



Tennessee Chapter, IAAI 2017 Annual Training Conference

July 31-August 4, 2017
Music Road Convention Center
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863

(All times Eastern)

Friday, July 28, 2017

Pre-conference: Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony Course (all day)

Saturday, July 29, 2017

Pre-conference: Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony Course (all day)

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Pre-conference: Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony Course (partial day)

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Check-in & On-site Registration

Monday, July 31, 2017

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM Check-in & On-site Registration

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM Opening Ceremony & Welcome

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM Keynote Address: Accreditation Matters
-Kelly Kistner, IAAI-CFI & Rick Jones, IAAI-CFI

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM NFPA 921 Updates
-David J. Icové, PE, IAAI-CFI & Mike Dalton, IAAI-CFI

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch on your own

1:30 PM – 5:30 PM Tools of the Trade, Using Science & Tech to Enhance Investigations
-Rick Jones, IAAI-CFI

Tuesday, August 1, 2017

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Case Study: 2013 West, TX Fire/Explosion
-Kelly Kistner, IAAI-CFI

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch on your own

1:30 PM – 5:30 PM Fire Investigator Cancer Issues
-Richie Storie

Wednesday, August 2, 2017

- 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Legal Concerns: Negative Corpus
David Bridges, IAAI-CFI
- 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch on your own
- 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM Emerging Trends in Kitchen Fire Investigation
-David Cheers, CFEI & Peter Layson, CFEI

Thursday, August 3, 2017

- 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Wildland Fire Pattern Indicators/Operation High Desert
-Alan Carlson
- 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch on your own
- 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM General Membership/Business Meeting
- 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM Wildland Fire Pattern Indicators/Operation High Desert
-Alan Carlson

Friday, August 4, 2017

- 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM Dealing with Emotionally Disturbed Persons
-Cesar Gracia
- 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM Emergency Vehicle Operators Class
-Cesar Gracia
- 11:00 AM Testing & Adjourn
- 12:00 PM 2017 Training Conference officially concludes

Course Descriptions

Keynote: Accreditation Matters – Kelly Kistner, IAAI-CFI & Rick Jones, IAAI-CFI

Accreditation and why it's important to your agency or company. It is as critical for you and your case. It also confirms that you have meet the requirements of NFPA 1033 and can investigate fires to a higher level of confidence. Not just a fancy word but it gives credibility to the work product you produce.

NFPA 921 Updates – David Icove, PE/IAAI-CFI & Mike Dalton, IAAI-CFI

Update on the newest version of NFPA 921, Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations, presented by members of the committee and covering the newest material in the document so that you the investigator have a better understanding of the document and be ready to put it to use in the field.

Tools of the Trade. Using Science and Technology to Enhance Fire Investigations-Rick Jones, IAAI-CFI

This presentation examines tools and technology solutions for fire scene investigations, excavation, documentation, and evidence preservation. Although standard in other industries, application in fire investigations can enhance the overall scene examination and follow-up. Among other areas, students will be introduced to applicable sections on NFPA 1033 and 921 on documenting the scene and evidence collection. Some of the many useful tools/technology covered will include tablets, note taking applications, form builders, online storage/file sharing, photography/videography, 3D scanning, diagramming, drones, thermal imaging, and others.

Case Study – Kelly Kistner, IAAI-CFI

This is a case study of the West, TX fire and explosion that took place in 2013. It is a study of the fire and explosion and the workings of the complex investigation. To better prepare you the local investigator for these large scale events and be ready to handle when it happens to you.

Fire Investigator Cancer Issues – Richie Storie

This presentation is designed to provide a mechanism of understanding to assist firefighters and investigators in an ever changing toxicological environment that we subject ourselves to every day. This program is divided into four distinct units which will address what cancer is, types of cancer, how we are exposed, and how we can prevent it. We always mention cancer in passing discussion, but we race to gather more detailed information if diagnosed. Why not educate ourselves now to understand the illness and take the measures to prevent ourselves from contracting it.

Legal Concerns: Negative Corpus – David Bridges, IAAI-CFI

NFPA 921 and court systems throughout the county are making negative corpus a hot topic in the industry. The 2011 edition of 921 rejected use of negative corpus while the most recent edition backpedaled from that position. Not surprisingly, courts are trying to determine whether opinions based on or that make use of negative corpus should be excluded or admissible. The block of instruction examines NFPA's current stance on negative corpus, experts' willingness to use it, and the courts' application of it. Class will address NFPA 921 and the scientific method. Participants will review case studies to illustrate the courts' decisions to admit, exclude, or limit expert testimony in fire/explosion matters.

