

FORENSIC FIRE INVESTIGATION

Massachusetts, Rhode Island & Connecticut

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SCOTT POPOVICH

IAAI-CFI (V), NFPA-CFPS, NAFI-CFEI, CVFI PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT

QUALIFICATIONS & CURRICULUM VITAE

EXPERIENCE

THERMALOGIX, LLC

2020 –

PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT

Duties: Owner; Determine the origin and/or cause of fires; Document scenes with photographs and 3D scanning equipment; Identify, collect and preserve evidence; Conduct forensic evidence analysis; Conduct forensic testing; Conduct interviews; Analysis of products as it relates to failure modes; Conduct fire hazard analysis; Failure analysis of electrical and mechanical components; Prepare comprehensive written reports regarding findings; Provide expert opinions and recommendations to clients and attorneys; Conduct technical review of cases with engineers; Prepare protocols and estimates; Maintain professional, working relationships with federal, state and local fire investigators.

THE WRIGHT GROUP, INC.

2019 – 2020

FIRE ANALYST

Duties: Determined the origin and/or cause of fires; Documented scenes with photographs, sketches, and notes; Collected and preserved evidence; Conducted forensic evidence analysis, forensic testing, and interviews; Designed analysis of products as it relates to failure modes and effects analysis; Mechanical failure analysis of electrical and mechanical components; Building of design models and testing of designed products. Conducted fire hazard analysis; Prepared comprehensive written reports regarding findings; Provided expert opinions and recommendations to clients and attorneys; Conducted technical review of cases with fellow analysts and engineers. Prepared protocols and estimates.

RIMKUS CONSULTING GROUP, INC

2015 – 2019

FIRE CONSULTANT

Duties: Responsible for investigating fire and causation in commercial facilities, residential structures, automobiles, marine vessels, and heavy equipment. Investigated fires involving electrical devices, assesses potential liabilities and subrogation issues surrounding the incident. As case manager collected evidence, photographs, documents, conducts interviews with witnesses, fire departments, state fire marshal and police agencies. Prepared detailed investigative reports pertaining to the origin and cause of fire losses.

WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

1990 – 2015

ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHAL

2012 - 2015

Duties: Examined fire scenes and collected evidence for determining the origin and cause of a fire. Prepared and maintained investigative reports for prosecution of code violators and arsonists. Inspected buildings to locate hazardous conditions and fire code violations such as combustible materials, electrical wiring problems and inadequate or non-functioning fire exits. Conducted fire code compliance follow ups to ensure that corrective actions had been taken where violations had been found.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2012 - 2015

Duties: Developed, planned, and executed emergency response training for CVS Corporate Headquarters, recognized with an award for project development. Reviewed emergency plans of individual organizations such as corporate facilities to ensure their adequacy, maintained emergency communications systems for readiness in the event of natural disasters or other emergencies. Collaborated with other officials to prepare and exercise to manage disasters and emergencies. Planned, implemented, and supervised mass inoculation events for the Rhode Island Department of Health.

LIEUTENANT

2009 - 2012

Duties: Oversaw and managed fire crews at emergency incidents including fires, EMS, and hazardous material incidents. Detailed incident reports and personnel service records. Supervised and ensured safety of fire station personnel.

FIREFIGHTER

1990 - 2009

Duties: Administered medical aid as an emergency medical technician. Performed fire ground activities including hose lays, set up of ladders and nozzle work. Operated all fire department equipment including engine companies, ladder trucks and rescues. Conducted public education and information activities at schools and public events.

EDUCATION

University of New Haven, New Haven, Connecticut M.S. – Fire and Arson Investigation

Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island B.S. – Public Administration

Community College of Rhode Island, Warwick, Rhode Island A.S. – Fire Science

SPECIALIZED EDUCATION

Rhode Island State Crime Laboratory

Evidence Technician class (Scientific Evidence I & II)

The Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensics

Death and Homicide Investigation, Crime Scene, and Evidence Photography

National Fire Academy

Fire Arson Origin and Cause Investigation

Youth Fire Setting Prevention and Intervention

Interview Interrogation/Courtroom Testimony

Forensic Evidence Collection

Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigation

SPECIALIZED EDUCATION (cont.)

