

## FORENSIC FIRE INVESTIGATION

Massachusetts, Rhode Island & Connecticut

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## CHARLES CAMARA

SR FIRE INVESTIGATOR

QUALIFICATIONS & CURRICULUM VITAE

### QUALIFICATIONS

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- Licensed RI Private Investigator
- IAAI-Certified Fire Investigator (CFI)
- IAAI-Evidence Collection Technician (ECT)
- RI Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshall (Investigation & Inspection)
- NFPA- Certified Fire Protection Specialist (CFPS)
- NFPA- Certified Fire Inspector I (CFI-I)
- NAFI-Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator (CFEI)
- NAFI- Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI)
- Hazardous Materials Technician
- IAI-Certified Crime Scene Investigator (CCSI)
- RI Emergency Medical Technician Cardiac (EMT-C)
- Firefighter Level I
- Firefighter Level II
- IAMI-Certified Marine Investigator (CMI)
- ABYC Certified Marine Systems Technician
- ABYC Certified Electrical Technician
- Shipboard Firefighter Technician
- IAFF/ACE Peer Fitness Trainer
- RI Licensed Real-estate Appraiser
- PADI Certified Diver

## BIOGRAPHY

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Charles Camara is currently a Senior Fire Analyst / Forensic Analyst with Thermalogix LLC. Prior to Thermalogix, Charles was a Senior Fire Analyst / Forensic Analyst at Wright Group (WGI) and Fire Research and Technology, LLC (FRT). He is an NFPA 1033 Nationally Pro Board-Certified Fire Investigator, IAAI- Certified Fire Investigator, IAAI-Evidence Collection Technician, NAFI- Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, NAFI-Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator, NFPA- Certified Fire Protection Specialist, NFPA-Certified Fire Inspector I, IAI-Certified Crime Scene Investigator, Hazardous Materials Technician, IAMI-Certified Marine Investigator, ABYC Certified Marine Systems Technician, ABYC Certified Electrical Technician, and Shipboard Firefighter Technician.

Charles is the immediate past President of the RI International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI - Chapter 51) where he served the maximum limit of two terms. As President, he held a seat on the Training Committee where he oversaw the design and instruction of fire investigation training courses and seminars. Charles serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Rhode Island teaching forensics with the RI Crime Labs Forensic Investigation Program. He also served as an Adjunct Professor at Massasoit Community College in the Fire Science Department and is an instructor at the Rhode Island Fire Academy (RIFA) where he is certified to teach Fire Fighter levels I and II, Hazardous Materials awareness and Hazardous Materials Technician courses and is a certified NFPA 1403 Live Burn Instructor.

Charles has been a member of the fire service since 1992, serving more than 25 of those years with the City of Cranston Fire Department (CFD). During his tenure with the CFD, Charles has worked as line a firefighter, EMT-C and Company officer in the rescue, fire, and fire alarm divisions, and has extensive experience in the mitigation and safety planning of all types of hazards. During this time, Charles served as an officer in the bureau of fire prevention for nearly 8 years where he was a successful origin and cause investigator having investigated hundreds of fire incidents from small to large including structures, vehicles, marine vessels and industrial machinery. All through his time as a fire investigator and fire fighter, Charles has had the opportunity to conduct many live burns, demonstrations, and training for both the public and private sectors. In addition, Charles has served on the Cranston Fire Departments Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team and Port of Providence Marine Task Force.

Charles' formal education includes: A Masters in Public Administration with a concentration in Fire Rescue Service; Bachelors of Science in Community & Human Services with a concentration in Fire Service Administration; and an Associate's of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

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Currently Charles is responsible for investigating fire and explosion incidents and forensic failure analysis. His responsibilities include:

- Origin and Cause Investigations
- Explosion Investigations
- Vehicle Fires
- Marine/ Ship Fires
- Scene/Case Investigation
- Witness Interviews
- Evidence Examinations
- Report Preparation
- The collection, preservation and processing of evidence for laboratory analysis
- Expert testimony and preparation for legal hearings pertaining to the origin and cause of fire and explosions incidents
- Major Event Response Unit
- Fire Investigation Educational Programs
- Live Burn Demonstrations
- Forensic Mechanical Failure Analysis
- Hazardous Materials Assessment and Mitigation

