
Thomas Saxton, IAAI-CFI, NAFI-CFEI (I), CCFI-C | Senior Fire Investigator

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Professional Summary:

Mr. Saxton has 40+ years of experience in the fire service, fire investigation, fire inspection, and fire safety education fields. He has experience in fire origin and cause investigations, including scene analysis, report writing, evidence collection, fire site documentation, photography, and multiagency coordination. Mr. Saxton has investigated over 600 fires as a public and private fire investigator. Mr. Saxton has served as an instructor for fire investigation and other disciplines of the fire service for over 20 years. Mr. Saxton has specific expertise in the following areas:

- Fire/Explosion Origin and Cause
- Vehicle Fire Origin and Cause
- Marine Fires including commercial ship fires and explosions
- Coordination and management of multi-agency large loss incidents
- Fire Code Compliance
- Fire Protection Systems
- Industrial Safety Including Asbestos Compliance/AHERA

Licenses and Certifications:

Certified Fire Investigator, International Association of Arson Investigators, # 36-121908

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators, 13595-12028

Certified Canadian Fire Investigator, Level C. Certification date: July 15, 2019

Certified Fire Investigator Instructor NAFI #13595-12208i

Licensed Private Investigator, Municipality of Anchorage Office License # PD-1195

Licensed Private Detective, City of Fairbanks Office License # 11997

Project Experience:

Large and multi-loss fire investigations

From 2016-present, has conducted multiple large-loss fire investigations, including commercial, heavy equipment, shop facilities, and several fatal fire incidents. Served as lead investigator for multiple shipboard explosion/fire incidents in Alaska.

Commercial Incinerator Explosion/Fire-Investigation

Led a team of government and technical specialists to determine origin and cause for a municipal incinerator explosion and fire in Barrow, Alaska. The investigation led to modifications to the incinerator system and to operating procedures at the facility.

Fire Station Loss, Kaktovik, Alaska

Municipal point-of-contact for investigation of a fire which destroyed a fire station in a remote Alaska village. Coordinated reconstruction efforts as fire department representative. Identified asbestos presence in fire debris area and worked with contractors to remediate reconstruction site.

Area-wide project coordinator, North Slope Borough Fire Department

While Assistant Chief of department, coordinated multiple large-scale projects to replace fire engines, establish a training organization, modernize fire stations, and initiate post-fire investigation procedures at multiple fire department locations throughout northern Alaska.

Court Qualifications/ Depositions:

Non-identified expert on several court cases, 2016-present. Acted as consultant on subpoenas, interviews and case details.

Attended IAAI Expert Witness Course, November 2017

Prepared materials, reports, and presentations for arbitration actions since 2016. Prepared Party submissions for NTSB investigation of shipboard fire, 2024.

Attended IAAI/ATF Expert Witness Course, 40 Tested Hours, Valdez, AK-March 25-30, 2024.

Professional Experience:

EFI Global/Unified Fire Investigations, Inc., Fire Investigator, 2016 - present

North Slope Borough Fire Department-Asst. Chief/Instructor-2002-2015

Iilisagvik College, Adjunct Instructor, Fire and EMS, 2005-2013.

Specialized Education:**IAAI/CFI Trainer. Net**

Accreditation, Certification, Certificates International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

An Analysis of the Station Nightclub Fire, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

Arc Mapping Basics International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

Charleston Sofa Super Store Fire, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

Critical Thinking Solves Cases-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

DNA-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

Documenting the Event-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

Effective Investigation and Testimony-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Electrical Safety-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Ethics and the Fire Investigator-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Fire and Explosion Investigations: Utilizing NFPA 1033 and 921-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2011

Fire Chemistry-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2018

Fire Investigator Scene Safety-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2011

Fundamentals of Interviewing-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Introduction to Evidence-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2011

Investigating Fatal Fires-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Investigating Natural Gas Systems-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2015

Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2011

The Impact of Ventilation in Building Structures on Fire Development-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2011

The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2011

Wildland Fire Investigation-International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2012

Fire Flow Analysis- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2020

Fire Investigation for First Responders- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2020

Introduction to Youth-Set Fires- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2020

Legal Aspects of Youth-Set Fires- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2020

Motor Vehicle Fire Investigations, P. 1- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2020

Motor Vehicle Fire Investigations, P. 2- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2020

Report Writing- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – CFITrainer.net, 2020

CERTIFICATE: Fire Investigation for Fire Officers with Youth Fire-setting and Vehicle Fire Specializations-June, 2020

Specialized Training: Hazmat/Asbestos

OSHA Asbestos Awareness Training #1360, Safety Compliance Management, 2018

Essentials of NFPA 1033, Unified Investigations & Sciences, 2017

Class III Competent Person Asbestos Operations and Maintenance, PBS Environmental, 2017

Class III Competent Person Asbestos Operations and Maintenance, PBS Environmental, 2020-Refresher Training, 2021, 2022, 2023.

