

# Arson Case Management



**CARTERSON**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP, INC**

**Instructor: Steve Riggs, CFI, CFEI, CVFI & CFII Certified State of Oklahoma (Retired)**

Steve retired after twenty-two years of Law Enforcement, and Fire Service Experience in Oklahoma. Steve has been examining fire scenes for 40 years. Steve possesses a bachelor's degree in Emergency Services Management, Steve has extensive training in Fire Cause Determination, Criminal Investigation, Arson Investigation, Evidence Processing, Interviewing Techniques, and Case Management. He is a certified Police and Fire Instructor, and a Certified Fire Investigator Instructor.

Steve has successfully been involved in many Fire/Arson Prosecutions in Oklahoma and was involved in a Federal Prosecution. Steve has taught nationally for over twenty-two years throughout the United States.

The purpose of this course is to provide Fire Investigators, Law Enforcement Personnel, Insurance Investigators, D.A. Prosecutors, and Private Fire Investigators and all others responsible for Fire Investigation with a course of study, covering investigative techniques used to properly investigate, and conduct a Fire Origin and Cause Investigation. This course of study will reference NFPA 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations and NFPA 1033 Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigators. **Please take time to review the course content on this panel and the breakdown of time panel for a list of topics covered in this course.**

## Performance Objectives:

**Overview Of Fire Behavior:** Provide knowledge of combustible materials, and the different effects that temperatures, melting points, and conditions will have on the fire behavior. Examine the different stages of fire, and discuss the fire indicators and how that information can lead the investigator to the origin and cause of the fire.

**Putting the case together:** We will discuss the different roles of everyone that will be involved in the investigation, and their affect on your investigation. Proper scene security, benefits of a systematic and scientific investigation,

With the proper documentation for your examination.

**Fire Scene Diagramming:** The area of instruction will cover the importance of documentation with diagrams and all the useful benefits a diagram will provide. Examples will be provided.

**Building a trial notebook for prosecutors:** Finding the area of origin and determining the cause. Documenting the contents, interviewing witnesses, owners & occupants. Types of potential evidence present at the scene, identifying evidence, photographing the evidence, packaging the evidence, Writing a search warrant affidavit, Present expert opinions.

**Types of fire setters:** A study of motives and characteristics of different fire setters.

**Insurance Companies:** A vast amount of information often overlooked by investigators. Insurance Companies which are now more than ever are involved in investigations within their SIU (Special Investigative Units We will discuss what information can be shared and the benefits of working together. We will cover the Arson Reporting Immunity Act.

**Excerpts Of Federal Laws/Case Laws:** An overview of some of the important laws that pertain to fire investigation, and certain case law that has come down affecting the investigator in respect to his/her job.

**Courtroom Testimony:** Your case can be won or lost with just one question in a courtroom setting. Learn to be prepared. We will cover some common questions you will encounter, and how to better prepare yourself for court or depositions.

**Writing a origin and cause report:** A properly written and documented report with all of the facts from the case including a systematic approach and the use of a scientific method are a must in today's investigations.

A download resource password will be provided to each attendee. The resources site will lead you to a vast amount of information that can be downloaded.

**This course is great for those just starting into the investigation world, those who have been in the field for a while, of those who want to refresh and pick up new ideas, we will discuss moving your investigations to tablets and why the various reasons for doing so, mainly to simplify your life, and for discovery purposes.**

[www.cartersonpublicsafety.com](http://www.cartersonpublicsafety.com)

Email: [training@cartersonpublicsafety.com](mailto:training@cartersonpublicsafety.com)

Phone: 866-401-9330

# Arson Case Management



## Day One

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

### Registration

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Introduction/Orientation Task Force concepts, A.T.F.E.,  
First Responders, Terminology, Overview Of Fire  
Behavior, Fire Patterns, Computer Fire Modeling.

12:00 Noon - 1:00 p.m.

### Lunch (On Your Own)

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Electrical Fires and Heating Equipment Fires,  
Natural Fires, Overview of Automobile Fires,  
Fire Company's Role In The Investigation, Securing the Fire Scene, Benefits of a Thorough Investigation,  
Documenting the Fire Scene.

## Day Two

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Internet Research and Available  
Information, Fire Scene Diagramming, Origin and Cause Determination, Fire Scene Vectoring.

12:00 Noon - 1:00 p.m.

### Lunch (On Your Own)

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Interviewing Techniques. Types of Evidence, Evidence at fire scenes, Spoliation of Evidence,  
Building a trial notebook for trial or deposition,

## Day Three

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Photographing the scene, Search Warrants, Elements of Arson, Types of Fire Setters/Insurance  
Companies  
Information Available, Potential red flags Courtroom testimony, Use of Mail Covers in the investigation,  
case law review.

Actual Fire Cast Studies will be reviewed by the class as a practical exercise during different sections of  
the course.

12:00 Noon

### Course Conclusion

**Note\*** All times above are approximate and may deviate slightly depending on case studies, questions, and class input.