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Education

Chartered Forensic Practitioner (Fire), 2019. Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences (ChFP (Fire))

Level 3 Award in the 'Requirements for Electrical Installations BS 7671: 2008 (2015), 2017. The City and Guilds of London Institute.

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, 2016. National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI-CFEI).

Certified Fire Investigator, 2016. International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI-CFI).

Master of Science (MSc) Degree in Fire Scene Investigation (Distinction), 2015. University of Wolverhampton, UK.

Evidence Collection Technician, 2015. International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI-ECT).

Level 7 Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) Advanced Professional Award in Expert Witness Evidence (LETAPAEWE), 2014. Legal Experience Training Ltd.

Level 4 Certificate in Fire Science and Fire Engineering, 2013. (Four papers comprising Fire Science, Fire Safety, Fire Investigation and Aero Studies). Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE).

Certificate in Forensic Science, 2013. University of Central Lancashire, UK.

Fire Investigation Technician, 2012. International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI-FIT).

Level 3 BTEC in Fire Investigation, 2012. QA Associates Ltd.

Experience

2018-present: Technical Assessor, United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) (part-time). Assessor of inspection bodies applying for compliance with BS EN ISO/IEC 17020:2012 – 'Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection' regarding forensic fire investigation activities.

2018-present: Specialist Advisor, Falck Fire Consulting Ltd (part-time). Trainer tasked to deliver fire investigation input to learners within the petroleum-chemical industry.

2016-present: Consultant, Engineering Forensics Limited (part-time). Principle fire investigation consultant for a forensic engineering consultancy responsible for the investigation and reporting of fires, primarily for representatives of the insurance industry and for solicitors.

2016-present: Associate Instructor, Capita Ltd (part-time). Responsible for the preparation and delivery of fire investigation training to both UK and international students (Saudi Arabia & Kuwait) attending the various fire investigation course at the National Fire Service College, Moreton-in-the-Marsh, UK.

2014-present: Examiner, Institution of Fire Engineers (volunteer). Examiner responsible for contributing to the development and marking of the Level 4 Fire Investigation examination paper.

2011-present: Fire Investigation Officer (full-time), West Midlands Fire Service. Principal responsibilities are acting as a primary investigator for major fires, fires involving severe injury or death, and fires where attending operational fire officers are unable to determine the cause throughout the Midlands region of the UK. This includes all types of property and involves scene examination, determining the area of origin and ignition sequence, interpreting fire damage and burn patterns, documenting the scene, evidence preservation and recognition, interviewing witnesses and preparing written reports of investigative findings to potentially form expert evidence in both HM Coroners and HM Crown Courts. Secondary responsibilities include the maintenance and testing of operational fire investigation tools and equipment, organising and presenting fire investigation training events for fire officers and liaising with other fire investigators from both the private and public sectors.

2009-2011: Operational full-time fire officer, Watch Commander, Foleshill Fire Station, West Midlands Fire Service. The officer-in-charge of a multi-appliance operational whole-time fire station and responsible for two junior officers and eleven firefighters. Answering to the Station Commander, responsibilities included resolving a huge variety of emergency incidents including fires, road traffic collisions, chemical incidents, flooding, railway incidents and other emergencies. At fire incidents, basic cause and origin fire investigations were carried out. Other principal duties were to ensure all personnel under my command maintained competence in their role and to ensure all training requirements were met, to ensure the welfare of those people and to uphold the core values of West Midlands Fire Service. Further, the supervision of fire safety visits to commercial and industrial premises and the undertaking of 'home fire safety checks' in people's homes was employed to move the fire service from a reactive to a preventative emergency service

2002-2011: Operational full-time fire officer, Crew Commander, Foleshill Fire Station, West Midlands Fire Service. Reporting to the Watch Commander, principal responsibilities were as a fire appliance Crew Commander at minor operational incidents, responsible for a crew of 4 firefighters. Basic cause and origin fire investigations were undertaken at minor fire scenes. Secondary responsibilities were to support the Watch Commander in maintaining competent firefighters and assisting in the general day-to-day running of an operational, whole-time fire station.

1998-2002: Operational full-time firefighter, Canley Fire Station, West Midlands Fire Service. Under the direction of fire officers, responsibilities were to maintain and test operational fire brigade equipment, maintain operational skills and qualifications and to undertake firefighting and rescue duties as directed.

Publications

'Fire Investigation – Completing the Jigsaw', 2019, The Expert Witness – The Journal for Instructing Professionals and Expert Witnesses, 26th Edition, Winter 2019.

