



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

September 15 - 17th, 2026

Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center

205 South 64th Street

West Des Moines, IA 50266

Iowa Chapter International Association of

Arson Investigators, Incorporated

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center 205 South 64th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50266

RESERVATIONS: Deadline September 3, 2026 to guarantee the room rate of \$115.00/night.

Reservations can be completed by utilizing this hyperlink from Hilton: [View your attendee website](#)

REGISTRATION: \$295 for Iowa Chapter members; \$395 for non-members prior to August 31, 2026.

Beginning September 1, 2026, the price is \$395 for all attendees. Single day registration for Tuesday or Wednesday is \$150.

Registration includes lunch on Tuesday and/or Wednesday.

The seminar registration does not include membership. Iowa Chapter membership is \$50.

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



2026 Iowa IAAI Conference
September 15 - 17th, 2026



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2026

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|-------------------|--|
| 11:00 a.m. - noon | IAAI Board Meeting |
| Noon - 1:00 p.m. | Registration/Display Room Set Up |
| 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. | Early Registration |
| 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | State Fire Marshal Dan Wood—Do's and Don'ts with a Q&A |
| 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.. | John Kraemer, CFI—Case Study: Altoona, IA Walmart Fire |
| 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Vendor Reception and Networking |

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2026

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 7:00 - 8:00 a.m. | Registration |
| 8:00 - 8:50 a.m. | Opening Ceremonies with Honor Guard and National Anthem and Annual Meeting with Nominating Committee Report |
| 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Mark Dooley, CFI - Fire Dynamics
With Burn Cell Footage |
| 12:00 - 1:00 pm | Lunch (Provided) |
| 1:00 - 3:00 pm | Katie Patee - Fire Scene Photography |
| 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. | Russell Wilson, EFI Global - Beneath the Badge;
Resiliency, Mental Health Awareness & PTSD |
| 5:00 - 5:45 p.m. | Sectional Meetings |
| 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. | President's Reception / Social Gathering
Bags Tournament |

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2026

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 7:00 - 7:45 a.m. | Morning Prayer Breakfast with Chapter Chaplain Todd Hartzler
(Breakfast Not Provided) |
| 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. | Stephanie Yocca, State of Iowa DCI Crime Laboratory
Collecting, Preserving, and Analyzing Fire Debris Evidence |
| 11:00 - 11:45 a.m. | Reconvene of Annual Iowa Chapter Meeting |
| 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Plated Lunch Banquet and Awards |
| 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. | Steve Hamers, Hamers Engineering - Farm Equipment Fire
Investigations |
| 3:30 p.m. | Test |

SEMINAR TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2026

Tuesday Afternoon - September 15th, 2026 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Interaction with the State Fire Marshal's Office

State Fire Marshal Dan Wood will present on proper and effective interaction with the State Fire Marshal's Office as applicable to public and private fire investigators working in Iowa. He will provide an update on the current structure and assignment areas of the investigators in the State Fire Marshal's Office. There will also be a question and answer session to discuss any concerns in working with the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Dan Wood - Iowa State Fire Marshal

Dan Wood has a BA Degree from Hastings College in Hastings Nebraska which he earned in 1997. In 1997 Dan attended the Iowa DPS 24th Basic Academy. After the academy Dan was assigned to Capitol Police as an officer. In 1998 Dan was promoted to Sergeant. In 1999 he was assigned to the Iowa State Patrol in District 1, Des Moines. In 2005 Dan transferred to the State Fire Marshal's Office Fire Prevention Bureau. In 2008 Dan was put in charge of the CMS program for the Fire Marshal's Office. Also during that time Dan was Acting Fire Prevention Supervisor, Acting Building Code Commissioner, Acting Bureau Chief in the Professional Development Bureau, and Acting Bureau Chief at the Fire Service Training Bureau. In 2017 Dan was named Iowa State Fire Marshal. Dan also has 25 plus years of fire and EMS experience with the Waukee Fire Department, 10 years with the Clive Fire Department and 21 years with the Iowa Speedway Fire and Safety Team (FAST).

SEMINAR TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2026

Tuesday Afternoon - September 15th, 2026 from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Case Study: Altoona, IA Walmart Fire - John Kraemer, Deputy Chief– Fire Marshal, Altoona IA

The Altoona Walmart Arson Case Study will describe the events encompassing this intentionally set fire, including how Altoona fire and police investigators worked together to build a case of 1st Degree Arson to present to the Polk County Attorney's Office.

John Kraemer, MHS, BS, IAAI-CFI.

Deputy Chief John Kraemer is a 25-year veteran of fire, EMS, and forensic services. Deputy Chief Kraemer joined the Altoona Fire Department in July of 2022 and serves as the City's fire marshal. He has previously served in many leadership roles within the public safety community, including Director of Forensic Operations for the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner, Training Officer and Lead Fire Investigator for the Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire District, Public Information Officer, Fire Lieutenant, and Chief of the State of Iowa Fire Academy. He holds multiple nationally recognized fire and EMS certifications. Deputy Chief Kraemer also serves as a consulting Fire and Explosion Investigator for Nederveld Forensic Engineering, Inc. in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where his services are regularly called upon by insurance companies and law firms. Deputy Chief Kraemer earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Minnesota in 1996 and his Masters in Health Sciences Degree from Quinnipiac University (in association with Yale University) in 1998. He is a 2018 graduate of Drake University's Certified Public Manager Program and is an IAAI Certified Fire Investigator (CFI).

