

Douglas Gauthier, CFI(V)

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Zionsville, Indiana 46077

Fire and Explosion Investigation

Fire and explosion origin and cause investigations for commercial, industrial, residential, vehicle and product fires as well as fire code inspections for new and existing commercial structures. Experience includes initial site examinations/surveys, scene measurement, interviewing, evidence collection and storage, joint site examinations, and laboratory examinations involving subrogation, fatal fires, and criminal arson investigations as well as deposition and courtroom testimony.

Qualifications & Training

- Photovoltaic Cells & Systems, CFI Trainer.net, June 2024
- NFPA 1033 & 921: 2022/2021 Editions Important Updates, CFI Trainer.net, June 2024
- MagneTek: A Case Study In The Daubert Challenge, CFI Trainer.net, March 2024
- Understanding Fire Through the Candle Experiments, CFI Trainer.net, March 2024
- Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations, , CFI Trainer.net, March 2024
- Emerging Technologies in Fire Investigation, CFI Trainer.net, March 2024
- Commercial Kitchen Fires 1: Fundamentals, CFI Trainer.net, March 2024
- CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep Academy - Chimney Safety Institute of America 35 hours tested, January 2024
- Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams, CFI Trainer.net, October 2023
- Lithium-ion Battery Fires, CFI Trainer.net, August 2022
- IN 2022 FIC, Completed 23 Hour Tested Training Program, 23rd Indiana Fire Investigation Conference, IAAI – Indiana Chapter
- Motor Vehicle Fires, IAAI-CFI(V), June 2022
- Knowledge 1 Motor Vehicle Fires Tier 1, IAAI, CFI Trainer.net, 8 Hour tested, April 2022
- 2022 ITC Fire Fatality Investigators, IAAI, CFI Trainer.net, April 2022
- 2022 ITC Vehicle Fire Investigation – Determining the Origin, IAAI, CFI Trainer.net, April 2022
- 2022 ITC Molly Delgado Maternal Filicide, IAAI, CFI Trainer.net, April 2022
- 2022 ITC Fire Investigation in an Arson Case in Brazil, IAAI, CFI Trainer.net, April 2022
- 2022 ITC Fire Scene Origin Determination, IAAI, CFI Trainer.net, April 2022
- 2022 ITC Case Study – Allentown Vehicle Explosion, IAAI, CFI Trainer.net, April 2022
- 2022 ITC Kansas City FF Fatality Case Study, IAAI, CFI Trainer.net, April 2022
- 2022 ITC Demystifying Fire Sprinklers for the Fire Investigators Systems, IAAI, CFI Trainer.net, April 2022
- 2022 ITC Uncommon Knowledge Regarding Fireplace and Chimney Related Fires, IAAI, CFI Trainer.net, April 2022

- Nederveld Fire Investigation Team Training – Vehicle Fires, 8 Hour Tested, September 2021
- IN 2021 FIC, 24 Hour Tested Training Program, 22nd Indiana Fire Investigation Conference, Including Fire Dynamics, Electricity and Heat, NFPA and Fire Investigation, Improving Fire Investigator Health and Safety, August 2021
- Post-flashover Fires, 4 Hour Tested Training, IAAI CFI Trainer Net, August 2021
- Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Fires, 3 Hour Tested Training, IAAI CFI Trainer Net, August 2021
- Validate your Hypothesis, 2 Hour Tested Training, IAAI CFI Trainer Net, August 2021
- Fire Investigation for Fire Officers, 3 Hour Tested Training, IAAI CFI Trainer Net, August 2021
- Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Design Basics, CFI Trainer Net, June 2021
- Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Fires, International Association of Arson Investigators, April 2021
- Post-Flashover Fires, International Association of Arson Investigators, April 2021
- UAS FAA Remote Pilot Certification #4461503, December 2020
- Successfully Completed 20 Hours of Online Learning to Acquire Aeronautical Knowledge in Concepts of Regulatory Compliance, Airport Operations, Weather, Airspace Classification, and Flight Operations within the National Airspace, Drone Pilot Ground School, December 2020
- NFPA 921: 2021 Updates and Case Study Review Tested, Nederveld U, October 2020
- Introduction to Collision Analysis: Data Collection, Documentation and Analysis Techniques, Nederveld, Inc., September 2020
- Certified Fire Investigator (CFI), Certified by the International Association of Arson Investigators
- Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI), Certified by the National Association of Fire Investigators
- Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI), Certified by the National Association of Fire Investigators
- NFPA Fire Investigator I
- Fire Instructor I
- Fire Inspector I/II
- Introduction to Evidence, 4 hours, IAAI, December 2019
- Principles of Fire Investigation Multi-Program, 67 hours, IAAI, December 2019
- Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene, IAAI, 4 hours, December 2019
- Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, IAAI, 3 hours, December 2019
- Effective Investigation and Testimony, IAAI, 3 hours, December 2019
- Fire Investigator Scene Safety, IAAI, 3 hours, December 2019
- Ethics and the Fire Investigator, IAAI, 3 hours, December 2019
- Charting Your Career Path in Fire Investigation, IAAI, 3 hours, December 2019
- Understanding Undetermined, CFITrainer.net, 3 hours, September 2019
- Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Causes, CFITrainer.net, 3 hours, September 2019
- Fire Flow Analysis, 3 hours, CFITrainer.net, September 2019

