



# **Fred Herrera, CFI**

## **Fire Investigator**

Updated January 1, 2024

### **PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

- Over thirty six years experience in the fire service with the San Diego Fire Department
- Over twenty four years private investigation experience with FHFI and EFI

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2006 to Present	FRED HERRERA FIRE INVESTIGATIONS San Diego, California Owner, Certified Fire Investigator
1999 to 2006	ENGINEERING & FIRE INVESTIGATIONS Los Angeles, California Certified Fire Investigator
1989 to 2014	METRO ARSON STRIKE TEAM, SDFD San Diego, California Fire Captain, Certified Fire Investigator
1981 to 2017	SAN DIEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT San Diego, California Fire Captain, Fire Engineer, Firefighter

### **CERTIFICATIONS**

Certified Fire Investigator #22-007 (IAAI-CFI), IAAI (10/27)

Motor Vehicle Fire Credential Endorsement (IAAI-CFI(V)), IAAI (10/27)

Master Certified Fire Investigator #118 (M-CFI), CCAI (4/25)

Certified Fire Investigator #41536 (CFI), NFPA / NBFSPQ

Certified Fire Investigator I #880793 (CFI), CSFM

Certified Fire Investigator II #870063 (CFI), CSFM

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator #5682-1606 (expired), (CFEI), NAFI

Certified Fire Officer #013210, CSFM

Certified Firefighter I #019428 & Certified Firefighter II #006952, CSFM

Certified Fire Instructor I #092216, CSFM

Licensed Private Investigator #20635, DCA / BSIS (6/24)

Certified Part 107 Remote Pilot (Drone/sUAS) #4489444, DOT/FAA (3/25)

## **SPECIALIZED EDUCATION**

Fire Science A.S. Degree  
Fire Investigation 1A, 1B, 2A & 2B, 160 hours, California State Fire Marshal  
Advanced Origin & Cause, 80 hours, ATF National Academy  
Arson Crime Scene Investigation, 40 hours, FBI National Academy  
Fire / Arson Investigation, 80 hours, National Fire Academy  
IAAI CFITrainer; 95 programs, 2005-2023, 1542 hours, International Association of Arson Investigators  
Principles of Fire Investigation Multi-Program, 67 hours, IAAI  
Fire Investigation for Fire Officers Multi-Program, 41 hours, IAAI  
Fire Investigation Semi-Annual Training Seminars, 1990-2022, 300+ hours, CCAI  
Fire Investigation International Training Conference, 40 hours, IAAI  
Advanced Fire Investigations, 40 hours, Nevada IAAI  
Fire & Explosion Investigation, 24 hours, John DeHaan, Department of Justice  
Post Blast Investigative Techniques I, 24 hours, Department of Justice, ATF  
Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigation, 24 hours, IAAI  
Investigation of Electrical & Appliance Related Fires, 20 hours, IAAI / AHAM  
Electrical Fire Investigation, 24 hours, Public Agency Training Council  
Hands-On Electrical Fire Investigation, 21 hours, Public Agency Training Council  
Fire Investigation, John DeHaan, 16 hours, California Association of Criminalists  
Prevention & Investigation of Commercial Kitchen Fires, 16 hours, Phil Ackland & Associates  
Vehicle Fire Investigation, 24 hours, Lee Cole & Associates  
Vehicle Fire Investigation, 16 hours, Lee Cole & Associates  
Fire Pattern Certification, 24 hours, Public Agency Training Council  
Fire Origin & Cause; NFPA 921, 24 hours, Public Agency Training Council  
Wildland Fire Litigation Conference, 24 hours, Attorney Ken Royce, San Diego, California  
Interview & Interrogation Techniques, 40 hours, Behavior Analysis Training Institute  
SDPD Academy / Peace Officer status / PC 832

## **COURSES INSTRUCTED**

Fire Behavior & Combustion, Fire Investigation 1B, San Diego Community College  
Fire Investigation, Internet-based, Santa Fe City College  
1st Responder Fire Investigation & Evidence Collection, Firehouse World Expo & Conference  
Origin & Cause for Company Officers & Arson Laws, Firehouse World Exposition & Conference  
Basic Fire Investigation, ATF Regional Training  
NFPA 921 Issues, FBI National Academy  
Vehicle Fraud Fires, California District Attorney's Association & So Cal Chapter IASIU  
Marine Fire Investigation Case Study, International Association of Marine Investigators  
Fire Investigation, San Diego Fire Academy & San Diego Fire Cadet Academy  
Fire Investigation / Evidence Preservation, San Diego Fire-Rescue In-Service Training  
Physical Evidence, San Diego Regional Law Enforcement Academy  
Arson Laws, San Diego Regional Law Enforcement Academy  
Fire Investigations, SDPD / MAST Menu Training  
Fire Investigation, IABPF Southwest Regional Spring Conference  
Fire Investigation; Evidence, Spoliation & Subrogation, Auto Club of Southern California  
Fire Loss Mitigation, State Farm Insurance  
Fire Investigation, AON Risk Management, Department of Insurance  
Public Records / Fire Department Reports, Live Burn Training, CCAI  
Basic Fire Investigation, CCAI Imperial County Roundtable  
Fire Investigator Professional Development, CCAI San Diego Roundtable  
Chain of Custody, San Diego Lifeguards  
Evidence Collection, Chula Vista Fire Department

## ARTICLES PUBLISHED

### Potential Fire Causes

*CCAI's California Fire-Arson Investigator* (4/06)