New England Fuel Institute
Licensed Rhode Island Oil Heat /Technician course,
Storage Tank Installation and Maintenance Training

Rhode Island Fire Academy

1031 Fire Inspector, Asst. Deputy State Fire Marshal
ICS 100, 200, Confined Space Awareness
Firefighter I and II, Explosive Incident Response
IAAI CFI Trainer
Varied arson-specific classes. (Transcript on request)

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Fire Investigator CFI (V) with Motor Vehicle Endorsement by the International Association of Arson Investigators
- Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI) by the National Association of Fire Investigators
- Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI) by the National Association of Fire Investigators
- Certified Fire Protection Specialist (CFPS) by the National Fire Protection Association
- Certified Evidence Collection Technician (ECT) by the International Association of Arson Investigators (Expired)
- Certified Fireplace and Chimney Inspector by the Fireplace Investigation Research and Education Service Certificate # FCI-276 (Expired)
- Certified Chimney Sweep by the Chimney Safety Institute of America # 9756 (Expired)
- FAA licensed UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) Pilot Certificate # 4069679
- Licensed Private Detective
- NFPA Hot Works Safety Certificate #0102879
- Licensed Oil Heat Technician
- Licensed Hoisting Equipment Operator by the State of Rhode Island

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- IAAI (International Association of Arson Investigators)
- CT-IAAI (Connecticut Chapter of International Association of Arson Investigators)
- MA-IAAI (Massachusetts Chapter of International Association of Arson Investigators)
- RI-IAAI (Rhode Island Chapter of International Association of Arson Investigators)
- NFPA (National Fire Protection Association)
- NAFI (National Association of Fire Investigators)

COURT QUALIFICATIONS & DEPOSITIONS

- "Quincy Mutual Fire Insurance Company, A/S/O Evan & Sharon Gold, vs. Hoverzon, LLC, and Amazon.com Services LLC." U.S District Court; District of Massachusetts. April 2024. Expert Witness Deposition. Origin & Cause.

