

CURRICULUM VITAE DONALD J. PERKINS

Area of Specialization:

Fire Investigation/Litigation Consulting

Background and Professional Experience:

Mr. Perkins' background consists of education/technical training and over 40 years of professional experience. He had worked in a major municipal fire department for 28 years and retired in 1994 at the rank of Captain. As a Fire Suppression Captain, Mr. Perkins worked on shift for over ten years. He was assigned to both Engine and Truck Companies at Battalion Headquarters in one of the busiest fire stations in San Jose, California. He was Incident Commander on numerous fires over the course of his career. Mr. Perkins also held the position of Fire Investigator (2 years) and Arson Unit Supervisor / Investigator for 4 years. During this time frame he conducted or supervised over 3,000 fire investigations. Mr. Perkins was also assigned to the San Jose Fire Prevention Bureau for over six years working in code enforcement, plan checking, and fire protection systems inspections. Mr. Perkins met the standards and successfully passed his tests to be qualified as a Certified Fire Protection Specialist. He recently completed the Wildland Fire Origin & Cause Determination certification class presented by US Forest Service.

Mr. Perkins founded the firm Fire Cause Analysis in 1980 and merged his company with IFT Inc. in 1993. In addition to conducting his own investigations, he presently manages a team of highly qualified fire investigators. Mr. Perkins has conducted or supervised over 4,000 fire investigations and has over 30 years experience in fire/arson investigations with commercial and residential property, vehicle and marine vessels, arson and fraud, and has given expert witness testimony in both State and Federal Courts. Mr. Perkins is a certified Level II Fire Investigator through the California State Fire Marshal's Office. He is also certified by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). He is a licensed Private Investigator in California and Nevada. He has a "Lifetime Teaching Credential" in the State of California and teaches the basic and advanced curriculum in Fire/Arson Investigation as directed by the California State Fire Marshal's Office. Mr. Perkins has taught students enrolled in the Fire Science Program at local colleges as well law enforcement personnel at the Criminal Justice Training Center in San Jose. He has been a guest speaker and lecturer for the California Association of Arson Investigators and the International Association of Arson Investigators. Mr. Perkins dedicated his time for the IAAI

Certified Fire Investigators (CFI) Committee and was also Vice-Chairman of the “IAAI Testing Committee” which writes the national certification test for fire investigators. Mr. Perkins is a “co-author” on the IAAI Development Committee for the NFPA document “A User’s Manual to NFPA 921”.

Education/Training/Special Seminars:

San Jose City College, San Jose, California - 1972

Associate of Arts Degree: Fire Science

West Valley College, Saratoga, California - 1975

Associate of Arts Degree: Business Management

Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms - Glenco, Georgia -Advanced Arson for Profit – 1985
California Fire Academy - Asilomar, California - Fire Investigations - IA, IB, 2A, 2B
California Fire Academy - Asilomar, California - Fire Instructor - IA, IB
California Fire Academy - Asilomar, California - Incident Command Tactics - I, II, III
F.B.I. Academy - Quantico, Virginia - Police/Arson School - 1986
F.B.I. Bomb Investigations - Gilroy, CA - Seminar
National Fire Academy -Emmitsberg, Maryland - Fire/Arson Investigation School - 1979
National Fire Academy - Emmitsberg, Maryland - Fire/Arson Detection Instructor – 1982
National Fire Academy -Emmitsberg, Maryland – Courtroom Testimony Facilitator - 2001
Advanced Fire Investigation - Denver Fire Department - 1981
Arson/Bomb Scene Investigation - Calif. State Fire Marshal's Office 1978
Determining the Cause and Origin of Fires & Explosions - NAFI - 1990
International Association of Arson Investigators-Seminar’s 05-02,00,99,97,95,93,91,89-87
Dynamics of Fire Behavior - Factory Mutual Fire Test Facility - IAAI 10/93
Investigation of Large Loss Fires in Commercial & Industrial Buildings - IAAI - 4/94
Fire Dynamics / Live Burn Training Seminar – IAAI / ATF / NIST - 3/2000
California Conference of Arson Investigators Workshops (1979 – 2005)
Electrical Fire Investigations - San Francisco, California – Seminar - 1982
San Jose Police Department - Crime Scene Investigator School - 1984
California Department of Justice - Sacramento, California - Criminal Analysis - 1983
California Department of Justice - Sacramento, California - Surveillance Techniques - 1986
Santa Clara County Peace Officers School, Post Certified 1976
Third International Conference on Fire Research and Engineering 10/99
Fire Scene Photography - San Francisco, California - Kodak - 1980
Fire Scene Photography - Santa Clara, California – Nikon - 1985
Fire Protection Institute - Houston, Texas - Fire Marshal's of North America 1992
Electrical Fire Investigations in Residential Dwellings - Seminar - 4/94
Advanced Concepts in Fire Investigation - Seminar - 1/93
Electrical & Gas Appliance Fire Investigations - Seminar - 1995
Marine Casualty Investigations School - United States Coast Guard 1985
California Fair Claims Settlement Practices Regulations - 1993 / 1995 / 1997 / 1999
Introduction to Industrial and Commercial Fire Protection Engineering - UC Davis - 12/94
Kinesic Interview Techniques - San Jose, California - 1989
Hazardous Materials Familiarization Seminar - 11/80

