



Jimmie L. McCants II, CFEI

Fire Investigator

Background

With 22 years of fire investigation experience and 26 years of law enforcement experience, Mr. McCants is uniquely qualified to work the most complex fire losses. He is a certified fire and explosion investigator (CFEI) through the National Association of Fire Investigators as well as a certified arson/explosive investigator through the Robert Presley Institute of Criminal Investigations. He is also a licensed private investigator in the state of California.

Mr. McCants has investigated over 3,000 fires during his career, including numerous high-profile fires and several fatal fires. He served as a lead investigator for a multi-county fire investigation unit in California and also examined bombing incidents throughout northern California. Because of his past professional experience as a detective, he is well-versed in taking statements, collecting and preserving evidence, and identifying the warning signs of arson and possible insurance fraud.

On-scene experiences with structural fires and explosions for various types of occupancies have provided him with a working knowledge of building construction, fire behavior, and post-investigation techniques for analyzing damages and fire cause and origin. His experience extends to residential, commercial, marine, automobile, and heavy equipment investigations.

Contact Information

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Professional Engagements

- Fire Investigations
 - Natural Gas/Propane Explosion - California (2018), Investigated an explosion that leveled a house and damaged six other homes. Acted as lead investigator for the subrogation attorney for several of the exposures.
- Fire Origin and Cause - Wildland
 - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) - Oroville, CA (2016), Retained to complete an investigation into a wildland fire as a result of improper logging operation. Authored report that was used in a civil penalties case.
 - Vacaville Fire Protection District - Solano County, CA (1985-2001), Completed numerous wildland investigations for the. Arrested and successfully convicted suspects in those fires. Testified as an expert in origin and cause in criminal courts.
 - Solano County Sheriff's Department - Solano County, CA (1985-2001), Serves as a lead arson investigator for the sheriff's department, where over the course of three decades he has evaluated the cause and origin of over 1,000 fires impacting commercial structures, heavy equipment, and vehicles (including trucks and recreational vehicles). This district has ample grass and wildland areas, giving him extensive wildland investigation experience.

Forensic Engagements

- Fire Origin and Cause - Residential
 - Natural Gas/Propane Explosion - California (2017), Retained by an attorney to investigate a propane explosion that injured the homeowner. Investigation revealed the cause of the incident and the responsible parties for further litigation.
 - Honey Oil Explosion - Sacramento, CA (2016), Investigated honey oil explosion occurring as a result of people attempting to extract THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) from marijuana with butane.
- Fire Origin and Cause - Commercial
 - Crematory Fire - Ceres, CA (2015), Cremator had an overheating event that allowed the heat to get to dangerous temperatures, resulting in radiant heat igniting the nearby wall studs. Represented the operator of the cremator in a positive outcome in a subrogation case.

- Crematory Fire - Carson City, NV (2014), Insulation for the exhaust stack had degraded and allowed the heat to ignite the roofing timbers causing an attic fire.
- Fire Origin and Cause - Vehicle (from passenger vehicles to heavy equipment)
 - Heavy Equipment Fire - Hanford, CA (2018), On-scene analysis of heavy equipment fire. Determined that fire was caused by the failure of a recalled item on Detroit diesel engines in Freightliner tractors.
 - Heavy Equipment Fire - Madera, CA (2017), On-scene analysis of heavy equipment fire. Determined that fire was caused by the failure of a recalled item on Detroit diesel engines in Freightliner tractors.
 - Manufacturing Defect (multiple) - Well-versed in the different mechanical components of most vehicles and light-duty trucks. Stays current with recalls that cause fires in specific vehicles and can determine subrogation potential for clients. Has successfully given written opinions against Ford and General Motors.

Professional Experience

- Rimkus Consulting Group, Inc. 2013 - Present
 - Fire Consultant - Fire Division/Western Region
Conducts fire and explosions cause and origin investigations. Analyzes and performs on-scene investigations for fires and explosions, as well as hazardous material concerns. Experience includes residential, commercial, marine, vehicle, and heavy equipment investigations.
- Williams Mobile Service 2012 - 2013
 - Mechanic
Worked as a mechanic doing repairs in a shop environment as well as on the road in a service truck. Repairs included passenger cars, large diesel trucks, and various-sized pieces of equipment such as commercial tractors and cranes.
- G4S Compliance and Investigations 2011 - 2013
 - Fire Investigator
Conducted fire, arson, and explosion investigations including residential, commercial, marine, automobile, and heavy equipment losses for insurance companies and law firms. Collected and preserved evidence through precise documentation to ensure chain of custody. Conducted interviews with witnesses, responding firefighters, state fire marshal agencies, and other pertinent third-party organizations. Prepared

detailed, written investigative reports as to the final conclusions and opinions of the subject loss. Provided technical and scientific support to clients for subrogation and litigation purposes. Conducted code compliance research including electrical, gas, and installation code violations. Assisted personnel with product design failure analysis to determine if the product was the cause or a contributing factor in a loss.