Emerging Trends in Kitchen Fire Investigation – David Cheers, CFEI & Peter Layson, CFEI

The sizable impact caused by cooking fires warrants investigation from both the public and private sectors. These investigations require the application of fire science in developing hypotheses to identify how the range or stovetop came into contact with a fuel for a sufficient duration to cause ignition. A detailed evaluation of the sequence of events, from the heating equipment used to the time involved, can provide valuable information towards identifying accidental cooking fires or debunking false witness statements. This class will focus on the impact of several variables in stovetop fires and the ignition of cooking oils. Several well documented test burns will be presented to demonstrate these effects. The collected test data as well as actual case studies will be examined to better understand witness statements, timelines and fire dynamics.

Wildland Fire Pattern Indicators/Operation High Desert – Alan Carlson

The determination of fire cause for a wildland fire is based upon a credible determination of a specific origin area and ignition area. Wildland fire pattern indicators are the physical evidence that lead back to an ignition area and the potential to recover ignition source remains. Failure to accurately follow those indicators back to their origin can call into question the basis for claiming that a wildland fire is incendiary or accidental. Failure to document the indicators relied upon and the fire pattern formed by them will lead to questioning under oath that may discredit the findings of the investigation.

This presentation will explore and explain the new changes in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) "Guide to Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination", related to wildland fire pattern indicators and will focus on the importance and methodology of thoroughly documenting the physical evidence represented by each fire pattern indicator.

Dealing With Emotionally Disturbed PErsOns, EVOc– Cesar Gracia

Presentation meeting the general requirements for in-service training on domestic violence/child abuse as well as emergency vehicle operations.

Thank you for your continued support and attendance
We welcome your feedback

Speaker biographies

Kelly Kistner, IAAI-CFI – Chief Fire Investigator (Texas Branch), Forensic Investigations Group, LLC

Mr. Kistner has extensive experience in both the private and public sectors conducting fire investigations. Mr. Kistner was the Assistant State Fire Marshal in Texas where he was responsible for the management of all fire investigations across Texas. He is the former fire marshal of Guadalupe County, Texas. In addition to serving as the county fire marshal, Mr. Kistner has also served as an investigator, senior investigator, operations manager and territorial manager, leading other fire investigators, evidence technicians and professional engineers, covering four states for a national private fire investigation firm. He has completed numerous courses related to fire and explosion investigations sponsored by the National Fire Academy, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the International Association of Arson Investigators, and other organizations. Mr. Kistner is an experienced lecturer and has testified on matters in state and federal court. Mr. Kistner received his Bachelor of Science degree from Southwest Texas State University and is currently pursuing his Masters of Science in Forensic Sciences with a concentration in Arson and Explosion Investigations from Oklahoma State University.

Richard Jones, IAAI-CFI – Chief Investigator, Forensic Investigations Group, LLC

Mr. Jones has over 22 years of experience in the field of investigations for both the public and the private sectors. He also has prior service and training with local fire districts and the Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal, specializing in the field of fire and explosion investigations. He earned a degree in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University and is an experienced lecturer on fire and explosion investigations. Mr. Jones has been recognized as an expert witness and has provided testimony on both the state and federal levels. He has been actively involved in the Louisiana Chapter of IAAI, previously serving on the Board of Directors and advancing to the position of Chapter President on two occasions. He served on the Board of Directors for the IAAI for 6 years. He continues to serve the IAAI on the CFI committee; FISC committee; Strategic Planning committee; Foundation Board; ITC Training Committee; Editorial Review Committee for the Fire and Arson Investigator Journal; and Firearson.com Website Content Review Committee.

He is also a facilitator for the IAAI ECT program and served as committee chair for the IAAI publication Fire Investigator Principles and Practice to NFPA 921 and 1033, for both the 2014 edition and the 2017 edition of the publication.

Additionally, he serves as an alternate NFPA committee member for NFPA 1300 Standard on Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development, NFPA 1452 Guide for Training Fire Service Personnel to Conduct Community Risk Reduction, NFPA 1730 Standard on Organization and Deployment of Fire Prevention Inspection and Code Enforcement, Plan Review, Investigation, and Public Education Operations, and NFPA 302 Motor Craft.

Dr. David J. Icove, PE, IAAI-CFI – University of Tennessee-Knoxville / Icove & Associates, LLC

An internationally recognized forensic engineering expert with over 40 years of experience, Dr. Icove's expertise is based on a blend of university teaching, on-scene fire tests and experiments, and authorship of several peer-reviewed textbooks and articles. A retired federal law enforcement agent, he has testified as an expert witness in civil and criminal trials, as well as before U.S. Congressional Committees seeking guidance on key legislative initiatives. David holds BS degrees in Electrical Engineering and Fire Protection Engineering, a MS in Electrical Engineering, and PhD in Engineering Science and Mechanics. He has authored/c-authored numerous publications and textbooks related to fire investigation and is co-author of Kirk's Fire Investigation (7th ed.) as well as Forensic Fire Scene Reconstruction (2nd ed.).