Certificate of Achievement in Firemanship - 6/71
Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance / Sabotage Device - 4/69
Public Agency Training Council – Electrical Fire Investigation – 12/01
Fire and Materials 2003 Conference – SF- Fire Cause Investigations – 1/03
NWCG- Wildland Fire Origin & Cause Determination – FI-210 -7/05

Professional Experience:

Fire Cause Analysis (A Division of IFT Inc.), Berkeley, California - 1993 to Present

VICE PRESIDENT / DIRECTOR OF FIRE INVESTIGATIONS - Fire Investigator with the responsibility of directing and managing eight highly qualified fire investigators. Work closely with the insurance industry providing additional services in all fire related disciplines including Computer Modeling, Fire Testing, Fire Safety Consulting, Mechanical & Electrical Engineering and Forensic Studies.

Fire Cause Analysis, San Jose, California - 1980 to 1993

OWNER / FIRE INVESTIGATOR - Licensed Private Investigator working closely with the insurance industry in handling fire cause investigations and consultation work.

San Jose Fire Department, San Jose, California - 1967-1994

FIREFIGHTER - SUPPRESSION / DRIVER - ENGINEER / FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER / FIRE INVESTIGATOR - 1978-1980/ CAPTAIN 1980-1994 / Retired February 4, 1994.

San Jose Fire Department, San Jose, California - 1984 to 1988

UNIT SUPERVISOR - ARSON UNIT - Supervised and managed a staff of five fire investigators. Conducted and supervised over 3,000 investigations. Testified as an expert witness in Municipal and Superior Courts in both Criminal and Civil Cases.

Campbell Fire Department, Campbell, California - 1965-1967

FIREFIGHTER - SUPPRESSION

United States Coast Guard Reserve, 11th Coast Guard District - 1980 to 1989

Marine Safety Office San Francisco, Investigations Unit

MARINE CASUALTY INVESTIGATOR - Conducted numerous marine vessel fire investigations. Investigations included the explosion and fatality aboard the USMV Hess, the "Honda Bluehawk" fire loss, and was member of the Marine Board investigating the fire and explosion aboard the tanker, "Puerto Rican."

Mission College, Santa Clara, California – 1986 to 1994

FIRE SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR - Teach basic and advanced Fire/Arson Investigation Courses to students enrolled in the Fire Science Program. Instruction in Fire Investigation established by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

American River College, Sacramento, California – 1990 to 1997

FIRE SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR - Teach basic and advanced Fire/Arson Investigation

Courses to students enrolled in the Fire Science Program. Instruction in Fire Investigation established by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Evergreen Community College, San Jose, California - 1990 to 1997

Law Enforcement Training Center - Instructor

Teach "Evidence Collection in Arson Investigations" class to Police Officers throughout the State of California.

California Conference of Arson Investigators, San Luis Obispo, California 1997

Guest lecture - July 97' CCAI conference

Live Burn Facilitator – July 2000

California Conference of Arson Investigators, Sacramento, California 1998

Guest lecture - Feb 98' CCAI roundtable

International Association of Arson Investigators, Olympia Washington 1997

Guest Lecture - September 97 - IAAI conference of Washington Fire Investigators

Certified by the California Bar Association for Continued Education - 1996

Instructor for MCLE credits on the “Dynamics of Fire Investigation”

38th RIMS (Risk & Insurance Management Society) Annual Conference -2000

Guest Lecture

34th Annual National Marine Conference West - 2002, National Association of Marine Surveyors Inc., Guest Lecture

Co-Author “Users Guide for NFPA 921 – Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations 2003

IAAI Development Committee - Published by National Fire Protection Association

Marine/Vessel Fire Experience:

US Navy (1961 to 1965) - Served on USS Patrick Henry SSBN 599 (submarine, ballistic, nuclear) and USS Tigron SS419 - WWII fleet submarine - Missile Launch Technician and Torpedoman. Developed an understanding of ships and working knowledge of propulsion systems and equipment used.

US Coast Guard (1980 to 1990) – Reserves - Marine Casualty Investigator - Assigned to Coast Guard Investigations at Coast Guard Island, Alameda, CA. - Conducted numerous investigations in the maritime field with responsibilities including the investigations in the grounding, collisions, sinking of vessels and vessel fires.

Major Vessel Investigations Conducted

Investigation of the “Puerto Rican”, a tanker, which caught fire off the San Francisco coast and sank. The vessel bow and a tank were towed into San Francisco bay for examination. Mr. Perkins was assigned to the Marine Board of Inquiry for the loss and provided information as to possible causes as well as research on the vessel. The research was conducted by diving down to the remains of the vessel, collecting evidence and photographing damage from underwater.