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

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- Graduate - Anna Maria College, Masters in Public Administration with concentration in Fire Rescue Service - 2015
- Graduate - State University of New York Empire State College, Bachelor of Science in Community & Human Services with a concentration in Fire Service Administration - 2008
- Graduate - Community College of Rhode Island, Associate of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology – 2000
- IAMI Annual Training Conference CMFI track Tested (16hrs) 28 total
- Forensic Heating System Failures, RIAAI & ISE Engineers Tested (8hrs)
- RI Fire Code Update Class, RSFM Office 2021(1.5hrs)
- Report Writing for the Fire Investigator, RIIAAI 2021 Tested (4hrs)
- Footwear and Tire Track Processing and Examination, NEDIAI 2021 (3.5hrs)
- Ten Print, ABIS and Latent Print 1, NEDIAI 2021 (3.5hrs)
- Ten Print, ABIS and Latent Print 2, NEDIAI 2021 (5hrs)
- NFPA 921 and 1033 Update by Bob Duval of NFPA sponsored by RIIAAI 2021 Tested (4hrs)
- ABYC Marine Electrical Certification Class, 2020 (13.5hrs)
- ATF Bomb Arson Tracking System Training, RIIAAI at Rhode Island College 2019, Tested (6hrs)

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND (cont.)

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- Investigating and Litigating Dehumidifier Claims Cozen O'Connor Webinar 2020 (1hr)
- ABYC Marine Systems Certification Class, Landing School Arundel ME 2020 Tested (16hrs)
- NADIAI Annual Training Conference 2019, Portland ME, (18hrs)
- Vehicle Fire Training Carterson Public Safety Group at Union Fire District 2019, tested (20hrs)
- Training IAAI International Conference Jacksonville FL 2019, Tested (28hrs)
- IAAI CT Chapter Annual Training Conference 2019, Tested (16hrs)
- Advanced Electrical and Hands on Appliance Class at FRT Sodus Point NY 2018, Tested (8hrs)
- Chemistry for Emergency Response National Fire Academy 2018, 2 weeks, Tested (72hrs)
- National Fire Academy Online, Foundational Concepts of Chemistry Q0288 2018, Tested (4hrs)
- Foundational Concepts of Hazardous Materials by LSU at UA Local 51 E. Prov. RI 2018, Tested (24hrs)
- NASBLA Crew Corse at USCG Station Point Judith RI, Tested (40hrs)
- IAAI International Training Conference Frisco TX, 2018 Tested (32hrs)
- RI State Fire Marshal Office: Report Writing for the fire investigator, 2018
- Asbestos Training at FRT Sodus Point NY - 2018
- Federal Bureau of Investigation at RI Crime Lab: Scientific Basics of Palm Prints - Recording
- Federal Bureau of Investigation at RI Crime Lab: Taking Legible Fingerprints
- RI State Fire Marshal Office: Report Writing for the fire investigator, Tested
- RI IAAI Prosecution of Arson in Federal Court (2.5hrs)
- IAAI International Training Conference Las Vegas 2017, Tested (32hrs)
- RI IAAI Monthly Training Seminars since (2010-Present)
- URI Crime Lab, Criminal Investigation: Scientific Evidence II 2017 Tested (48hrs)
- URI Crime Lab, Criminal Investigation: Scientific Evidence I 2016 Tested (48hrs)
- RIFMA, BHO Hash Oil and the RI Fire Code 2016 (1.5hrs)
- PATC, Fire Pattern Analysis Certification Class 2016 Tested (24hrs)
- National Fire Academy Emmetsburg MD, Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigation 2016 Tested (48hrs)
- IAMI Marine Investigation Conference Knoxville TN, Marine Fire Investigation Track 2016 Tested (24hrs)
- IAAI International Training Conference Orlando, Fire Investigation Training 2016 Tested (32 hrs.)

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND (cont.)