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2026

Wednesday Morning - September 16th, 2026 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Fire Dynamics - Mark Dooley, IAAI - CFI(V)

This class will discuss fire dynamics looking at both the physical and chemical processes of combustion, heat transfer and flame spread. We will also discuss how these items may interact to affect fire behavior. Burn cell video will be used to assist in the discussions and a visualization of the concepts discussed.

Mark Dooley, IAAI-CFI(V)

Mark Dooley retired from the Des Moines Fire Department as a Captain in June 2022 after 28 years with the department, 30 years in the fire service. He worked in both operations and the fire marshal's office where he was a full-time fire investigator. He was also a Senior Fire Consultant for a forensic consulting company. His retirement was a job-related disability illness for bladder cancer. He was on the technical review committee for IFSTA 3rd Edition of Fire Investigator. Mark is a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy.

SEMINAR TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2026

Wednesday Afternoon, September 16th, 2026 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

Fire Scene Photography - Katie Pattee, Council Bluffs Police Department

This course will cover basic steps for documenting the fire scene and fire evidence with photography. Fire scenes are dark and wet, making photography challenging. This course will assist the student in developing the skills necessary to take quality photographs, how to properly store digital evidence, and how to document photography in a report.

Katie Pattee, CCSA

Katie Pattee is the Crime Scene Investigation and Property and Evidence Supervisor for the Council Bluffs Police Department. She began her career in 2006, as a CSI. Katie attended the two-week fire investigator school in 2010 and conducted fire investigations for the Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office, in addition to being a crime scene investigator. She also examines latent fingerprints for southwest Iowa. Katie has a BS Degree in Forensic Science.

Wednesday Afternoon, September 16th, 2026 3:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Beneath the Badge: Resiliency, Mental Health Awareness & PTSD—Russell

Wilson, IAAI-CFI, CFEI

This presentation addresses the cumulative mental and emotional impact that firefighters, investigators, law enforcement, EMS, and first responders experience through years of exposure to trauma, tragedy, stress, and critical incidents.

Topics include recognizing signs of burnout, hypervigilance, emotional fatigue, PTSD, responder culture, healthy coping strategies, resiliency, and the importance of peer support and mental health awareness within the fire service and public safety professions.

Russell Wilson, Senior Fire Investigator, EFI Global, Inc.

Russell Wilson has nearly 30 years of investigative experience in both the public and private sectors, Chaplain with the Scott County Sheriff's Office and Moline Police Department, Senior Pastor of LifeBridge Church, and responder advocate with extensive experience involving traumatic incidents, death notifications, and cumulative stress exposure within first responder professions.

SEMINAR TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2026

Thursday Morning - September 17th, 2026 - 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Collecting, Preserving, and Analyzing Fire Debris Evidence —Stephanie Yocca, State of Iowa DCI Crime Laboratory

When investigating a fire scene, frustrations can arise when deciding what items to collect, how to package them, and how to correctly submit these items to the DCI Crime Lab. This presentation will cover potential evidence found within a fire scene or during the course of a fire investigation primarily focusing on evidence for ignitable liquids/residues. We will discuss the best areas to locate evidence, how to properly collect that evidence, and what the best packaging practices are to properly preserve evidence and ensure laboratory testing. Additionally, a general overview of the laboratory analysis process for ignitable liquids/residues, examples of report wording, a discussion of the analysis limitations, how to submit evidence to the lab, and what services to request will be covered. Finally, we will discuss other types of evidence and available laboratory services you might also want to consider during a fire investigation.

Stephanie Yocca, State of Iowa DCI Crime Laboratory

Stephanie Yocca has been employed with the DCI State Criminalistics Laboratory for 11 years. Steph graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia with a Master of Science degree in Forensic Science with an emphasis in Chemistry and Trace Evidence. She also graduated from Waynesburg University in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forensic Science and minors in Chemistry and Biology. Stephanie is currently a Criminalist in the Trace/Fire section and assists in the Drug Identification section. She previously served on the DCI Laboratory's Crime Scene Response Team responding to crime scene investigations within Iowa. Steph was originally from around the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area where steak salads come standard topped with French fries, and over-easy eggs are called "dippy eggs." Stephanie is an avid crafter. She crochets, draws, or tries out new DIY projects in her spare time. She also enjoys yoga, biking, and taking long walks with her toy Australian Shepherd, Maple.

Thursday Afternoon - September 17th, 2026 - 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Farm Equipment Fire Investigations- Steve Hamers, P.E., Hamers Engineering

During the class, we will discuss fire causation on farm equipment. The presentation will include an in-depth explanation of combine harvester operation. The goal of presentation is to increase the investigators knowledge of how farm equipment operates, what can go wrong and why. The knowledge gained will aid in forming potential hypotheses by considering where the fire was first observed, how quickly the fire grows and by evaluating any trouble codes recorded by the monitors.

SEMINAR TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2026

Thursday Afternoon - September 17th, 2026 - 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Steve Hamers, P.E. - Founder, Hamers Engineering

Steve Hamers is a CFI and Professional Engineer with extensive experience in farm and heavy equipment. Steve has conducted over 1000 fire and mechanical failure investigations on farm related equipment including tractors, combines, grain elevator explosions, grain dryer fires and livestock housing fires. Steve teaches at the 2 Week Basic Fire Investigation Course for the Iowa State Fire Marshal Division. Steve graduated from Iowa State University and remains a Cyclone Fan to this day.