

Curriculum Vitae Richard K. Peterson, CFI II

Area of Specialization:

Fire Investigation
Hazardous Materials
Terrorism Response

Background and Professional Experience:

- 1973-1976 Firefighter – California Department of Forestry, Tulare Ranger Unit. Responded to over 120 wildfires, six vehicle and four structure fires.
- 1976-1977 District Engineer – Woodlake Fire Protection District. Responded to eight structure, 9 wildland and five vehicle fires.
- 1977-1979 Firefighter/Engineer – Madera City Fire Department. Responded to 10 structure, 7 vehicle and 8 wildland fires.
- 1979-1980 Fire Specialist – University of California Fire Department, Santa Cruz.
- 1980-1983 Fire Captain – University of California Fire Department, Santa Cruz. Investigated 10 structure, 9 wildland and 12 vehicle fires.
- 1983-1985 Fire Captain – Santa Cruz City Fire Department. Investigated 11 structure, 7 wildland and 11 vehicle fires.
- 1985-1993 Deputy Fire Marshal – Santa Clara City Fire Department. Inspect target and high hazard occupancies; enforce all fire and environmental related laws, codes and ordinances. Investigate fires and incidents subject to Fire Department responsibility. Investigated 98 structures, 6 vehicles and an unknown number of miscellaneous fires. Six of these were major losses, exceeding \$1,000,000 in fire loss. Investigated over 200 environmental crimes.
- 1993-present: Assigned to Hazardous Materials Unit (1995-01), Fire Captain, Counter Terrorism Officer, and Commander - Engine 6, Bravo Battalion. Investigate approximately 10 fires each year for Santa Clara.

1981-present: Private Investigator – BSIS License #8649, and #20057. Investigated approximately 450+ fires, primarily structures.

Testified as an expert witness relating to fire origin and cause in the Santa Clara County Judicial District.

Investigated approximately 680+ fires total.

Conducted approximately 200+ environmental crime investigations.

Performed more than 6,500 fire and hazardous materials inspections.

Professional Affiliations:

- Past member of California State Fireman’s Association
- Member of California Conference of Arson Investigators
- Past member of California Reserve Peace Officer’s Association
- Member of International Association of Arson Investigators (20 yr status)
- Secretary to the Santa Clara County Arson Task Force, 1988-89
- Board of Directors, California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association 1989-90
- Member of International Association of Firefighters
- Past Member National Fire Protection Association

Education and Training:

- Taft University - B.S. Law, 1993
- Cogswell Polytechnic College - Presently completing degree requirements for B.S. in Administration and B.S. Fire Prevention Technology
- California State Fire Academy - Fire Investigation (1981-84 levels I-IV, 160 hrs.)
- California State Fire Marshal – Arson and Bomb Investigation (1981 40hrs.)
- State Board of Fire Services – Fire Investigator I (1981 certified #880124)
- National Fire Academy – Fire/Arson Investigation (1988 80hrs)
- Continuing Education Advanced Fire Investigation – 180+ hrs. (CCAI)
- State Board of Fire Services – Fire Officer I (1982 certified #000022)
- National Fire Academy – Chemistry of Hazardous Materials (1991 80hrs.)
- National Fire Academy – Fire Dynamics (1995 OLFS 40hrs.)
- State Board of Fire Services – Fire Investigator II (1994 certified #870122)
- National Fire Academy – Incendiary Fire Analysis & Investigation (2000 OLFS 40hrs.)
- Public Agency Training Council – Fire/Arson Investigation (2000 40hrs.)

- California Specialized Training Institute – Hazardous Materials Technician, and Terrorism, WMD certified (1997-2000)
- Public Agency Training Council – Fire Pattern Certification (2002 24hrs.)
- Public Agency Training Council – Advanced Fire Origin and Cause (2004 24hrs.)
- Controlled burning of eight structures and 59 different fire sets as well as study and conducting flammability tests.
- Informal training of over 900 hrs.

State Board of Fire Services – Instructor I (1994 certified #091690)

As an Instructor, I have developed and taught related training to or for the following agencies:

- Santa Clara County Joint Fire Academy
- Los Medanos College Criminal Justice Training Center
- University of California Fire Department, Santa Cruz
- City of Santa Cruz Fire Department
- City of Santa Clara Fire Department
- City of Santa Clara Police Department
- Santa Clara County Hazardous Waste Task Force
- Santa Clara County Arson Task Force
- California Fire Chief's Association
- Cabrillo College Regional Occupational Training Program
- University of California, Santa Cruz (Santa Clara Extension Program)
- Farmers Insurance Company
- Intel

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