'Self-Incineration – 'A Research Study Report', 2016, Fire Investigation – Journal of the United Kingdom Association of Fire Investigators, Volume 1, Issue 3.

Professional Affiliations

'Fellow' of the Institution of Fire Engineers (FIFireE)

Registered 'Engineering Technician' with the Engineering Council (EngTech)

'Professional Member' of the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences (MCSFS)

Member of the National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)

Member of the International Association of Arson Investigators since (MIAAI)

Member and regional representative of the International Association of Arson Investigators UK Chapter, the United Kingdom Association of Fire Investigators (UK-AFI)

'Fellow' of the United Kingdom Association of Fire Investigators (FFireInv)

Expert Testimony Experience

Involvement with over 280 fire investigations since 2011, having carried out full scene examinations at over 180 of those cases (including 55 fatal fire scenes). Have therefore testified as an expert witness at County Court, HM Coroners and HM Crown Court.

R v. Porebski	25/06/2019	HM Crown Court, Warwick
Inquest	30/04/2019	HM Coroners Court, Coventry
Inquest	19/07/2018	HM Coroners Court, Birmingham
Inquest	23/05/2018	HM Coroners Court, South Staffordshire
R v. Pearson	09/05/2018	HM Crown Court, Stafford
Inquest	13/12/2017	HM Coroners Court, Sandwell
R v. Mohammed	09/11/2017	HM Crown Court, Birmingham
Inquest	25/05/2017	HM Coroners Court, Birmingham
Inquest	21/03/2017	HM Coroners Court, Birmingham
Fact Finding Hearing	20/02/2017	County Court, Birmingham
Inquest	06/12/2016	HM Coroners Court, South Staffordshire
Inquest	24/03/2016	HM Coroners Court, Birmingham
Inquest	03/02/2016	HM Coroners Court, Sandwell
Inquest	12/11/2015	HM Coroners Court, Birmingham
Inquest	24/09/2015	HM Coroners Court, Birmingham
Inquest	19/03/2015	HM Coroners Court, Birmingham
Inquest	11/11/2014	HM Coroners Court, Birmingham
Inquest	20/08/2014	HM Coroners Court, North Staffordshire
Inquest	20/08/2014	HM Coroners Court, North Staffordshire
Inquest	30/05/2014	HM Coroners Court, Sandwell
Inquest	27/05/2014	HM Coroners Court, Solihull

Inquest	24/04/2014	HM Coroners Court, Coventry
Inquest	16/01/2014	HM Coroners Court, South Staffordshire
Inquest	11/11/2013	HM Coroners Court, Birmingham
R v. Elmore	22/10/2013	HM Crown Court, Wolverhampton
R v. Andrews and Khatoon (re-trial)	30/07/2013	HM Crown Court, Birmingham
Inquest	01/07/2013	HM Coroners Court, Sandwell
R v. Andrews and Khatoon	14/05/2013	HM Crown Court, Birmingham
Inquest	20/02/2012	HM Coroners Court, Sandwell

Training

Attended the UK-AFI Annual Training Conference, 08/07/2019, "Analytical Chemistry – Beyond Typical Accelerant Analysis", "Update on the Introduction of ISO 17020 for Fire Investigation", "Anti-Contamination and Packaging, and Non-Fire Evidence", "Virtual Reality Training in Fire Investigation", "Case Study – 1st Glasgow Art School Fire", "Expert Witness Evidence", Anglian Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK.

Attended the UK-AFI Annual Training Conference, 28/02/2019 & 29/02/2019, "Interdisciplinary Practice in Fire Investigation in Scotland", "Fire Toxicity – Silent Killer", "Jackson Street – A Case Review", "Paraffin-based Skin Product Fires – Investigation, Reporting and Recording", "Successful Prosecutions Following Fire Investigation – The Walkden Murders", "Forensic Pathology and Fire Investigation", "Fatal Fire Prosecution Huddersfield Case Study", "Fatal Fires – The Search and Recovery of Human Remains", "Fatal Fire Investigation – A Private Sector Perspective", Leeds, UK.

"Emergency Services Inquest Seminar", 06/09/2018, "Expectations of the Coroner, HM Coroner Louise Hunt", "How to mitigate risk at difficult and high-profile inquests, Samantha Leek QC", "Learnings from Preventing Future Deaths reports, Samantha Leek QC", "Inquest Case Law, Fiona Brownsword", Capsticks LLP, Birmingham, UK.

"Fire Dynamics", 16/02/2018. IAAI, 1 hours online training webinar.

