Munson Hospital

**Restaurant Fire Loss
Lansing, MI**
Insured: Penn Station

**Motel Fire Loss
Marshall, MI**
Insured: Howard's Motel

**Laboratory Fire Loss
Vicksburg, MI**
Insured: Bridge Organics

Professional Experience:

EFI Global /Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc., Fire Investigator, 2017 to Present
Wyoming Fire Department, Fire Inspector/Investigator/Fire Fighter, 1993 to 2015
Retired from Wyoming Department of Public Safety 2015
Fire Investigator / Fire Inspector, Wyoming Department of Public Safety 2013

Specialized Education:

Post-Blast Investigation of Gas Appliances and Systems, Fire Findings, 30 hours tested, 9/9-9/12
2025
Annual Arson School, IAAI of Michigan Chapter, 21.25 hrs. tested. 5/19-22/2025
Ethics & Social Media, CFITrainer.net, 3 hrs., tested, 3/21/2025
Fundamentals of Interviewing, CFITrainer.net, 4 hrs. tested, 3/31/2025
Commercial Kitchen Fires 2: Investigation, CFITrainer.net, 11/29/2024
Commercial Kitchen Fires 1: Fundamentals, CFITrainer.net, 10/2/2024
Introduction to Appliances, CFITrainer.net, 8/7/2024
Ethics and the Fire Investigator, CFITrainer.net, 8/7/2024
Annual Arson School, IAAI MI Chapter, 19.5 hrs. tested, 5/2024
Lithium-ion Battery Fires, EFI Global CE, 1 hr. tested, 7/2024
Investigating Fire and Explosion Incidents Involving a Line of Duty Death, CFITrainer.net, IAAI,
2/19/2024
Understanding Fire Through the Candle Experiments, CFITrainer.net IAAI, 1/20/2024
Magne Tek: A case Study In The Daubert Challenge, 1/31/2024
Understanding the Fire Investigator's Job, CFITrainer.net IAAI, 11/24/2023
Fire Investigator Scene Safety, CFITrainer.net IAAI, 9/28/2023
Michigan Annual Arson School, MI Chapter IAAI, May 22-25, 2023
Fire Effects Part 2: Combustion By-Products Effects CFITrainer.net /IAAI/ 6/26/2023

Fire Effects Part 1: Heat Effects on Fuels CFItrainer.net /IAAI/ 6/13/2023
Electrical Safety CFItrainer.net /IAAI/ 5/3/2023
Fire Investigation for Fire Officers CFItrainer.net /IAAI/ 2/24/2023
Thermometry, Heat, and Heat Transfer CFItrainer.net /IAAI/ 2/8/2023
The Deposition Part 2: Questioning Tactics and Effective Responses CFItrainer.net / IAAI 1/22/2023
NFPA 1033 & 921: 2022/2021 Editions Important Updates CFItrainer.net / IAAI 1/8/2023
Fire Flow Analysis, CFItrainer.net / IAAI 11/10/2022
The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921 CFItrainer.net / IAAI 9/27/2022
Introduction to Youth Fire – Set Fires, CFItrainer.net / IAAI / 9/22/2022
Ethical Duties Beyond the Fire Scene, CFItrainer.net / IAAI / 9/6/2022
Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake, And Accessory Systems- CFItrainer.net / IAAI 8/6/2022
Propane Explosions: Investigations, Failure Modes, Scene Exam, and Litigation Essentials- NASP 6/14/2022
IAAI Michigan Annual Arson School / IAAI 5/2022
Alternative Fuel Vehicles, CFItrainer.net / IAAI / 1/2022
The Deposition Part One: Format, Content, and Preparation, CFItrainer.net / IAAI 2021
Giving Stronger Deposition and Trial Testimony, CFItrainer.net / IAAI 2021
Lithium-Ion Battery Fires, CFItrainer.net / IAAI 2021
Fire Flow Analysis, CFItrainer.net / IAAI 2020
Fire Investigator Health and Safety in Post-fire Environment, EFI Global 2020
Respiratory Protection Training, EFI Global 2020
Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Causes, CFItrainer.net / IAAI 2019
IAAI Michigan Annual Arson School / IAAI, 2019
Charting your Career Path in Fire Investigation, CFItrainer.net / IAAI 2019
IAAI Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony/ IAAI, 2018
Process of Elimination, CFItrainer.net / IAAI, 2018
Discovery in Criminal Cases CFItrainer.net / IAAI, 2018
Residential Electrical Systems, CFItrainer.net /2018
The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosions Investigation, CFItrainer.net/ IAAI, 2018
What Insurance Professionals Need to Know About Fire Investigation, CFItrainer.net/ IAAI, 2018
Investigating Natural Gas Systems, CFItrainer.net/ IAAI, 2018
Discovery in Criminal Cases, CFItrainer.net/ IAAI, 2018
Process of Elimination, CFItrainer.net/ IAAI, 2018
Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical, and Fuel Systems, CFItrainer.net / IAAI, 2018
Recreational Vehicle Fire Investigation, CFItrainer.net / IAAI, 2018
Marine Fire Investigations, CFItrainer.net / IAAI, 2018
Testifying Tips and Lawyer Tricks, CFItrainer.net / IAAI, 2018
Butane Hash Oil Fire Case Studies, CFItrainer.net / IAAI, 2018
Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations, CFItrainer.net / IAAI, 2018
Discovery in Civil Cases, CFItrainer.net / IAAI, 2018
Accreditation, Certification, and Certificates, CFItrainer.net / IAAI, 2018
Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction, CFItrainer.net / IAAI, 2018
Tents, Temporary Special Event Structures and Other Membrane Structures, Tri-County Inspectors Society
International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc. (IAAI); Fire Investigator Technician Exam, 2018

