

Vern Canon | Senior Fire Investigator, IAAI-CFI (V)

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Field Office, Grass Valley, CA 95949

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Canon spent over 30 years in the fire service starting as a volunteer firefighter in 1973, was hired as a fire prevention officer/firefighter in 1982 and was eventually promoted to Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal. During his fire service career, he investigated various types of fires for origin and cause, worked as a law enforcement officer in conjunction with enforcement of laws relating to fires and firefighting, was well versed in local, state, and national fire and building codes, and he reviewed construction plans and observed the testing of various fire protection, detection, and suppression systems. He developed, implemented, and supervised various fire inspection programs. He supervised daily and emergency fire department operations including responding to fires, vehicle accidents, and other types of emergencies. He also worked several years for a local ambulance service and an Emergency Medical Technician and worked at a local community college as a mechanic and bus driver.

He is currently a Senior Fire Investigation and has expertise on the following areas:

- Determining origin and cause of fires and explosions in structures.
- Determining origin and cause of fires and explosions in vehicles and equipment
- Evaluation of fire suppression and detection systems
- Fire and life safety in buildings

Licenses and Certifications:

Certified Fire Investigator, International Association of Arson Investigators, Certificate 22032731

Motor Vehicle Fire endorsement IAAI, Certificate 22-032731

Asbestos Operations and Maintenance

National Board of Fire Services Certified, Certificate 294786

Certified Fire Investigator, California Conference of Arson Investigators, Certificate #581

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators, Certificate #3434-0345

Private Investigator, California Bureau of Security & Investigative Services

Fire Investigator I, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #880263

Fire Investigator II, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #870167

Fire Prevention Officer I, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #771416

Fire Prevention Officer II, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #870149

Firefighter I, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #007508

Fire Officer, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #015342

Fire Prevention Officer, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #15

Certified Uniform Fire Code Inspector, UFC Association, Certificate #500378-000

Fire Protection Specialist, California State Board of Fire Services, Certificate #000048

Professional Experience:

EFI Global - Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc., Senior Investigator, 2012 to present
Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc., Special Investigator, 2010 to 2012
Nevada County Consolidated Fire District, Battalion Chief & Fire Marshal, 1982 – 2010
Sierra Community College, Mechanic and Bus Driver, 1980 – 1982
Lincoln's Ambulance Service Emergency Medical Technician, 1975 – 1980
Grass Valley Fire Department, Firefighter/Marshal/Investigator, 1973 – 1991
Watt Park Fire Protection District, Firefighter/Assistant Fire Chief/Captain 1973 – 1991

Specialized Education:

Public and Private Fire Investigators working together, Lithium-Ion Battery fires, live burns including battery fires, spontaneous ignition, building materials, crib burns, smoldering fires, and arson for profit. CCAI, Oct. 2024
Artificial Intelligence and the fire investigator, District Attorney-getting cases filed, vehicle fire investigation-classroom/field burns, domestic terrorism, structure field burns, CCAI, Feb. 2024
Vehicle fire investigation, fireworks and explosions, post blast identification, CCAI, 2022
Explosions and their investigations, explosion dynamics, identification of bombs, explosions and their investigations, explosion dynamics, identification of bombs, explosives, IED's, serial bombers and their motives, CCAI, 2021
Laser scanner systems demos, fire alarm systems, natural and LP-Gas explosions, accidental & electrical fire causes, live-burn demos, drones, and legal aspects of subrogation, CCAI 2019
Fundamentals of fire investigations including education requirements of NFPA-1033, CCAI, 2019
California Conference of Arson Investigators, CCAI, 2019
Fire Chemistry, IAAI, CFITrainer.net, 2018
California Conference of Arson Investigators, CCAI, 2018
Fire Protection Systems, IAAI, 2018
Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction, IAAI, 2018
The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, IAAI, 2018
Electrical smart meter fires and evidence, IAAI California Roundtables, 2017
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2017
Essentials of NFPA-1033, Unified Investigations & Sciences; In-service Webinar Series; 2017
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2016