Mike Dalton, IAAI-CFI – Fire Investigator, Forensic Investigations Group, LLC

Mr. Dalton has 30 years of experience in the field of fire investigation. Mr. Dalton spent 27 years as the Fire Investigator for Knox County Sheriff's Office. He is also a former Director for the Tennessee Fire Marshal's Office in the Bomb and Arson section. Mr. Dalton has served in several leadership positions within the Tennessee Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators. Mr. Dalton was elected in 2007 and in 2010 to serve on the board of directors for the International Association of Arson Investigators. He is an experienced lecturer on various topics in origin and cause investigations. Mr. Dalton has conducted administrative and technical reviews for Kirk's Fire Investigation, 7th edition, Fire Scene Reconstruction, 2nd and 3rd editions, and Fire Investigator: Principles and Practice to NFPA 921 and 1033.

Richie Storie – TN Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy

Richie has been in emergency services for 13 years. He currently serves as a FF/Paramedic for Alcoa Fire Department, where he has been for 10 years. Richie also serves as Field Training Officer for A shift.

Richie has served as an instructor with the Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy since January 2016. Richie instructs a variety of classes for TFACA, including In-Service classes, driving simulator, and Smoke Diver.

Thank you for your continued support and attendance
We welcome your feedback

*-Speaker Biographies Continued-***David E Bridges, IAAI-CFI – Associate, Meagher & Geer**

David is an associate for Meagher & Geer, Attorneys at Law, PLLP in Minneapolis, Minnesota and is currently part of the Catastrophic Loss group focusing on complex civil litigation including fires, explosions, structural failures, fire protection system failures, and other catastrophic losses and construction-related incidents across the U.S. Bridges formerly worked for the North Carolina Department of Justice as a fire/arson agent and K-9 handler. He has experience in over 1,000 fire investigations including eight bombing/explosion investigations.

Bridges received his JD degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law with an undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland in fire protection engineering. He frequently is a guest instructor on topics concerning legal aspects, expert witness-courtroom testimony, among others. In addition, David is an adjunct instructor for the AFT and National Fire Academy. He is a member of numerous southeastern Chapters of IAAI and received the Life Membership Award from the NC Chapter-IAAI in 2015.

At the 2017 IAAI Annual Conference, David was elected to serve a three-year on the IAAI Board of Directors.

David Cheers, CFEI/CEO – Jack Ward Fire Consultants, LLC

After serving as a volunteer firefighter for five years, David joined the Clay County Fire Department, Orange Park, Florida in 1989. His career with Clay County led him to a promotion of Lieutenant and his introduction to origin and cause investigations. After investigative training and working part-time with the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office, David became a full time investigator with the bureau in 1997. Prior to his retirement as a Lieutenant from the State Fire Marshal's Office, David participated in the arson K-9 program as a handler and was recognized multiple times as Investigator of the Year, Investigator of the Quarter, and a nominee for State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year on two occasions. With numerous State and Federal courtroom testimonies as an expert in the field of fire origin and cause investigation, David has been instrumental in the investigation of many high profile cases including those involving serial arsonists, arson for profit, and homicides, also at the State and Federal level. Currently, David is a NAFI Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator and is employed by Jack Ward Fire Consultants where he oversees the day to day operations of the company as the Field Operations Manager. He served as President and Vice-President of the Florida Advisory Committee on Arson Prevention, and is active in the International Association of Arson Investigators as a member and committee member at the International level as well as a committee member and past Northeast Regional Director at the State level.

Alan Carlson, President – Alan Carlson and Associates, LLC

Alan Carlson is a 15-year veteran of the United States Forest Service and 24 years with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Cal Fire. During his tenure with Cal Fire, including as the Northern Region Deputy Chief for Fire Prevention and Law Enforcement, Chief Carlson supervised the Northern Region Arson Investigation Unit's activities related to serial wildland arson offenders. Chief Carlson has personally investigated over 1,000 fires resulting in over 50 felony arson arrests and complex civil litigation while assisting in over 1,500 other fire investigations. Chief Carlson was a member of the NWCG Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee from 2004-2010 and served three years as the chairperson of that subcommittee. Since his retirement in 2010, Alan has continued as a subject matter expert for the subcommittee and is a co-author of the new April 2016, NWCG "Guide to Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination", the 2016 NWCG revision of FI-210 Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination curriculum, and FI-310 Major Case Management: Wildland Arson curriculum. Alan has taught wildland fire investigation classes both nationally and internationally. Alan is a member of IAAI, CCAI, and is an INVF and INTM qualified wildland fire investigator.

Cesar Gracia, Dir. Campus Safety Operations & Emergency Preparedness Coordinator - Lincoln Memorial University

Previous: Director, WSCC Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy (January 2004 – July 2015); Special Agent, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (November 1999 – February 2004); Patrol Officer, Kingsport Police Department (1992 – 1999)