- What the Insurance Professional Needs to Know About Fire Investigation, CFITrainer.net, 3 hours, September 2019
- Vehicle Fire Live Burn Exercise, Oakland County Association of Arson & Fire Investigators, October 2019
- The Deposition Part 1: Format, Content, and Preparation, CFITrainer.net, 3 hours, February 2019
- Residential Natural Gas Systems, CFITrainer.Net, 3 hours, December 2018
- IAAI Indiana Fire Investigation Conference, 24 hours, August 2019
- IAAI Indiana Fire Investigation Conference, 24 hours, August 2018
- Ethical Duties Beyond the Fire Scene, CFITrainer.Net, 3 hours, June 2018
- Discovery in Criminal Cases, CFITrainer.Net, 3 hours, June 2018
- Discovery in Civil Cases, CFITrainer.Net, 3 hours, June 2018
- Thermodynamics presented by Dr. Jay Smith, PE, Nederveld, Inc. & Live Burn Cell Training, Michigan State Police Fire Investigation Unit, Muskegon Heights, MI, 12 hours tested, August 2017
- IAAI Indiana Fire Investigation Conference, 21 hours, 2017
- Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical, and Fuel Systems, CFITrainer.Net, 3 hours, May 2017
- Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake, and Accessory Systems, CFITrainer.Net, 3 hours, May 2017
- Preparation for the Marine Fire Scene, CFITrainer.Net, 4 hours, May 2017
- Process of Elimination, CFITrainer.Net, March 2017
- Search and Seizure, CFITrainer.Net, March 2017
- Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction, CFITrainer.Net, March 2017
- Legal Aspects of Investigating Youth-Set Fires, CFITrainer.Net, May 2016
- How First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation, CFITrainer.Net, May 2016
- Investigating Natural Gas Systems, CFITrainer.Net, 3 hours, 2016
- Fire Protection Systems, CFITrainer.Net, 3 hours, 2016
- Hazmat 1st Responder Operation, Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education, January 2016
- Vehicle Fire, Arson and Explosion Investigation Science and Technology Seminar, National Association of Fire Investigators, 32 hours, 2015
- IAAI Indiana Fire Investigation Conference, 21 hours, 2015
- Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator, CFITrainer.Net, 4 hours, 2015
- Explosion Dynamics, CFITrainer.Net, 4 hours, 2015
- IAAI Indiana Fire Investigation Conference, 21 Hours, 2014
- Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, CFITrainer.Net, 4 Hours, 2014
- NFPA Fire Inspector I/II, 80 hours, 2014
- Basic Electricity, CFIT.Net, 4 hours, 2014
- NFPA 921 and 1033 2014 Editions: Important Revisions, CFITrainer.Net, 3 hours, 2014
- Residential Electrical Systems, CFITrainer.Net, 4 Hours, 2014
- The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921, 2014
- Insurance and the Fire Investigation, CFITrainer.Net, 4 hours, 2013

