



**IOWA IAAI  
FIRE INVESTIGATION  
SEMINAR &  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**September 13th – 15th, 2022**

**Stoney Creek Inn and  
Conference Center**  
*5291 Stoney Creek Ct.  
Johnston, IA 50131*

*Iowa Chapter International Association of  
Arson Investigators, Incorporated*

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center** 5291 Stoney Creek Ct., Johnston, IA 50131

**RESERVATIONS: Deadline August 22, 2022, to guarantee the room rate of \$76.00/night.**

Reservations can be completed by utilizing the hyperlink below:

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/109230?groupID=3168973>

Your attendees will be directly connected to the block by just clicking on this link. When making the reservation guest will need to:

1. Confirm their dates of stay.
2. Confirm their room preference (King v. Double bed).
3. Enter their personal and payment information and complete their booking.

**REGISTRATION:** \$295 for Iowa Chapter members; \$395 for non-members prior to September 2, 2022.

After September 2, 2022, the price is \$395 for all attendees. Single day registration for Wednesday or Thursday is \$150.

Registration includes lunch on Wednesday and/or Thursday.

**The seminar registration does not include membership. Iowa Chapter membership is \$30.**

You can register for the seminar online at: <https://iowaiaaichapter.org/>

Or you can mail your registration form to:

Iowa Chapter IAAI INC.

PO Box 65101

West Des Moines, IA 50265

***ALL SEMINAR ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR  
THEIR NAME TAGS AT ALL SEMINAR ACTIVITIES.***

## **Please Print or Type**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Seminar Registration Amount : \_\_\_\_\_ Iowa IAAI Member?      Yes      No



**2022 Iowa IAAI Conference**  
**September 13th—15th, 2022**



**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2022**

- 11:00 a.m. - noon Board Meeting
- Noon - 1:00 p.m. Registration/Display Room Set Up
- 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Early Registration
- 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. Construction Site Fire Case Study (West Des Moines Fire Department)
- 3:45 - 5:00 p.m.. Post Scene Inspection Considerations - Tim Lillwitz and Dave Miller

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2022**

- 7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:00 - 8:50 a.m. Opening Ceremonies and Annual Meeting with Nominating Committee Report
- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. NFPA 1033/921/1321 - Randy Watson
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch (Provided)
- 1:00 - 5:00 pm Live Burn Cells - Camp Dodge, Johnston IA
- 5:00 - 5:45 p.m. Sectional Meetings
- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. President's Reception / Social Gathering  
Bags Tournament

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2022

- 7:00 - 7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer with Chapter Chaplain Todd Hartzler
- 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. Electrical/Arc Mapping - Dan Choudek
- 11:00 - 11:45 a.m. Reconvene of Annual Iowa Chapter Meeting
- 11:45 - 1:00 p.m. Plated Lunch Banquet and Awards
- 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. LP/Natural Gas Investigations - Duane Wolf
- 4:00 p.m. Test

## SEMINAR TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2022

Tuesday Afternoon - September 13th, 2022 from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

#### **Construction Site Fire Case Study - West Des Moines Fire Department**

According to a February 2020 report issued by the NFPA, local fire departments responded to an estimated average of 3,840 fires in structures under construction and 2,580 fires in structures under major renovation per year in 2013 through 2017. The fires in structures under construction caused an average of four civilian deaths, 49 civilian injuries, and \$304 million in direct property damage annually.

This class will provide an in-depth case study on a large construction site fire that occurred in West Des Moines, Iowa in April 2020. Instructors will discuss fire safety requirements from Chapter 33 of the International Fire Code (2018 edition), provide details of the events that led up to the fire, strategies and tactics used, and numerous challenges that were encountered during the incident. In-depth details of the fire investigation will be provided that included a large presence of private investigators and insurance representatives for several months after the incident. The West Des Moines Fire Department was able to obtain over 25 minutes of drone footage during the fire that will be shown to help highlight the magnitude of the event. The class will conclude with valuable lessons learned and new fire safety requirements at construction sites in West Des Moines as a result of the fire.