SEMINARS & OTHER EDUCATION

- Fire & Explosions Investigations, The Henry C Lee Institute of Forensic Science, UNH 2025
- Residential Kitchen Fires, IAAI-MA, S. Yarmouth, MA 2025
- Challenges to Expert Qualifications, Methodology & Opinions, IAAI-CT, North Haven, CT 2025
- Fire Death/Arson Investigation Course, Investigative Concepts LLC, Rhode Island 2025
- Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Investigation Basics, NASP 2024
- Commercial Kitchen Fires, RI-IAAI 2023
- Butane Hash Oil, IAAI – ITC, North Carolina 2023
- Complex Fire Investigation Involving Electrical Analysis, IAAI – ITC, North Carolina 2023
- Investigating Fires Resulting from Marijuana Hash Oil (BHO), IAAI – ITC, North Carolina 2023
- Fire Photography, “What is Fire Photography?”, IAAI – ITC, North Carolina 2023
- Looking Past the Fires: Identifying Actors and Motives, IAAI – ITC, North Carolina 2023
- Heating System Failures 2022 Q1, RI-IAAI 2022
- Fire Alarm/Sprinkler and Appliance Forensics, RI-IAAI 2021
- Fireplace and Chimney Fire Investigation, MA-IAAI 2021
- Investigating Fatal Motor Vehicle Fires: Accident or Not?, CT-IAAI 2021
- Worcester Cold Storage Case Study – 20 Years Later, MA-IAAI 2020
- CFI trainer, Principles of Fire Investigation Multi-Program 2019
- Large Scene Fire Investigations-Worcester Cold Storage Review, MA-IAAI 2019
- Subrogation, MA-IAAI 2019
- ITC General Session, IAAI, Jacksonville, FL 2019
- Digital Evidence, CCTV, Cloud Services Data Collection, MA-IAAI 2018
- CT – IAAI Annual Seminar, Rocky Hill, CT 2018
- IAAI, Tablets and Tools of the Trade, Scarborough, MA 2018
- NFPA Hot Works Training NFPA HQ Quincy, MA 2018
- MA-IAAI, Investigation of Motor Vehicle Fires, South Yarmouth, MA 2018
- IAAI, ITC General Session, Frisco, TX 2018
- National Chimney Sweep Training School (CSIA - Plainfield, Indiana) 2018
- NASP Webinar: The Investigation and Litigation of Fan Fires 2018
- NASP Subro College 100 (Liberty Mutual, Weston, MA) 2018
- NFPA 25 Hands on ITM of Water Based Fire Protection Systems (Johnson Controls Lab) 2018
- NFPA 241 Safeguarding Construction, NFPA online 2017
- A Systematic Approach to Investigating Post Flash-Over Fires, MA-IAAI 2017
- Dart Drones Part 107 Drone Pilot Test Prep 2017
- Reality Rope Access, Roof Specific Rope Access Training 2017
- Fire Findings, Investigating Solid Fuel-Burning Appliance Fires 2017
- NASP Webinar Subrogation and the Fire Expert 2017
- IAAI, ITC General Session, Las Vegas, NV 2017
- Foam Plastic Provisions of building code ICC Course #11603 Manchester, NH 2017
- Fire Investigations HPB Foundation 2017
- Relining For Fireplace Inserts HPB Foundation 2017

SEMINARS & OTHER EDUCATION (cont.)

- Chimney Physics BPH Foundation 2017
- NFI Gas Hearth Systems review class 2017
- NFI Wood Burning review class 2017
- IAAI Knowledge 1 Motor Vehicles 2017
- Phil Ackland's Inspecting Commercial Kitchens Online Learning Center 2016
- Lithium-Ion Batteries Failures, MA-IAAI 2016
- Fire Findings, Investigation of Gas and Electric Appliance Fires 2016
- Spray Foam Applicator Training Spray Foam Distributors of New England 2016
- High Pressure SPF- Safety Training- American Chemistry Council 2016
- Current Trends in Fire Investigations Resulting from Civil Unrest, MA-IAAI 2016
- Fire Pattern Certification Public Agency Training Council New Jersey 2016
- Fireplace Investigation, Research and Education Service CFI certification 2016
- John D. Dehann Fatal Fires, University of New Haven 2016
- IAMI, Marine Fire Investigations, Knoxville TN 2016
- Fire Findings, Investigating Residential Dryer Fires, Michigan 2015
- Fire Findings, Residential Electricity, Michigan 2015
- Fire Investigation in the Digital Age, MA-IAAI 2015
- NFPA 72 NFPA Quincy, MA 2014
- National Grid Distribution, MA-IAAI 2014
- Hazard and Risk Assessment at Fire Scenes Webinar, IAFI 2014
- Marine Fire Investigations, NJIAAI 2014
- Writing and Defending Your Expert Report, PATC 2014
- Fire and Explosive Evidence, MA-IAAI 2014
- Investigating Fire Fatalities, PATC 2013
- Vehicle Fire Investigations, NAFI 2013
- Documenting the Fire Scene, RI-IAAI 2013
- Investigative Analysis of the Springfield Explosion, MA-IAAI 2013
- Digital Forensics for Arson Investigation, IAAI 2013
- Solar Photovoltaic Systems, MA-IAAI 2013
- Fire Investigation course, RI-IAAI 2013
- Pellet Stoves and Chimneys, The Institute of Fire Science 2012
- Bomb and Arson Tracking, ATF 2012
- Investigation of Electrical and Appliance Fires, IAAI 2012