

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

**DENNIS E. FIELD, CFI**

### **Area of Specialization**

State Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator

### **Background and Professional Experience**

Mr. Field is a Senior Fire Investigator with Fire Cause Analysis. In 2005 Mr. Field retired his position as Battalion Chief with the San Bruno Fire Department. Mr. Field has over 25 years of experience in the fire service working in fire suppression as well as in fire prevention. Mr. Field has conducted over 4000 fire investigations and has testified as an expert in fire investigations in both the civil and criminal court systems throughout California.

Mr. Field has an A.S. degree in Fire Science and a B.A. degree in Social Science. In addition he is a California State Certified Fire Investigator (Level II) through the State Fire Marshal's office as well as a Certified Fire Investigator through the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS. In 2000, Mr. Field was accepted and attended the prestigious Federal Bureau of Investigations Fire /Arson Investigation School at FBI headquarters in Quantico, Virginia. In 2003 he represented his department at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He is a licensed private investigator in California and Nevada. He has received over 300 hours of instruction in the field of fire investigations. Mr. Field also worked with the Pacifica Police Department for two years prior to entering the fire service and is P.O.S.T. certified. His knowledge in the law enforcement sector complements his fire investigation skills, especially in the area of incendiary fires. He served as a member of the San Mateo County Fire Investigation Unit from 1991 thru 2005.

### **Professional Experience**

#### **January 2003 –June 2005**

- **Fire Battalion Chief – Training Chief** - Responsible for supervisory, technical and administrative work within one or more major divisions of the Fire Department. Commander of platoon operations, training division, and fire prevention division. Assumes command of the Department in the absence of the Fire Chief. Develops goals, objectives, policies, budget, public information officer, records and reports, implement comprehensive emergency training programs, conduct fire investigations.

## **January 1994 – January 2003**

**Fire Captain / Interim Fire Battalion Chief** - Responding to fire and medical emergencies with engine, truck, or rescue equipment, conducting shift training and fire prevention activities, planning, organizing, presenting and implementing company inspections, home inspections, weed abatement, fire hazard, citizen complaints and fire investigations.

## **1999**

**Acting Fire Marshal**- plan checking, site inspections, code research, fire safety issues, oversee engine and truck company building inspections, oversee fire prevention related issues. Code enforcement, mitigation of code violations.

## **June 1991 – June 2005**

**San Mateo County Fire Investigation Unit** – Investigation of fires for cause and origin, fire scene photography, collection of evidence, interviewing suspects, making arrests, written reports, and testifying in court. (Secretary-Treasurer 1995-2000)

## **October 1980 – February 1994**

**Firefighter/Acting Fire Captain.** Responding to fire and medical emergencies with engine, truck, or rescue companies, supervising shift personnel, maintaining equipment, conducting shift training and fire prevention activities, planning, organizing, presenting and implementing company inspections, home inspections, weed abatement, fire hazards, citizen complaints, and fire investigation.

## **September 1988 – January 2005**

**Training Advisor** – San Bruno Reserve Firefighter Program. Assist with duties involving reserve firefighter program. Overseeing safety, implementing training techniques, instruction and drilling.

## **1985 – 1987**

**Training Development Committee.** Assist fire chief and staff officers in redefining and modernizing training goals and objectives for firefighters, including research, testing and implementing new training procedures.

## **September 1983 – June 2005**

**Public Education Representative.** Planning, organization and implementation of “Learn Not To Burn” program, teach this program at city elementary schools, counsel juvenile fire setters, organization of Junior Fire Marshal program, public information presentations to organizations regarding fire safety and earthquake preparedness, organization of senior citizens’ home safety inspection program.

## **Education and Training**

**Bachelor of Arts Degree, Social Science**  
California State University, San Francisco, 1976

**Associate of Arts Degree, Fire Science**  
College of San Mateo, 1982

**Community College Limited Teaching Credential 1987**

**Police Officer Standards and Training Academy, Gavilan College, 1979**

Certified State Chief Officer

Certified State Fire Officer I

Certified State Fire Prevention Officer

Certified State Fire Investigator (CFI) Level II

Certified Fire + Explosion Investigator (NAFI)

Certified National Fire Investigator (IAAI)

Certified State Fire Instructor I

Community College Vocational Credential

FBI National Academy, Advanced Arson  
Fire Fighter I

Fire Fighter II

NFPA-Building Fire Safety Systems Section (member)

NFPA-Fire Science and Technology Educators Section (member)

Emergency Medical Technician 1(Defibrillator)

Police Officer Standards and Training

Chemical Agents Training

Law Enforcement Photography

Evidence Collection and Processing

State of California Licensed Private Investigator

Approved Private Investigator – State of Nevada

Investigator San Mateo County Arson Investigator

Auto Extrication,

S.A.F.E.R. Rescue System

Flammable Liquids School

American Red Cross, C.P.R. (basic, and community)