- Charleston Sofa Super Store Fire, CFITrainer.Net, 4 hours, 2013
- Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab, CFITrainer.Net, 4 hours, 2013
- IAAI Expert Witness Testimony Class, 40 hours, 2013
- Scientific Method for Fire Explosion Investigation, CFITrainer.Net, 3 hours, 2013
- NFPA Fire Investigator I Course, 2013
- Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics, 2013
- Indiana Coroner Association Conferences, 2013, 2006-2011
- NFPA 921 and 1033 Updates, CFITrainer.Net, 4 Hours
- NFPA 1033 and Your Career, CFITrainer.Net, 2 hours, 2012
- I-witness Photogrammetry, 24 hours, 2012
- Fire Modeling with Station Night Club, CFITrainer.Net, 4 hours, 2012
- Crash Zone 9, 16 hours, 2012
- Indiana Fire Investigation Conferences, 2012 2009, 2005
- Ventilation Impact of Fire Development, CFITrainer.Net, 4 hours, 2011
- Investigating Mass Destruction Incidents, 2011
- Hazwoper, CFITrainer.Net, 4 Hours, 2010
- Documenting the Event, CFITrainer.Net, 4 hours, 2010
- BATS Training, 4 hours, 2010
- Arc Mapping, CFITrainer.Net, 4 hours, 2010
- Statement Analysis, FBI, 45 hours, 2008
- Evidence Photography, FBI, 45 hours, 2008
- Certified Fire Explosion Investigator Review of NFPA 921, 19 hours, 2006
- Death Investigations Schools for Coroners, 40 hours, 2006
- WMD Tactical Operators Course, 40 hours, 2004
- HazMat Operations Course, 2002
- Flashover, 8 hours, 2002
- EMT, 2002
- Electrical Fire Investigation, 24 hours, 2002
- Arson Scene Search and Evidence Recovery, 16 hours, 2002
- Scale Drawing Auto Sketch, 24 hours, 2001
- Fire Arson Investigator Academy, 40 hours, 2001
- Firefighter I/II, 1998
- Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, 1994
- Boone County Reserve Academy, 1991

Accident Investigation/Reconstruction

Including work with speed determination, crash/energy analysis, seat belt usage, pedestrians, site distance, time distance speed analysis, road design analysis and crash data recovery. Initial site examinations, scene measurement, interviewing, evidence collection, evidence storage, laboratory examinations, joint examinations, and deposition and courtroom testimony.

Qualifications and Training:

- Commercial Vehicles, 2024 Joint Annual Conference hosted by NATARI, 2-hours, October 2024
- Tire Exams, 2024 Joint Annual Conference hosted by NATARI, 2-hours, October 2024
- The Traffic Signal as an EDR; Did It Record Your Crash? 2024 Joint Annual Conference hosted by NATARI, 2-hours, October 2024
- EDR Update, 2024 Joint Annual Conference hosted by NATARI, 2-hours, October 2024
- Horrible Crash Reconstruction; Learning from Others Mistakes, 2024 Joint Annual Conference hosted by NATARI, 2-hours, October 2024
- Portable and Economical Scanning for Collision Reconstruction, 2024 Joint Annual Conference hosted by NATARI, 2-hours, October 2024
- Video Analysis, 2024 Joint Annual Conference hosted by NATARI, 2-hours, October 2024
- Time and Distance, 2024 Joint Annual Conference hosted by NATARI, 2-hours, October 2024
- Trailer Stability, 2024 Joint Annual Conference hosted by NATARI, 2-hours, October 2024
- Heavy Vehicle Event Data Recorder (HVEDR) Use in Traffic Crash Investigation, Forensic Training Group, March 2021
- Introduction to Collision Analysis: Data Collection, Documentation and Analysis Techniques, Nederveld, Inc., September 2020
- ACTAR Test Preparation – Comprehensive (Online), Institute of Police Technology and Management – University of North Florida, 40 hours, July 2019
- Commercial Vehicle Crash Investigation – Level I, Institute of Police Technology and Management – University of North Florida, Conducted in Phoenix, AZ, 40 hours tested, September 2018
- Crash Data Retrieval, Data Analyst, Northwestern University Center for Public Safety, April 2016
- Advanced EVO Instructor Course, State of Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board, October 2015
- Traffic Crash Reconstruction Update, ITPM, 2013
- Emergency Vehicle Operation Instructor (EVOC), 2013
- IN-Time Crash Reduction, 2012
- I-witness Photogrammetry, 2012
- Crash Zone 9, 2012
- Vehicle Homicide Investigation, 2009
- Lethal Weapon: OWI Homicide, 2008
- Obtaining Information from EDR, 2006
- Pedestrian Crash Investigation, 2003
- Computers for Accident Investigations, 2002

- Motorcycle Crash Investigation, 2002
- Digital Crash Photography, 2000
- Heavy Vehicle Crash Investigation, 1999
- At-Scene Accident Investigation, 1998
- Advanced Accident Investigation, ITPM, 1998
- Accident Reconstruction School, ITPM, 1998

Education

FBI National Academy
University of Virginia
2008

Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminology
Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN
1991-1992

Associates Degree in Law Enforcement
Vincennes University, Vincennes, IN
1989-1990

License & Certification

CFI – Certified Fire Investigator, Certified by the International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.
CFEI – Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, Certified by the National Association of Fire Investigators
CVFI – Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator, Certified by the National Association of Fire Investigators
NFPA Fire Investigator I
Fire Instructor I
Fire Inspector I/II
Hazmat 1st Responder Operation
Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board Certified Instructor
Certified Medicolegal Death Investigator
FBI National Academy Graduate
Airman remote pilot certification:
Department of Transportation-Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Certified Airman
remote pilot, small, unmanned aircraft systems

CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep – Chimney Safety Institute of America

Employment History

Boone County Sheriff’s Department – Deputy

December 2023 – Present
Responsibilities include road patrol, calls for service, deputy training, fire investigation, assigned to FACT crash team.