Documenting the Event, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2018
Fire Chemistry, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2018
Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2018
Critical Thinking Solves Cases, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2018
Basic Electricity, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2018
Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2018
Effective Investigation and Testimony, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2018
Ethics and the Fire Investigator, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2018
Explosion Dynamics, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2018
Insurance and the Fire Investigation, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2018
The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA921, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2017,
Arc Mapping Basics, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2017
Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2017
Unified Investigations & Sciences, 2017, Forensic Investigation
National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI); Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator Exam, 2015
National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI); Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator Exam, 2015
National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI); Vehicle Fire, Arson & Explosion Investigation Science & Technology Seminar, 2015
MI Arson Prevention Committee, Mobile Property Live Burn & Theft Seminar, 2015
IAAI MI Arson School, In Scene Investigation & Excavation, Bay City/Grayling, MI; 2015
IAAI MI Arson School, Hazardous Material Fire Investigation, Bay City/Grayling, MI; 2015
IAAI MI Arson School, Warrant Request & Search Warrants, Bay City/Grayling, MI; 2015
Fire Findings School, Investigation of Gas & Electrical Appliance Fires, Benton Harbor, MI; 2015
Michigan Arson Prevention Committee, Midland, MI; Youth Fire & Life Safety Seminar, 2015
International Association of Fire Investigators; Ten Most Common Fire Scene Errors, Online Course; 2015
FEMA, National Fire Academy Online Course; 2014, Q-2000 Fire Protection Series Coffee Break: Set 06.1
FEMA, National Fire Academy Online Course; 2014, Q-2001 Fire Protection Series Coffee Break: Set 06.2
Michigan State Police Training Academy, 34th Advance Fire Investigation II School, 2014
Michigan State Police Training Academy, 68gh Fire Investigation I School, 2014
West Michigan Criminal Justice Training Consortium, Background Investigations for Police Applicants, Public Agency Training Council, Arson Scene Search & Evidence Recovery, 2014
IAAI Michigan Arson School, Fire & Arson Investigation
FEMA National Fire Academy Online Course, 2014, Q-0751 Principals of Building Construction
NFPA 921 AND 1033 Editions: Important Revisions, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2014
NFPA 1033 and Your Career, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2013
Introduction to Evidence, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2013
Investigating Fatal Fires, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2013
The Scientific Method for Fire & Explosion Investigation, 2013
Documenting the Event, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2013
Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2013
Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2013
Fire Protection Systems, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2013
Introduction to Fire Dynamics & Modeling, CFITrainer.net/IAAI, 2013
Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene

Affiliations:

2014 to Present National Association of Fire Investigators – Member
2013 to Present IAAI Michigan Chapter – Member
2013 to Present NFPA – Member
1995 to Present IAFF – Member
International Association of Fire Fighters
National Association of Fire Investigators
International Association of Arson Investigators
MI Fire Inspectors Society
Tri-County Fire Inspectors
International Association of Fire Investigators