### First Responder Fire Investigations

*Firehouse Magazine* (2/06)

### Investigation of Boat Fires

*CCAI's California Fire-Arson Investigator* (1/05)

### Digital Investigations

*CCAI's California Fire-Arson Investigator* (10/04)

### Firesetting Motives

*CCAI's California Fire-Arson Investigator* (1/04)

### Fire Behavior Myths & Misconceptions

*ExpertLaw.Com* (09/03)

### Investigative Uses for Alarm Systems

*CCAI's California Fire-Arson Investigator* (06-03)  
Submitted *EFI's Insights*

### Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN) 101

*IAAI's Fire & Arson Investigator* (07/03)  
*CCAI's California Fire-Arson Investigator* (03/03)

### Practical Uses of Failure Analysis and Analytical Tools

*CCAI's California Fire-Arson Investigator* (12/02)  
*ExpertLaw.Com* (09/03)

### Passenger Compartment Vehicle Fires; Incendiary or Undetermined?

*IAAI's Hawaii Chapter Newsletter* (03/08)  
*CCAI's California Fire-Arson Investigator* (10/02)  
*ExpertLaw.Com* (09/03)

### Fourth Amendment Rights of Fire Victims

*CCAI's California Fire-Arson Investigator* (01/02)  
*ExpertLaw.Com* (09/03)  
*SDCDA's LEQ* (Winter 2003)

### Testing the Fire Cause Hypothesis

*IAAI's Hawaii Chapter Newsletter* (06/08)  
*CCAI's California Fire-Arson Investigator* (11-01),  
*EFI's Insights* (Fall 2002)

### Respiratory Protection for Fire Investigators

*IAAI's Fire & Arson Investigator* (10/01)

### "Red Flags" Indicators of Vehicle Fraud Fires

*SDIAA's The Adjuster* (11/03)  
*ExpertLaw.Com* (09/03)  
*CCAI's California Fire-Arson Investigator* (05/01),  
*WeTip Quarterly Magazine* (06/01)  
*EFI's Insights, edited* (Summer 2001)

### Arson Registrants; Y2K changes to PC 457

*CCAI's California Fire-Arson Investigator* (01/00),  
*SDCDA's LEQ* (Spring/Summer 2000)

### Evidence Collection, Preservation & Disposal

*IAAI's Fire & Arson Investigator* (07/99)

### California Arson Registration Program

*CCAI's California Fire-Arson Investigator* (04/99)

### First Responder Newspaper;

#### Arson Investigation Column

First Responder Fire Investigations (4-03)  
Investigative Uses for Alarm Systems (5-03)  
California Arson Registrants (6-03)  
Fire Behavior Myths & Misconceptions (9-03)  
Passenger Compartment Vehicle Fires (11-03)  
Firesetting Motives (1-04)  
Fourth Amendment Rights of Fire Victims (6-04)  
Analysis of Fire Cause (7-04)  
NFPA 921 (8-04)  
Digital Investigations (9/10-04)  
Courtroom Testimony (11/12-04)  
Multiple Fire Causes (1-05)  
Investigative Resources (2-05)  
Expert Qualification (3-05)  
Evidence Collection (4-05)  
Forensic Fire Investigation (6-05)  
Ford Cruise Control Fires (7-05)  
Electrical Fire Causes (8-05)  
Investigation of Boat Fires (9/10-05)  
Potential Fire Causes (11-05)  
Digital Photography (1-06)  
Metropolitan Grass Fire Investigation (3-06)  
Spontaneous Combustion (4-06)  
Private Investigators (5-06)  
Public Insurance Adjusters (6-06)  
Scientific Method for Fire Investigations (8-06).

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Fire Investigator Principles and Practice to NFPA 921 & 1033**

#### **Author / Contributor:**

Chapter 9 Legal Considerations (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)  
Chapter 10 Legal Considerations (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)  
Chapter 10 Legal Considerations (5<sup>th</sup> Edition)

#### **Reviewer:**

Chapter 8 Fire-Related Human Behavior (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)  
Chapter 10 Safety (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)  
Chapter 16 Fire Cause Determination (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)

### **Kirk's Fire Investigation, Seventh Edition, John D. DeHaan & David J. Icove**

Chapter 9 Marine Fires, Reference 52 "Investigation of Boat Fires"

### **Ignition Handbook, First Edition, Vytenis Babrauskas**

Reference 1693 "Testing the Fire Cause Hypothesis"

#### **Credit / Media:**

San Diego Fire Department Drill Manual (2018)  
Chapter 33 - Section IV - Technical Operations - Fire Investigation & Explosives

### **Ashes of Aries, (Fiction novel), St. Martin's Press, (09/01)**

Fire behavior expert consultant acknowledgement

**Store;** A documentary film / **Boxes;** Short Film. StarVehicle Productions LLC  
Fire investigation case studies.

## **LEGAL TESTIMONY**

Criminal proceedings, Superior/Municipal Court, Board of Prison Terms (32)  
Public and Private Sector deposition / trial testimony (55)

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)**

- 2011 Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service
- 2017 Certificate of Appreciation for 20 years of continuous membership

### **California Conference of Arson Investigators (CCAI)**

- Ethical Practices & Grievance Committee Member 2023 to Present
- CFI Certification Committee Member 2019 to 2022
- Ex Officio Board Member / San Diego County Roundtable Coordinator 2000-2004
- Awards Committee Chair 2001-2005
- Marketing Committee Chair & Legislation Committee Member 2001-2003