#### **Brandon Hufford - Captain/Fire Inspector**

Brandon Hufford has been with the West Des Moines Fire Department for 28 years with 22 of those years being a full-time firefighter. After he became a full-time firefighter in 2000, he went through the State Fire Investigator class in 2001 and became a fire investigator for his shift on the department for 10 years. Brandon holds many State of Iowa fire service certifi-

# SEMINAR TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2022

ations and attended the NFA Fire Arson course in 2003. He became a member of the IAAI Iowa Chapter and participated on the Board for the Iowa Chapter of the IAAI from 2006-2009. He became a company officer in 2007 as the rank of Lieutenant. In 2020 he became a fire inspector as a rank of Captain in the fire prevention division. Part of his current duties is to manage the fire investigation team for the department.

## **Corry Dolbeer - Captain/Fire Investigator**

Corry Dolbeer has been with the West Des Moines Fire Department for 22 years. Corry was promoted to officer in 2017 and is currently a Captain assigned to Station #17. He became a shift investigator and certified fire investigator through the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau in 2019. Corry holds many State of Iowa fire service certifications and attended the NFA Fire Arson course in 2022. He has been a member of the IAAI Iowa Chapter since 2019 and has been a reserve officer with the West Des Moines Police Department for 15 years.

## **Kurt Westhoff - Captain/Fire Inspector**

Kurt Westhoff has been a member of the West Des Moines Fire Department for 29 years with 23 of those years being a full-time firefighter. Kurt is responsible for fire code enforcement, fire investigations, and general fire prevention activities. Kurt has served in his current position since October 2006. Kurt holds many State of Iowa fire service certifications and has attended several National Fire Academy classes for fire code enforcement and fire prevention. He is State certified through the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau for Fire Investigation and has been a member of the IAAI Iowa Chapter since 2007. He is the past President and board member with Hawkeye State Fire Safety Association, is a current member with State of Iowa Association of Arson Investigation (IAAI), and the Iowa Fire Marshal's Association.

## **Mike Whitsell - Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention/Fire Marshal**

Mike Whitsell has been a member of the West Des Moines Fire Department for 32 years, with 23 of those years being a full-time firefighter. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2002, Fire Inspector in 2006 and Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal in 2008. Mike is responsible for plan reviews, fire inspections, fire code development and adoption, public education, fire investigations and serves as the Public Information Officer for the department. Mike holds many State of Iowa fire service certifications and has attended several National Fire Academy classes for fire code enforcement and fire prevention. He is State certified through the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau for Fire Investigation and has been a member of the IAAI Iowa Chapter since 2006. In addition to his duties with the West Des Moines Fire Department, he serves as an adjunct professor at Des Moines Area Community College, is an instructor at the State of Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau, is a board member for the Iowa Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators and is the President of the Iowa Fire Marshal's Association.

# SEMINAR TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2022

Wednesday Afternoon - September 13th, 2022 from 3:45 - 5:00 p.m.

## **Post Scene Inspection Considerations - Tim Lillwitz and Dave Miller**

This presentation will supplement the Construction Site Fire Case Study presented by the West Des Moines Fire Department. The instructors will describe various issues and considerations that often must be addressed by private sector actors at significant fire scenes, including subrogation, third-party notice, evidence preservation, and other insurance related topics.

### **Dave Miller - Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company**

Dave Miller is the Assistant Vice President (AVP) of Special Investigations at Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. He has actively been involved in investigations since 1990, including owning and managing a private investigations firm specializing in insurance investigations and surveillance.

In 2002, Dave joined Grinnell Mutual as an investigator until being promoted to management in 2006. In an effort to provide the highest quality investigations, Dave continually researches and tests the latest technology, innovation and techniques available for fire investigations and fraud detection. Throughout his career, he has provided extensive training related to fraud detection and fire/explosion investigations.