Post flashover fires, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2016
Understanding the Fire Investigator's Job, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2016
Use of drones for fire investigation, IAAI California Roundtables, 2016
Spray-on polyurethane insulation, IAAI California Roundtables, 2016
Smart meters, IAAI California Roundtables, 2016
Vessel Fires, IAAI California Roundtables, 2016
Charleston Sofa Super Store Fire, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2015
A Ventilation-Focused Approach to the Impact of Building Structures and Systems on Fire Development, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2015
Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2015
Diesel exhaust regeneration systems and particulate filters, IAAI California Roundtables, 2015
U.S. Product Safety Commission, Working with Fire Investigators, IAAI California Roundtables, 2015
Fire Debris Evidence Handling, IAAI California Roundtables, 2015
Self-Heating and Ignition of Vegetative Materials, IAAI California Roundtables, 2015
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2015
Asbestos Operations and Maintenance-Initial, Environmental Safety Training Professionals, Ltd., 2015
Annual Refresher with Asbestos Awareness, 2014
OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1200-Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals, Unified Investigations and Sciences, Inc., 2014
HAZWOPER Standard, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2014
Wildland Fire Investigations, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2014
NFPA 921 and 1033, 2014 Editions: Important Revisions, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2014
Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2014
Marijuana grow operations and honey oil extraction, IAAI California Roundtables, 2014
Ignitable liquids in the 21st Century, IAAI California Roundtables, 2014
NFPA 1033 update, IAAI California Roundtables, 2014
Smart electrical and gas meters, IAAI California Roundtables, 2014
Evidence; collection and preservation, IAAI California Roundtables, 2013
Gas absorption refrigerator fires, IAAI California Roundtables, 2013
Fire weather and weather data for fire investigators, IAAI California Roundtables, 2013
Your Arson Investigation on Trial and Your Investigation Report Under the Microscope, IAAI California Roundtables, 2013
Documenting the Event, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2013
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2013
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, San Luis Obispo, CA, March California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2013
Asbestos Awareness-Annual Refresher, February 2013
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2012
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association

of Arson Investigators, 2012
Hazmat School – Annual Refresher with Asbestos
Awareness, 2012 Arc Mapping Basics, CFITrainer.net /
IAAI, 2012
Health and safety issues for fire investigators, IAAI California Roundtables,
2012 Bilancia Ignition Matrix, IAAI California Roundtables, 2012
Forensic fire scene photography, IAAI California Roundtables, 2012
Ground-fault and arc-fault breakers and other electrical issues, IAAI California
Roundtables, 2012
Scene Safety, CFITrainer.net / IAAI, 2011
Preservation and collection of evidence during inclement weather conditions, IAAI
California Roundtables, 2011
NFPA 921 and NFPA-1023 review and updates, IAAI California Roundtables, 2011
Large loss fire investigations, IAAI California Roundtables,
2011
Subrogation for both the public and private investigator, IAAI California
Roundtables, 2011 Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California
Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2011
2011 Annual Seminar, Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation,
International Association of Arson Investigators, 2011
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International
Association of Arson Investigators, 2011
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International
Association of Arson Investigators, 2010
San Luis Obispo Fire Investigation Strike Team, San Luis Obispo Coroner Division, San
Luis
Obispo Sheriff's Department, Forensic Fire Death
Investigation, 2010 Advanced Explosives Recognition, Central
Valley Arson Investigators, 2010
Fire Prevention Professional Development Workshop, California Fire Prevention
Institute, 2010 Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California
Chapter – International Association
of Arson Investigators, 2010
Forensic Fire Scene Reconstruction, DeHaan/Icove, Northern California Fire Prevention
Officers Association, 2010
Forensic Fire Scene Reconstruction, Northern California Fire Preventions Officers
Association, 2010
Situational awareness for fire investigators, IAAI California Roundtables, 2010
Vessel (boat) fires, IAAI California Roundtables, 2010
Hazards to fire investigations, IAAI California Roundtables,
2010
Insurance issues and available assistance to investigators, IAAI California
Roundtables, 2009 IAAI and CFI Trainer.net programs, IAAI California
Roundtables, 2009
Vehicle fires and mechanical issues, May IAAI California
Roundtables, 2009 Insurance issues and fraud trends, IAAI
California Roundtables, 2009
Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International
Association
of Arson Investigators, 2009

Fire Prevention Professional Development Workshop, California Fire Prevention Institute, 2009 Modern Techniques of Fire & Arson Investigation, California Chapter – International Association of Arson Investigators, 2009

Affiliations:

California Conference of Arson Investigators,
Roundtable Coordinator International Association of Fire Investigators
Sacramento – Sierra Regional Arson Task Force National Association of Fire and Explosive Investigators
National Fire Protection Association,
California State Fireman's Association
California Fire Chief's Association; Northern California Fire Prevention Officers Association California Association of Licensed Private Investigators

Publications and Presentations:

Fire Scene Examination of Burned Vehicle #4, Fire Arson Investigator, California Conference of Arson Investigators, Winter-2011