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- RI-IAAI at Union Fire District, Origin Matrix 2016 Not Tested (3hrs)
- Johnson Controls (formally known as Taco-Cranston), Hands on Sprinkler and Sprinkler Pump Inspection Class 2016 Tested (40hrs)
- New England Narcotic Officers Association, BHO & Methamphetamine Cook Demonstration 2016 Not Tested (4hrs)
- National Fire Academy Emmetsburg MD, Fire Dynamics and Fire Modeling 2015 Tested (48hrs)
- MA IAAI, Marine Fire Investigation Seminar 2015 Tested (20hrs)
- Fire Findings in Michigan, Residential Electricity for the Fire Investigator 2015 Tested (16hrs)
- Fire Findings in Michigan, Dryer Fire Investigations 2015 Tested (16hrs)
- National Fire Academy Emmetsburg MD, Forensic Evidence Collection Tested (48hrs)
- NJ IAAI, Marine Fire Investigation Seminar 2014 Tested (16 hrs.)
- RIIAAI at Union Fire District, Fire Investigation Seminar 2014 Tested (40hrs)
- CFI Trainer, Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab 2014 Tested (4hrs)
- CFI Trainer, An Analysis of the Station Night Club 2014 Tested (4hrs.)
- CFI Trainer, Arc Mapping Basics 2014 Tested (4hrs.)
- CFI Trainer, Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator 2014 Tested (4hrs)
- CFI Trainer, Post Flashover Fires 2014 Tested (4hrs)
- CFI Trainer, Fire Dynamics Calculations 2014 Tested (4hrs)
- CFI Trainer, The Impact of Ventilation in Building Structures on Fire Development 2014 Tested (4hrs)
- CFI Trainer, DNA 2014 Tested (3hrs)
- CFI Trainer, How First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation 2013 Tested (2hrs)
- NAFI, Vehicle Fire Seminar in Kentucky 2013 Tested (32hrs)
- CFI Trainer, Electrical Safety 2013 Tested (3hrs)
- CFI Trainer, The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921 2013 Tested (2hrs)
- CFI Trainer, NFPA 1033 and Your Career 2013 Tested (2hrs)
- National Fire Academy Emmetsburg MD, Interview/Interrogation and Courtroom Testimony 2012 Tested (80hrs)
- National Fire Academy Emmetsburg MD, Fire/Arson Origin and Cause Investigations 2012 Tested (80hrs)
- RI IAAI Advanced Arson Investigation 3 day seminar 2012 Tested (24hrs)
- RI IAAI Forensic Accounting for the Fire Investigator 2012 Not Tested (3hrs)
- CFI Trainer, Effective Investigation and Testimony 2012 Tested (3hrs)
- CFI Trainer, Fundamentals of Interviewing 2012 Tested (4hrs)
- NFPA at EG Firefighter Hall, Sprinkler Plan Review Class 2012 Tested (8hrs)

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND (cont.)

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- CFI Trainer, MagneTek: A Case Study In The Daubert Challenge 2012 Tested (2hrs)
- RI-IAAI at Union Fire District by ATF, Forensic Accounting for the Fire Investigator 2012 Not Tested (3hrs)
- CFI Trainer, Critical Thinking Solves Cases Tested (2012)
- CFI Trainer, Ethics and the Fire Investigator 2012 Tested (3hrs)
- RI Fire Marshal Training Course, Includes NFPA Certified Fire Inspector Course 2011 Tested (208hrs)
- CFI Trainer, Introduction to Evidence 2011 Tested (4hrs)
- CFI Trainer, Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction 2011 Tested (3hrs)
- CFI Trainer, Search and Seizure 2011 (Tested 4hrs)
- CFI Trainer, Fire and Explosion Investigations: Utilizing NFPA 1033 and 921 2011 Tested (4hrs)
- CFI Trainer Investigating Fatal Fires 2011 Tested (4hrs)
- CFI Trainer Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires 2011 Tested (4hrs)
- CFI Trainer Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene 2011 Tested (4hrs)
- CFI Trainer Documenting the Event 2011 Tested (4hrs)
- CFI Trainer, The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation 2011 Tested (3hrs)
- CFI Trainer, Fire Investigator Scene Safety 2011 Tested (3hrs)
- FEMA Incident Command System (ICS 400) 2011 Tested
- FEMA Incident Command System (ICS 300) 2011 Tested
- Virginia Port Authority, Hampden Roads Shipboard Firefighting Symposium/Technician Course 2010 Tested (32hrs)
- RI Fire Academy, Evidence Collection Class 2010 Not Tested (16hrs)
- FEMA Incident Command System (ICS 200) 2010 Tested
- SUNY Empire State College, Arson and Explosion investigation 2008 Tested (48hrs)
- SUNY Empire State College, Criminal Investigation Course 2008 Tested (4hrs)
- CFI Trainer Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling 2007 (4hrs) FEMA
- FEMA NIMS (IS 700) 2011 Tested
- FEMA Incident Command System (ICS 100) 2007 Tested
- Cranston Fire Department, Hazardous Materials Technician Course 1998 Tested (40hrs)

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND (cont.)