Attended the UK-AFI Annual Training Conference, 29/01/2018 and 31/01/2018, "Marine Fire Trends", "Fire Incidents Involving Photovoltaic Systems", "Investigation of Butane Honey Oil Fires / Explosions and Related Marijuana Grow Operations", "Forensic Science Regulator – 'Assuring Quality in Fire Investigation", "Fire Involving White Goods and Cause and Origin", Chesham, UK.

"Using Resources to Validate Your Hypothesis", 18/08/2017. CFIttrainer.net 2 hours tested training module.

"Basic Electricity", 18/08/2017. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

"Fundamentals of Interviewing", 31/07/2017. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

"Understanding the Fire Investigators Job: A Guide for Non-Investigators", 22/06/2017. CFIttrainer.net 3 hours tested training module.

Attended the UK-AFI Summer Training Conference, "Electrical Conductor Workshop", "Product Recalls", "Lithium-ion Battery Failures", "Arc Mapping", 04/07/2016, University of Birmingham, UK.
October 2019

“Advanced Principals of Fire Dynamics”, 31/05/2016 – 02/06/2016. 22.5 hours tested training, Building Research Establishment (BRE), Watford, UK.

“The Deposition, Part 2 – Questioning Tactics and Effective Responses”, 03/02/2016. CFIttrainer.net 3 hours tested training module.

“The Deposition, Part 1 – Format, Content and Preparation”, 29/01/2016. CFIttrainer.net 3 hours tested training module.

Attended the UK-AFI Annual Training Conference, 25/01/2016 and 26/01/2016, London, UK

“The Potential Value of Electronic Evidence in Fire Investigation”, 26/10/2015. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

Attended the UK-AFI Summer Training Conference, 29/06/2015, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK.

Attended the North West of England Fire Investigation Training Conference, 13/03/2015, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre.

“Ventilation Focused Approach to Impact of Structures and Systems”, 18/01/2015. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

“Ethics and Social Media”, 12/01/2015. CFIttrainer.net 3 hours tested training module.

“Process of Elimination”, 20/09/2014. CFIttrainer.net 3 hours tested training module.

“Residential Electrical Systems”, 02/04/2014. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

“Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab?” 27/11/2013. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

“DNA”, 19/11/2013. CFIttrainer.net 3 hours tested training module.

“Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene”, 01/11/2013. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

“Introduction of Evidence”, 27/10/2013. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

Attended a two-day Training Event on Electrical Appliances and Wiring, Dr N Carey of Hawkins and Associates, 15 and 16/10/2013, Sutton Coldfield Fire Station, Birmingham.

“The Practical Application of the Relationship between NFPA 921 and 1033”, 09/10/2013. CFIttrainer.net 2 hours tested training module.

Attended a West Midlands Police Senior Investigating Officer CPD event on the case of R v. Philpott, Philpott and Mosley, 17/06/2013, West Midlands Police Tally Ho Training Centre.

“Arc Mapping Basics”, 12/06/2013. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

“NFPA 1033 and Your Career”, 05/06/2013. CFIttrainer.net 2 hours tested training module.

“Investigating Fatal Fires”, 27/05/2013. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

“An Analysis of the Station Nightclub Fire”, 09/04/2013. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

“Explosion Dynamics”, 07/04/2013. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

Attended the UK-AFI Annual Training Conference, 18/10/2012, Excel Centre, London.

Attended the West Midlands Fire Service Symposium on Fire Behaviour and Tactical Ventilation, 19 and 20/09/2012, West Midlands Fire Service Training Centre.

“Fire and Explosion Investigations: Utilising NFPA 1033 and 921”, 28/04/2012. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

“The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigations”, 21/04/2012. CFIttrainer.net 3 hours tested training module.

“Ethics and the Fire Investigator”, 14/04/2012. CFIttrainer.net 3 hours tested training module.

Attended the “Fire Scene Investigation and Management” residential training course, 21-25/11/2011, National Fire Service College, Moreton-in-the-Marsh, UK.

“Critical Thinking Solves Cases”, 12/08/2011. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

“Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires”, 16/06/2011. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

“Electrical Safety”, 16/06/2011. CFIttrainer.net 3 hours tested training module.

“Understanding Fires Through Candle Experiments”, 15/05/2011. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

“How First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation”, 29/04/2011. CFIttrainer.net 2 hours tested training module.

“Fire Investigator Scene Safety”, 29/04/2011. CFIttrainer.net 3 hours tested training module.

“Documenting the Event”, 28/02/2011. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

“Introduction to Fire Dynamics”, 25/11/2010. CFIttrainer.net 4 hours tested training module.

“Effective Investigation and Testimony”, 04/11/2010. CFIttrainer.net 3 hour tested training module.

References available on request.