The “Honda Blue Hawk” was carrying hundreds of new 1986 Honda’s, when it caught fire off the coast of California. After its extinguishment it was towed into San Francisco bay where Mr. Perkins examined the vessel and participated in the investigation for the Coast Guard. Since the fire occurred in International waters and the ship was registered in Japan, no formal report was provided.

An explosion and fire on the USS Hess, located at the AAA Naval Shipyard in San Francisco, resulted in a fatality. Mr. Perkins was involved directly with the investigation to determine origin and cause of the explosion.

Mr. Perkins has provided expert witness information for the federal government and the US Attorney General’s office in San Diego on a suspected fire and sinking of a vessel suspected of carrying narcotics.

As a private investigator with Fire Cause Analysis, Mr. Perkins has investigated dozens of fires of all types of vessels, including large sailboats, yachts, pleasure craft, fishing vessels and commercial vessels, including the “Argo Commodore” from the San Francisco “Red & White” fleet and the “Alaska Spirit”, a large commercial fish processing vessel out of Seward, Alaska.

Mr. Perkins is also a certified NAUI Scuba Diver and a qualified Navy diver, which has been useful in conducting investigations and photographing underwater.

Major Fire Investigation Experience:

Mr. Perkins has investigated numerous large loss fires and explosions in a variety of commercial and industrial buildings. The following list provides a sample of the variety of fire investigations he has personally been involved in:

Basic Resources – Asphalt Plant / Propane explosion – Clements, CA
MBA Polymers – Industrial – Dust explosion Richmond, CA
Andros Fire – Manufacturing – Berkeley, CA
Sears – Department Store – Mexico City, Mexico
Interstate Bank Building – Hi-Rise - Commercial Office - Honolulu, Hawaii
Liz Claiborne Factory – Garment Manufacturing – Colombo, Sri Lanka
Subaru Observatory – Observatory - Mauna Kai – Hilo, Hawaii
El-Dorado Hotel – Hotel – Reno, Nevada

North Star – Ski Resort - Restaurant -Truckee, CA
Crescent City Pier – Pier Fire – Crescent City, CA
Santa Barbara Pier – Pier Fire – Santa Barbara, CA
Moro Bay Pier Fire – Moro Bay, CA
San Francisco Pier Fire, San Francisco, CA
Gold Strike Casino – Hotel & Casino – Boulder City, Nevada
KFX - Industrial Coal Processing – Gillett, Wyoming
NUMI Motors – Tank Farm – Fremont, CA
San Francisco Opera House – Opera House – San Francisco, CA
1330 Broadway – Hotel – Oakland, CA
Yaser Store Fire – Retail -Sunnyside, WA
Alaska Spirit – 280’ Fishing Vessel – Seward, Alaska
MV Blue Hawk – Vehicle Transport ship, San Francisco, CA
MV Puerto Rican – explosion/fire on Tanker – San Francisco, CA
USS Hess – explosion – AAA Shipyard, San Francisco, CA
Fregosi Paint – Industrial – San Francisco, CA
Rough & Ready, - Wildland – Rough & Ready, CA
Poe Fire – Wildland – Butte County, CA
Galvin Fire – Wildland – Fallbrook, CA
Coast Sausage Fire – Industrial - Arson – Oakland, CA
Tran Market Fire – Retail Strip Mall – Arson - Stockton, CA
Mountain Cold Storage – Refrigeration cold storage – Washington
Kamps Propane – Propane Incident – Lodi, CA
University of California – Explosion / Fire, Irvine, CA
University of California – Fire, Santa Cruz, CA
University of Honolulu – Fire – Arson - Honolulu, HI
Placer County Water Treatment Facility – Fire – Newcastle CA
Hampton Hotel / Cannery Fire – San Francisco, CA
Orthodox Church – Church - Los Altos, CA
Friar Tucks - Restaurant - Commercial - Nevada City, CA
Union Pacific Railroad – Rail Car - Wyoming
Amtrack - Dining car - Washington, DC
Amtrack – Rail car – New Orleans, LA
Santana Row – Retail / Dwelling – San Jose, CA
Forsgren Shopping Center – Total loss -American Samoa
Redwood Valley Business Park – Industrial - Redwood Valley, CA
Blyth Inc. – manufacturing – Monterey, Mexico
9ines – 9-story high rise – Total Loss - Omaha, Nebraska
Wine Central – Warehouse – Vallejo, CA

Professional Affiliations:

Santa Clara County Arson Task Force - Past President and Training Officer
Central Coast Claims Association – Past President-member
California Arson Prevention Committee - Past Chairman
San Mateo County Arson Task Force – Past Associate Member

Society of Fire Protection Engineers - Associate Member - member
International Association of Arson Investigators – CFI Test Committee – Past Chairman
California Conference of Arson Investigators – Past Training Committee Member
International Association of Firefighters - Past member
Fire Marshals Association of North America
National Fire Protection Association
National Association of Fire Investigators – certified CFI (Past Member)
East Bay Adjusters Association
Sacramento Claims Association
Northern California Fraud Investigators Association
California Association of Licensed Investigators (CALI)

DPerkins CV (10/06)