American Red Cross, Lifesaving

American Red Cross, Water Safety

American Red Cross, Standard First Aid

American Red Cross, Advanced First Aid

American Red Cross, First Responder,

High-rise Firefighting

Professional Association of Underwater Instructors

National Association of Underwater Instructors

Fire Fighter Fitness Testing Seminar

Wildland Firefighting-Safety and Attack  
Waterous Fire Pump Instructional Workshop  
Firefighting Tactics  
Fire Hydraulics  
Rescue Practices  
Heavy Rescue  
Fire Management  
Building Construction / Fire Protection Hazardous Materials

### **Professional Affiliations**

California Conference of Arson Investigators (CCAI) member since 1991  
International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) CFI # 10736 and # 22-133  
National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) #12731  
International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI) #03377  
San Mateo County Fire Investigation Team – (retired)  
American Red Cross  
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) #2087010  
Northern California Training Officers Association  
Northern California Fire Prevention Officers Association  
California State Firefighters Association (CSFA)  
Western Regional Master Builders Association  
Western Lath, Plaster, Drywall Association  
Civil Defense-San Mateo County Operational Area  
Contractor's License, C-35, State of California, #457982  
Private Investigator's License, State of California, #15631

### **National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications**

Total fires investigated within career: 4000+  
Private Sector: 1992 to present = 2200+  
Public Sector: 1979 to 2005 = 1800+

Work Distribution: (approximate) 75% structure  
12% vehicle/vessel  
2% wildland/ grass and brush  
11% miscellaneous

Assigned and participated as county fire investigator in conjunction with ATF National Fire Investigation Response Team, Western Region, representing San Mateo County in multi-million dollar incendiary and/or fire losses.

**2010- Instructor, IAMI, Training Seminar, Galveston Texas, Marine Fire Investigation**

**2011- Instructor, Wildland Litigation Conference, San Diego CA, Railroad Fires**

### **Courtroom Expert Testimony:**

San Francisco County Superior Court  
San Francisco County Municipal Court  
San Mateo County Municipal Court  
Contra Costa County Superior Court  
Napa County Superior Court  
Marin County Superior Court  
Sonoma County Superior Court

### **Additional Training:**

Seminars, workshops, and classes attended at the following locations:

San Bruno Fire Department, California State University, San Francisco, College of San Mateo, Skyline College, Gavilan College, Mission College, Oakland Fire Department, San Francisco Fire Department, San Leandro Fire Department, South County Fire Protection District, Santa Clara County Arson Task Force, Sacramento County Arson Task Force, San Mateo County Arson Task Force, Campbell Fire Department, Foster City Fire Department, Daly City Fire Department, South San Francisco Fire Department, Millbrae Fire Department, Canada College, Victor Valley JC, FBI Academy, National Fire Academy, Asilomar.

### **Continuing Education:**

IAAI Annual Training Conference, Denver, May 2006.  
Alameda County Arson Task Force Live Burn and Field Investigation, Hayward 2006.  
IAAI Annual Training Conference, Victoria BC, May 2007  
NFPA 921 Update Training, FCA, August 2008  
IAMI Annual Training Seminar, Portland Oregon, March 2009  
Wildland Fire Litigation Conference, Reno Nevada, April 2009  
IAAI Annual Training Conference, Arlington, TX, May 2009  
CCAI bi-annual Training Conference, San Luis Obispo, Nov. 2009  
IAAI-Investigation and Testimony. Seattle, WA, Nov. 2009  
IAMI-Annual Training Seminar, Galveston Texas, January 2010 (instructor)  
IAAI-Annual Training Conference, Orlando, FL, May 2010  
IAMI-Annual Training Seminar, Chattanooga Tenn., March 2011  
Wildland Fire Litigation Conference, San Diego, CA, April 2011  
IAAI-Annual Training Conference, Las Vegas NV, May 2011

### **Overview:**

Since 1979 Mr. Field has investigated over 4000 incidents involving fire and/or explosions in residential and commercial buildings, marine vessels, motor vehicles, mobile homes, piers, warehouses, factories and construction equipment, as well as numerous fatalities.

Sources of ignition/malfunction have included, but were not limited to: household appliances (HVAC appliances), clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, power tools machinery, microwave ovens, swimming pool equipment, televisions, toasters, water heaters,

cigarette lighters, welding operations, smoking materials, copiers, computers, electronic devices, light fixtures, gas and electric utility lines and services, fuel delivery systems, spontaneous ignition, chemical fires, incendiary devices and explosive devices, farm equipment, gasoline, electric and diesel motors, elevators, machinery rooms, winery operations, tire recycling plants, lumber mills, agricultural buildings and processing facilities, high rise buildings, and public transportation vehicles including mass transportation: buses, railroad, marine and BART vehicles.

Field, Dennis CV.doc 5/2011