

John Kitchens Curriculum Vitae

Current Position

Fire Captain/Paramedic, Los Angeles Fire Department
Fire Investigator, Fire Cause Analysis

Duties and Responsibilities

Oversee the delivery of EMS in the City of Los Angeles
Firefighter EMT and Paramedic training
Emergency response Hospital liaison

Fire investigation to determine origin and cause

Fire Employment History

USAF, Fire Protection Specialist – 1973-1976
Crash and Structure firefighting
Fire Prevention
City of Los Angeles Fire
Paramedic – 1979
Fire Prevention – 1983-1994
Fire Investigator
Research and mobile lab (hazardous materials response and regulation)
Fire Captain 1994-present
Fire Prevention – Legal Liaison Unit
Hazardous Materials Response Unit
Field EMS Supervision
Instructor
LA Community College District
Fire Technology
Journalism
UCLA – School of Engineering
O & S Associates
Origin and Cause Investigator (“private” Investigator)

Investigative Experience

Structure Fires	1500+
Vehicle Fires	300+
Wildland Fires	46
Explosions	42

I have been involved in the suppression of more than 2000 fires, and have assisted in approximately 2500 fire investigations.

Formal Education

- Enrolled - Fire Protection Engineering Program
- Enrolled – Master’s of Emergency Services Management Program
- Master’s Degree Public Administration
- Bachelor’s Degree – Fire Safety Management
- Bachelor’s Degree – Business (journalism minor)
- Associate’s Degree – Fire Technology
- Certificate, Fire Protection Engineering
- Certificate, Industrial Hygiene

Vocational Certificates

- California State Fire Marshal certified Level I and II Investigator
- Firefighter I, II, III
- California State Fire Officer
- POST PC 832
- Basic (80 hours) and Advanced (80 hours) Investigative Training
- ATF and FBI bomb and hazardous materials training
- LA Sheriff and LAPD Bomb training
- National Fire Academy fire investigation Certification (80 hours)

I have taught fire investigation in college and university settings, to numerous firefighters, and trained investigators.

Memberships

- CCAI
- IAAI
- NFPA
- Cal Chiefs
- FPO
- IAAF
- CPF

Court Qualifications

I have testified as an expert witness in the origin and cause of fire, and as the investigating and arresting officer in more than 150 court cases, in the municipal and superior courts in the counties of Los Angeles, Ventura, Kern, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Orange, and Riverside. As well, I have testified as an expert witness in fire codes and fire prevention more than 13 times in the counties of Los Angeles, Ventura, and Riverside.

Publications, and Published Articles

Causes of Fire in Firefighter Deaths
Fire Origin and Cause in Oxygen Enriched Atmospheres in Operating Room Settings
Writing the Investigation Report
Cause Determination for the Company Officer
Photographing the Fire Scene
Investigating the Fire Scene in a Scientific Manner
Los Angeles Fire Code, 1988, 1991
High Rise Fire Protection System Testing Procedures
Wildland Fire Prevention Standards, Los Angeles
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Standards, Los Angeles

Hobbies

Amateur Radio	Model/Hobby Rocketry
Fishing	Hiking/Backpacking
Reading	SCUBA (Instructor)

Volunteer

Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber Crew
First Aid/CPR instructor
Pleasant Valley Historical Society
Boy's and Girl's Club
Registered Income Tax Preparer – free return preparations