Dave is a Certified Fire Investigator with the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI-CFI) Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator & Certified Fire Investigation Instructor with the National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI-CFEI). He is a member of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and a member of the NFPA Fire Investigator Professional Qualifications (NFPA 1033) technical committee.

### **Tim Lillwitz - Bradshaw, Fowler, Proctor & Fairgrave, P.C.**

Tim joined the litigation group of the Bradshaw Law Firm in 2006 and has first and second-chaired numerous jury and bench trials in both state and federal courts in Iowa. Tim has handled a wide variety of litigated matters throughout his career. However, Tim's practice now focuses on two main areas: (1) commercial litigation, including shareholder and owner disputes, contractual disputes, fraud and fraudulent transfers, and business torts of all types, and (2) property insurance litigation, including assisting the firm's insurance clients with arson and fraud matters, as well as subrogation matters.

Tim obtained a B.S. in Biology from the University of Iowa in 2002 and his J.D. with High Honors from Drake University Law School in 2006. Tim serves in numerous leadership positions on boards throughout central Iowa, including as Secretary of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Iowa Chapter.

# SEMINAR TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2022

Wednesday Morning - September 14th, 2022 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## **NFPA and Fire Investigation - Randy Watson**

This presentation will provide an overview of the new edition of NFPA 921 and 1033. In addition, the presenter will discuss the draft of the new document, NFPA 1321 Standard on Fire Investigation Units. This document is in the draft phase and is moving through the process of development. The presenter is the immediate Past Chair of the NFPA 921 Committee, member of the NFPA 1033 Committee and the current Chair of the NFPA 1321 Committee.

### **Randy Watson, IAAI-CFI, IAAI-CI, CFEI, CVFI**

SEA, Ltd - Director, Technical Training

Mr. Watson is the Director, Technical Training and Senior Fire Investigator with SEA, Ltd. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Carolina. Randy has over 40 years' experience investigating fires and explosions incidents for the fire service, law enforcement, and private sector. Mr. Watson hold certifications as a Certified Fire Investigator, Certified Instructor, Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, Certified Fire Investigation Instructor, and Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator. He has served on the NFPA 921 Committee since 1993, serving as Chairman from 2008 to 2020. Randy also serves on the NFPA 1033 Committee and the first Chairman of the NFPA 1321 Committee on Fire Investigation Units. He is currently the President of International Association of Arson Investigators.

Wednesday Afternoon - September 14th, 2022 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## **Live Burn Cells - Zack Spykerman and Trace Lawless**

This session will include the following live burn scenarios:

- Electrical Event with Potential Subrogation—Effects of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Dwellings.
- Electrical Event with Potential Subrogation—Non Sprinkler Burn
- Arson—Incendiary Fire with Ignitable Liquids
- Safe Storage of Combustible Materials for Shop and Garage Compartments—Accidental Self-Heating Fire Event
- Combustibility of HDPE when Applied to Wall Surfaces

# SEMINAR TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

While conducting the Live Burn Demonstration, instruction continues throughout the entire process. We maintain a minimum of two instructors communicating with the participants during the demonstrations.

We discuss the benefits of a sprinkler system as it relates to underwriting and the adjusting process. In identically furnished burn cells, we will show exactly what will happen with and without the sprinkler. As we move to the other cells, we continue to discuss the building materials/furnishings and what part they might play in a fire. We also discuss why it is important for underwriting to know what they are insuring and why the quality of construction, type of occupancy and furnishings all play a role.

On the claims side, we continually discuss their interaction with their investigator and the terminology used in the industry today. All participants will get the opportunity to examine each cell both pre and post burn. All burn cell demonstrations and lecture during the burns will be recorded by video for continued analysis.