Nederveld, Inc.

Fire Investigator, Crash Reconstructionist

2014 – Present

Responsibilities include fire origin and cause investigations for explosions, fatal fires, commercial, industrial, residential, vehicle and product fires, as well as peer review of fire investigation reports. Crash reconstructionist including work with speed determination, crash/energy analysis, seat belts usage, pedestrians, site distance, time distance speed analysis, road design analysis and crash data recovery.

Zionsville Fire Department

Firefighter/EMT and Fire Investigator

1995 – present

Responsibilities include responding on emergency fire and rescue runs. Primary investigator for the fire department and providing firefighters training on fire investigation and emergency equipment driving and operations.

Zionsville Police Department, Operations Captain

1993 – 2015

Responsibilities include overseeing the daily operations of the Uniform Service Division, special events coordinator and fleet manager. Assigned to the Boone County Fire Investigation Task Force investigating fires within Boone County, and also assigned to the county wide serious bodily injuries crash team (FACT) as a crash reconstructionist. Instructor of law enforcement training on emergency vehicle and high-speed driving.

**Health and Human Services (HHS), Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT-V),
Medicolegal Death Investigator**

2014 – 2017

Responsibilities include responding to large casualty incidents on a Federal Response Team to assist with recovery and identification of victims.

Boone County Deputy Coroner

2005 – 2015

Responsibilities include investigating the cause and manner of deaths in Boone County.

Boone County Sheriff’s Department, Jailer/Dispatcher

1993 – 1993

Responsibilities include filtering incoming 911 calls; dispatch officers, deputies, and emergency services to emergency calls in Boone County. Maintain order and process inmates in the jail.

Professional Affiliations

- Member: International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
- Member: National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)
- Member: Indiana Association of Certified Accident Investigators (IACAI)
- Member: FBI National Academy Association

Depositions and Testimony

- December 2021
Robert Wincek and Pekin Insurance Company vs Astro Insulation of Illinois, LLC and ABC Insurance Company
Expert Witness for Pekin Insurance Company and Robert Wincek
Kenosha County Circuit Case No. 2021CV319

- May 2021
Mark Raines and Brandy Raines vs Stephen D. Agee, State of Indiana, Country of Clay, Clay Superior Court
Expert Witness for Law Offices of Hanover Insurance Group, Inc.
Cause No. 11D01-1802-CT-000068

- September 2020
State of Indiana, County of Boone vs William Leigh, Boon County Superior Court 2, Expert Witness for State of Indiana, Boone County
Case No. 06D02-2001-F4-000109

- February 2018
State Farm Fire and Casualty Co., aluminualuminumal. v Strunz Milk Transport LLaluminualuminumet al.
Expert Witness for Strunz Milk Transport LLC on behalf of Axley Brynelson, LLP
Rock County Circuit Court # 16CV1135

- May 2014
Estate of Keitra Smith vs Premium Supply Inc., David Aldridge, Jorge Rivas, Angela Hood, The State of Indiana and K&D Trucking Company, Inc.
Expert Witness for State of Indiana on behalf of K&D Trucking Company
Boone County Circuit Court # 49D08-1310-CT-037397

- January 2014
Estate of Sterling Russell Sr vs John R. Barlow, Carter Express and Carl Jones
Expert Witness for State of Indiana on behalf of Carl Jones
Boone County Circuit Court # 06D01-1210-CT-000620

July 2009

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company vs K and D Wiring Inc.

Witness for State of Indiana on behalf of State Farm Fire and Casualty

Boone County Superior Court # 06D01-0507-PL-236

February 2006

Carolina Investments, LLC vs Victor's Lawn and Landscaping Inc.

and Victor Kulionis

Witness for State of Indiana on behalf of Carolina Investments, LLC

Boone County Circuit Court # 06C01-0511-CT602

Preliminary Examination/Trials:

December 2023

State of Michigan vs Robinson

Witness for the State

Newaygo County District Court # 23-2908-FY-1

December 2012

State vs Bradley Bernard

Witness for the State

Boone Superior Court # 06D01-1212-FB-0446

November 2010

State vs Nichole Bishop

Witness for the State

Boone Superior Court # 06C01-1011-FA-0364