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### **EXPERT TESTIMONY**

- National Fire Academy Emmetsburg MD, Interview and Testimony, 2012  
R0208 – “Fire Investigation: Interview and Testimony.” This 10-day course will provide the necessary tools for fire/arson investigators to conduct sound, legally supported interviews and interrogations with witnesses and suspects in preparation for court testimony. The course also provides essential and critical skills for investigators in courtroom testimony preparation and presentation, with the intent that the trained student can provide expert testimony. The students participate in a mock trial activity where they are expected to defend their findings based on cases assigned in class.  
*Note: Successful completion of this course provides students with credit for the expert witness testimony component for the International Association of Arson Investigators CFI Certification Program.*

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
- National Association Fire Investigators (NAFI)
- Rhode Island State Chapter 51 (International Association of Arson Investigators)
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
- International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI)
- International Association of Identification (IAI)
- Rhode Island Criminalistics Association (RICA)
- Rhode Island Fire Marshalls Association (RIFMA)
- Rhode Island Fire Instructors Association (RIFIA)
- American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC)

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIPS**

- City of Cranston Fire Dept. (1997- Present)
- Lincoln Rescue Service (1995-1997)
- Saylesville Fire Dept. (1992-1997)

## **TRAINING COORDINATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, and CONDUCTIONS**

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- IAAI ITC Evidence Collection Practicum Proctor. (April 2019)
- Co Design & Instruct RIIAAI Hands on Forensic Photography for the Fire Investigator at Bristol RI Fire Department, 7hrs (Feb 2019)
- Design & Instruct curriculum for Fire Investigation I at Massasoit Community College 2019 Winter Intersession. Curriculum was designed to meet NFPA 1033 & 921 guidelines and meet or surpass FESHE recommendations. 40hrs (Jan 2019)
- Instructed/facilitated 2-day 16hr RIIAAI Hands on Forensic Appliance Investigation Seminar. (2018)
- Instructed/designed fire dynamics and fire behavior for Cranston Fire Department recruit class - 7hrs. (March 2018)
- Instructed/designed fire dynamics/fire behavior/live fire dollhouse demonstration with Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) evolution for Cranston Fire Department recruit class - 4hrs. (March 2018)
- Instructor coordinator/co-designer - facilitated and co-instructed, Hands-on Photography for the Fire Investigator Mod II at RI Crime Lab for RIIAAI. (September 2017)
- Instructor coordinator/co-designer, facilitated, Hands on Photography for the Fire Investigator Mod I at Bristol Fire Department for RIIAAI. (March 2017)
- Designer and instructor coordinator for the RIIAAI Training Conference at Union Fire District. (Practical Aspects of Fire Investigation) 34hrs of Instruction. (2017)
- Designed and instructed 16 hours of Fire Behavior / Dynamics for CFD Recruit class with live dollhouse burn presentation. (2016)
- Instructor / course designer at the RI IAAI 32-hour Fire Investigator Technician (FIT) Conference. Modules instructed: Fire Dynamics, Fire Pattern Analysis, Origin, Doll house live burn exercise, burn box exercises & ¾ scale burn project exercises. (2016)
- Instructor / course designer at the RI IAAI 32-hour Fire Investigator Technician (FIT) Conference. Modules instructed: Fire Dynamics, Fire Pattern Analysis, Origin, Doll house live burn exercise, burn box exercises & ¾ scale burn project exercises. (2015)

### **ADJUNCT PROFESSOR**

#### **MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE FIRE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

- Qualified to teach all FESHE recognized fire science courses.

### **INSTRUCTOR FOR THE RHODE ISLAND FIRE ACADEMY (RIFA)**

- Qualified Instructor to teach Firefighter Level I & II, Hazardous Materials Awareness & Technician Level's, NFPA 1403 Live Burn Instructor.