

FIRE FAX

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FROM THE DESK OF



Dan Roberts
President

Greeting Chapter Members! I hope this communication finds everyone well. I apologize for not getting a letter out from the President sooner. I will admit I have difficulty putting words to paper or computer. I am more of a meet people in person and chat about the IAAI.

We, as a chapter, continue to push to increase our enrollment. Our strength in the chapter comes in our numbers. We can provide better training and have potentially better networking with more members. Last year we added virtual trainings and we look to continue that as we go forward. We have also discussed joint trainings with surrounding state chapters. The last couple years we have partnered with Illinois to co-sponsor training in the Quad Cities area. It was my understanding that was well attended by Iowa members.

I encourage the use of CFI Trainer. If you haven't jumped on there, you should. You get quality online tested training. IAAI continues to improve this training and has received grants to keep the program going. Please take time to look at it and use it.

We are setting up a really good conference this year for you. It will again be at the Stoney Creek Hotel in Johnston, IA, September 12-14, 2023. We have worked with the facility to improve issues from last year. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

If you have suggestions for improvements to our chapter, training or anything related to our profession that we can improve on, please feel free to reach out to us. Thank you.

FROM THE DESK OF



David Allen
Director of Investigation

Hello, Iowa IAAI members! Hope you are having a great year. My name is David Allen and I'm your new Director of Investigations. I am a Certified Fire Investigator with ATF based out of Des Moines. I started in law enforcement in 1998 and with ATF in 2005. I started training as an explosives specialist in 2009 and became a member of the ATF National Response Team in 2012. I completed my IAAI-FIT in 2016 and CFI in 2019.

I'm looking forward to getting more involved in the Iowa Chapter and meeting more of you at trainings and our September conference. The IAAI provides some great training and great opportunities to make those relationships that are crucial to our success as fire investigators. There is a lot to learn for the new fire investigator to be proficient in their job and we're also gaining new knowledge and developing new methods in the field constantly. It's

critical we collaborate, teach each other, and learn from each other. IAAI is a great way to do that.

Keep yourself safe out there too. I recently saw a good reminder from Colorado for us to keep in mind regarding the energy and chemicals we might encounter at our scenes:

<https://www.denver7.com/news/local-news/close-call-lithium-ion-battery-explodes-in-adams-county-fire-investigators-face>

Take care and hope to see you all in September!

FROM THE DESK OF



Brandon Hufford
Director West

It is good to be back within our IAAI Chapter. My name is Brandon Hufford, and I am newly elected to our board as Director West. I want to take the time to reintroduce myself. I am currently a fire inspector for the West Des Moines Fire Department. I have been with the department for almost 29 years with the last 23 years being full-time. After being hired as a full-time firefighter in 2000, I quickly drew myself to the investigation scope of the fire industry because it was always intriguing to me to observe our fire investigators process a scene, along with putting all the other pieces together, to determine the origin and cause. In 2001 I took the fire investigation class from the FSTB and was fortunate enough to become one of the shift fire investigators for our department soon after. Shortly after that, I attended the fire investigation class at the NFA, which allowed me to expand my network across the country and learn how others operate in the investigation world. I quickly became a member of our Iowa Chapter of

IAAI. As we all know, the relationships, the networking, and the training this organization provides is second to none. I enjoyed and appreciated what this organization does for each other. In 2006, I was elected on the board as the position I now hold, Director West. I served for three years in that position and continued in my investigation role on the department for another year until I stepped away from being one of the shift investigators. As a company officer on our department, we are still required to perform investigations, but at a much smaller scale. In early 2020, I was fortunate to get the position as fire inspector. As many have experienced, it is a transition from the twenty-four-hour shift to the forty-hour work week, but I have enjoyed the transition. It has allowed me to have more time with my wife and two kids (currently 22 and 18 years old). In my current position, I manage the fire investigation team, which has allowed me to get back involved in this organization. I am excited to continue the relationships I had, and I look forward to developing new relationships with you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me as the Director West board member with any ideas, questions, or concerns you may have. This is an outstanding organization, which takes all of us contributing to continue the excellence. Thank you for allowing me to represent the west part of the state. Go Cyclones!!

2023 Iowa IAAI Seminar

Join us for the 2023 Iowa IAAI Fire Investigation Seminar & Annual Meeting at the Stoney Creek Hotel, Johnston, IA, from September 12-14, 2023. Please watch your emails and our website for updates. www.iowaiaaichapter.org

The Seminar flier is attached with this email.

Electrical Aspects Class

Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigation Hosted by the Iowa IAAI Chapter August 1 - 3, 2023

Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau
7105 NW 70th Avenue, Building 3536 (B-59)
Johnson, IA 50131

This course addresses the critical skills essential to the effective investigation and evaluation of fires involving potential electrical fire causes. This course utilizes state of the art techniques, practices, protocols, and standards to assist investigators to properly and effectively evaluate electrical systems and associated components to ascertain their role in a fire. Students will be provided with a basic knowledge of electricity, electrical circuits and distribution systems, proper evaluation and recognition of commercial Code (NEC) and how it applies to fire investigations. The use of “Arc Mapping” will also be discussed and how it can be effectively used to assist in fire origin determination. Participants will also be able to demonstrate a general knowledge of electricity, electrical circuits, systems and arc mapping principles through a series of instructor-led “hands-on” practical exercises.

Topics to be covered: Scene Safety; Definitions / Terms; Atomic Theory and Electricity; Ohm’s Law / Joules’ Law; Magnetism; AC vs. DC; Transformers; Three Phase Power; Branch Circuits; Service Entrance; Meter Usage; Circuit Breakers; Wiring; Measuring Voltage & Current; Electrical Failure; Evidence Collection; Scene Processing; Electrical Heating; Arcing Through Char & Melting; Examination Hints; Myth Avoidance; Arc Mapping; Open Neutral Failure; Intrusion Alarm and Surveillance Systems; Electrical Examinations; and Case Studies.

You will need to bring a laptop/tablet, power tap and extension cord, regular and Philips screwdriver, wire cutters, and needle nose pliers.

Prerequisites:

CFITrainer.Net® Module Prerequisites:

Arc Mapping Basics

Basic Electricity

Electrical Safety

Residential Electrical Systems

Introduction to Evidence

Prerequisites are required as supporting knowledge for the class and the examination. Materials within the class and examination will reference all Prerequisites.

Fees:

Registration Fees:

IAAI-Member \$450.00

Non-Member \$610.00

Debit/Credit Card payments only. If you must use a check or other means, please contact grace.criscuoli@firearson.com.

Cancellation Structure:

31 days prior to start of class, monies refunded.

30 days prior to start of class, no refund.

Questions? grace.criscuoli@firearson.com

All IAAI offerings are subject to cancellation or changes.

Recent Recalls

Please refer to <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls> with the products that you are investigating.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the IAAI or the Iowa Chapter IAAI.

Contact information:

David Miller

Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company

4215 HWY 146

Grinnell, IA 50112

800-362-2041 ext. 8265

David.Miller@GrinnellMutual.com

**This edition of Firefax was presented by
David Miller, 2nd Vice President**

Layout by Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company