National Fire Academy

Basic Fire Investigation Course-National Fire Academy, 2011

Alaska Fire/Arson Association Training

AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 40-hour Investigation Training, 2010

AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017: (40 Tested Training Hours)

Basic Methodology-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Scientific Method-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Fire Chemistry-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Fire Science-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Fire Dynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Fire Investigation-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Fire Methodology-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Fire Investigation Technology-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Fire Patterns-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Building Systems-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Electricity and Fire-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Safety-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Planning the Investigation-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Investigation Documentation-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Physical Evidence-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Fire Cause Determination-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Explosions-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Fire & Explosion Death/Injury-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

Management of Complex Investigations-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2017

AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018: (40 Tested Training Hours)

Fire Science-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018

Thermodynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018

Thermometry-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018

Fire Dynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018

Computer Fire Modeling-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018

Fire Investigation-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018

Fire Analysis-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018

Fire Investigation Methodology-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018

Evidence Documentation, Collection, and Preservation-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018

Electricity and Electrical Systems-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018

Fire Scene Photography/Low Light Photography-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018

Courtroom Testimony-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2018

AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019: (40 Tested Training Hours)

Advanced Fire Science Topics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Fire Chemistry-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Fire Dynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Fire Investigation-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Fire Analysis-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Fire Investigation Methodology-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Hazardous Materials-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Fire Protection Systems-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Electricity and Electrical Systems-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Private Fire Investigations (Instructor)-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Fire Investigation Methodology-(Instructor)-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Evidence Documentation, Collection, Preservation-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Explosion Dynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Fire Investigation Technology-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Fire Analysis-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Fire Dynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

Thermodynamics-AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2019

AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2021: (40 Tested Training Hours)

Nature of Fire Investigations NFPA 921 Sec 4.1 1.0

Fire Behavior NFPA 921 Sec 5.8 - 5.11 4.0 Steve Carman

Fire Chemistry NFPA 921 Sec 5.2 1.0 Steve Carman

Fire Patterns ID & Analysis NFPA 921 Sec 6.4 3.0 Steve Carman

Fire Investigation Methodology NFPA 921 Sec 18.2 3.0 Mitch Wido

Explosion Scene Investigations NFPA 921 Sec 22.13-22.14 8.0 Mitch Wido & Tom King

Explosion Dynamics NFPA 921 Sec 22.1-22.7 4.0 Tom King

Geographic Profiling NFPA 921 Sec 11.3 7.0 Rhonda Trahem

Interviewing Suspects NFPA 921 Sec 11.4 4.0 Rhonda Trahem

Fire Scene Examinations (Practicals) NFPA 921 Sec 16.1 2.0 John Gamboa & John Orthund

Managing Complex Incidents & Fire Investigation Task Force NFPA 921 Sec 28.2 - 28.8

AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2022: (40 Tested Training Hours) (ATF Training)

Origin Matrix Analysis / Damage Dynamics

Fire Pattern Persistence Post Flashover

CFI Trainer Overview

Scene Safety

Electrical Aspect of Fire Investigation

Fatal Fire Investigations

Developing Leads for Arson Cases

NRT Call Out Austin Bombing

Complex Fire Investigations / Scene Management

Investigative Timelines

ATF Resources- Internet of Things and Resource Sharing

AAFAI Fire/Arson Seminar, 2024: (40 Tested Training Hours)-National Fire Academy/ATF
Court Testimony Training

Report Writing

921/1033 Review

CV Development

Prosecuting Arson

Expert Challenges

Processing a fire scene

Documenting a fire scene

Courtroom Testimony

Presentation of Findings

Education:

Bachelor of Science, Broadcasting/Journalism-Charter Oak State College, New Britain, Connecticut-2006

Associate-Level Certificate, Paramedicine: Arapahoe Community College, Denver, Colorado-December, 1997

Associate of Science Degree, Fire Science: University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska-June, 1996

Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators

National Association of Fire Investigators

International Association of Arson Investigators – Alaska Chapter

Alaska Association of Fire and Arson Investigators

Canadian Association of Fire Investigators

Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Presenter/Instructor, Private Fire Investigation-Alaska Association of Fire and Arson Investigators—April, 2019, Ketchikan, Alaska

Fire Science-Associate Degree Program-Ilisagvik College, Barrow, Alaska (Associate Professor)

Fire Investigation-North Slope Borough Fire Department

Fire Operations-North Slope Borough Fire Department

Publications and Presentations:

IFSTA-Fire Chief Officer-3rd Edition Review Committee 2013

Honors and Awards:

Public Safety Valor Award-North Slope Borough Police Department: 1994

Responder/Fire Officer of the Year-North Slope Borough Fire Department:
1993, 1999, 2000, 2006