



Fred Herrera, CFI Fire Investigator

Updated February 1, 2025

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

- Over thirty six years experience in the fire service with the San Diego Fire Department
- Over twenty five 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 (6/26)

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 (3rd Edition)
Chapter 10 Legal Considerations (4th Edition)
Chapter 10 Legal Considerations (5th Edition)

Reviewer:

Chapter 8 Fire-Related Human Behavior (3rd Edition)
Chapter 10 Safety (3rd Edition)
Chapter 16 Fire Cause Determination (3rd 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 (61)

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