

Editorial:

CFI TRAINER.NET

The science of fire investigation has advanced significantly during the past fifteen years. In 1992, the first edition of *NFPA 921: Guide For Fire and Explosion Investigations*, was published in an effort to improve the fire investigation process by establishing a methodology based on accepted scientific principles and research. That document has been revised every three years since 1992, with the next edition expected in 2008.

The fire investigation industry now recognizes two certifications which may be obtained by fire investigators after demonstrating proficiency in the investigation of the origin and cause of fires. The National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) awards the CFEI certification (Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator) to those fire investigators able to demonstrate proficiency in the field of fire investigation. The International Association of Arson Investigators awards the CFI certification (Certified Fire Investigator) to those fire investigators who meet their standards of proficiency.

Continuing education is available through organizations like NAFI, the International Association of Arson Investigators, the National Fire Protection Association, the National Association of State Fire Marshals and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire Arms and Explosions, to name just a few sources. Unfortunately, continuing education in the field of fire investigation has required the investigator to leave his or her job and take earned vacation or sometimes unpaid leave and travel to the location where the educational opportunity is being offered. Many fire investigators are unable to take leave and for many, budgets necessarily restrict the opportunity for continuing education.

The International Association of Arson Investigators recognizes these issues and has developed a website located at www.cfitrainer.net to provide free online training to anyone interested in keeping current as the science of the fire investigation advances. The site currently has modules on subjects such as Fire Dynamics; Calculations; Insurance and Fire Investigation; Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires; the Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation; Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling; and the current featured module, Introduction to Evidence. The Department of Homeland Security, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Fire Arms and Explosions, and the Insurance Committee for Arson Control provide primary funding for this site. The training modules are professionally produced and provide an excellent source of training for the fire investigator.

Cfitrainer.net is also a valuable resource for the insurance industry, product manufacturers, attorneys, and anyone interested in obtaining a better understanding of the correct methodology for determining the origin and cause of fires. The site also provides reading lists and references for each module providing valuable resource materials for insight into the subject matter.

Our hats are off to the International Association of Arson Investigators and the organizations which provide financial support for this site.