All presentations are conducted by Certified Fire Investigators with direct association to the insurance industry. Instructors have many years of experience in improving the relationship between fire investigators and the insurance professionals. This includes conducting live burns and testing on products and materials, so insurance companies have a greater understanding of how they apply to the underwriting process

## **Zack Spykerman, IAAI-CFI, CFEI**

Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company—Grinnell, Iowa

Zack is a Manager in the Special Investigations Department with Grinnell Mutual. He joined GMRC in 2001 with a background in insurance claims adjusting and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa.

Zack is a member of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) and is Past President for the Iowa Chapter of the IAAI. Zack also holds the designations of Certified Fire Investigator from the IAAI and a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator from the National Association of Fire Investigators

## **Trace Lawless, IAAI-CFI, CFEI, CVFI**

Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company—Grinnell, Iowa

Trace works out of Cincinnati, Ohio, and joined Grinnell Mutual in 2014. Trace began his career in the public sector in 1980. He now has more than 39 years of experience in the fields of fire service, law enforcement, and fire and explosion investigations. Trace is a graduate of the National Fire Academy, as well as the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, in the areas of fire origin and cause determination and investigations. Additionally, he has



attended fire investigation courses around the United States, including Federal agencies, in the following areas: origin and cause investigation, evidence collection and preservation, explosive devices, post-blast investigations, motor vehicle fire investigation, ATF accelerant detection and canine courtroom testimony.

Trace is a Certified Fire Investigator and Evidence Collection Technician with the International Association of Arson Investigators, a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator and Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator with the National Association of Fire Investigators. Trace currently holds the position of Board of Directors and Training and Education Chairman with the IAAI and is Past President of the Ohio Chapter IAAI.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2022**

Thursday Morning - September 15, 2022 - 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

### **Interpretations and Implications of Arc Mapping - Daniel J. Choudek, P.E.**

The creation of an arc map of a fire scene may seem simple and straight forward, however the interpretation and analysis of what it truly means may not be readily apparent. Dan will discuss large scale fire scene and small scale arc maps and explain how the data gathered from these may sometimes be easily interpreted and in others require in-depth analysis of the building's electrical wiring system.

#### **Daniel J. Choudeck, P.E.**

OnSite Engineering & Forensic Services, Inc. - Prior Lake, MN

Dan Choudek is a licensed Professional Electrical Engineer. He graduated from North Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering. Dan has been active in the field of forensic engineering since 1987, forming his own consulting firm in 1999 when he founded OnSite Engineering & Forensic Services, Inc. located in Prior Lake, MN. Dan has become one of the most sought-after experts in the forensic engineering field, testifying in both U.S. Federal and State courts. His diverse experience in forensic engineering includes electrical malfunction investigations, product failure analysis, interpretation of electrical code issues, product testing and analysis and expert testimony. Dan participates in fire and electrical investigations throughout the United States providing knowledgeable, thorough, and ethical service to all clients.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2022**

Thursday Afternoon - September 15, 2022 - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Propane and Natural Gas Losses: From Investigation to Resolution** - Duane A. Wolf, P.E.

This seminar will be a series of case studies which will take a detailed look at a number of fire and explosion losses involving propane and natural gas. The details of each loss will be discussed. The steps in the investigation will be presented. The identified issues in each case regarding not only causation but also areas of liability exposure will also be covered.

**Duane A. Wolf, P.E., M.S.**

Duane A. Wolf Engineering, P.C. - Ames, IA

Duane is a mechanical engineer with over twenty-five years of experience providing forensic mechanical engineering services to clients. Mr. Wolf has expertise and experience in a number of areas including fire and explosion investigations, carbon monoxide incidents, and mechanical failures. He is a licensed professional engineer in 28 states and works for a wide range of insurance companies and legal professionals. Duane grew up in a family plumbing and heating business in northwest Iowa. He has a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and Master of Science (M.S.) degrees in mechanical engineering from Iowa State University. He is active in ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers) at the society level, serving on technical and standards committees. Duane currently operates his own engineering firm in Ames, Iowa.