- Solano County Sheriff's Office 1985 - 2011
 - Deputy Sheriff - Environmental Crimes Detective
As a lead arson investigator, he evaluated arson fires and explosion scenes for the sheriff's office, the Vacaville Fire Protection District's Fire Prevention Bureau, and the Solano County Arson Investigation Unit. Investigated the cause and origin of over 1,000 fires including commercial structures, heavy equipment, and vehicles (including trucks and recreational vehicles). Provided training on the determination of cause and origin of fires as well as how to detect if a vehicle was destroyed to facilitate insurance fraud. Wrote and executed more than 25 search warrants and more than 20 court orders and assisted in the service of more than 100 search warrants involving the recovery and seizure of stolen firearms, tools, electronic components, and illegal drugs to support arson investigations, uncover drug laboratories, and capture wanted fugitives. Testified in numerous criminal matters including preliminary hearings and jury trials.

- Gunsmoke Trucking Company 1991 - 2002
 - Owner/Operator
During the 11 years that he co-owned Gunsmoke Trucking Company, he was responsible for all administrative details for the company, including all correspondence with government agencies and ensuring the company was in legal standing to operate in California, Oregon, and Arizona. Maintained the three power units and numerous trailers used in the day-to-day business. This included all brakes, suspension, engines, and all mechanical issues that could arise. Also responsible for the required paperwork for the safety inspection conducted by the California Highway Patrol for the B.I.T. (Bi-Annual Inspection Terminal) program.

- Vacaville Unified School District 1979 - 1985
 - Mechanic
Mechanic for a medium-sized school district in California. Responsible for performing mechanical repairs from all district equipment, from push lawnmowers to the fleet of school buses they operated. Handled all aspects of repair, including engine and transmission rebuilds as well as both regular and air brake service and repair. Rebuilt gas and diesel engines for a variety of equipment ranging from a lawnmower to a

large school bus to tractors. Also responsible for yearly safety inspections on fleet of school buses. Inspections were conducted by the California Highway Patrol both on an annual basis and on occasional surprise inspections.

Education and Certifications

- Associate of Science: Solano Community College (2000)
- Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator: National Association of Fire Investigators
- Certified Arson/Explosive Investigator: Robert Presley Institute of Criminal Investigations
- Licensed Private Investigator: California (and able to work in Oregon)
- Memberships: International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)

Continuing Education

- Continuing Education Courses (General): California Fire Service Training and Education, Fire Investigation 1A (October 1995); California Fire Service Training and Education, Fire Investigation 1B (April 1996); Behavior Analysis Training Institute, Interview and Interrogation Techniques (January 1997); California State Fire Marshal, Arson/Explosive Investigation Foundation course (November 1997); Sacramento Public Safety Center, P.O.S.T. Institute of Criminal Investigation Core Course (December 1997); U.S. Department of Justice FBI, Post Blast Investigator School (April 1998); California Fire Service Training and Education, Fire Investigation 2A (April 1998); Federal Emergency Management Agency, Fire/Arson Investigation #R205 (August 2001); California Fire Service Training and Education (October 2002); Napa Solano Fire Investigation Unit, NFPA 921 Standards for Fire Investigation (February 2003); Napa Sheriff's Office, Fire Death Investigation (June 2008); Roseville Fire Department, Forensic Fire Scene Reconstruction (2009); Los Angeles HIDTA, Arson Murders and Fire Death Investigation (August 2011) Los Angeles HIDTA, Major Arson Investigations (August 2011)
- Certified Fire Investigator Program (IAAI-CFI): Explosion Dynamics (November 2011); Wild Land Fire Investigation (November 2011); Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires (November 2011); Fire and Explosion Investigations: Utilizing NFPA 1033 and 921 (November 2011); Arc Mapping Basics (March 2012); Investigating Fatal Fires (September 2012); Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations (September 2013); Electrical Safety (June 2013); Fire Investigator Scene Safety (June 2013)