



BERNARD T. "Sandy" KROMENACKER, PI, CFI/CFEI/CFII/CVFI
Senior Analyst – Director of Investigations

Curriculum Vita

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY:

I have over thirty-seven years' experience as a fire and explosion investigator and over twenty-three years' experience in the fire service as both a career and volunteer firefighter. During my tenure as a company commander, it was my responsibility to determine the origin and cause of fire and explosion damage.

I expanded my knowledge in the field of fire and explosion investigation by obtaining a formal education with an Association Degree in Fire Science Technology and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire and Safety Engineering Technology majoring in Arson Investigation.

I enhanced my expertise by obtaining the status of Certified Fire Investigator (IAAI & NCDIOI), Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (NAFI), Certified Fire Investigator Instructor (NAFI), and Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (NAFI).

As fire investigator, I have qualified as an expert witness in state and federal courts. My areas of expertise include product failure analysis; subrogation; fire and explosion investigations in residential and commercial structures; passenger, commercial, and recreational vehicles; marine vessels; fire codes, standards, and safety analysis.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

01/01/00 – Present **Forensic Fire Consultants, Inc.**
646 E. Lakota Drive
Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina 27526
Senior Fire & Explosion Analysis

I am responsible for directing all phases of daily business operations including budget analysis, data processing, and staff development. I am also responsible for determining the origin and cause of fire and explosion damage, analysis of code violations (electric, building code, et.), report writing, collection and preservations of evidence, computer generated diagram and animations, testifying as an expert witness, supervising staff investigators, engineers, and other professionals in failure analysis and research. I am certified to teach fire and criminal investigation courses to adjusters, firefighters, and law enforcement personnel. These courses are certified through Durham Technical Community College, North Carolina Department of Insurance and the National Fire Academy. Additional duties include supervising co-op students from Durham Technical Community College in the field of fire and explosion investigation.

03/08/99 – 12/31/99 **Forensic Analysis & Engineering Corporation**
5301 Capitol Blvd, Suite A
Raleigh, North Carolina
Senior Fire & Explosion Specialist

I was responsible for determining the origin and cause of fire and explosion damage, analysis of code violations, report writing, collection and preservations of evidence, diagramming the incident scene, conducting interviews, testifying as an expert witness, and supervising staff investigators and engineers.

12/15/97 – 03/08/99 **Crawford Investigation Services**
Post Office Box 90084
Raleigh, North Carolina 27675-0084
Special Investigator

I was responsible for determining the origin and cause of fire and explosion damage, analysis of code violations, report writing, collection and preservations of evidence, diagramming the incident scene, conducting interviews, testifying as an expert witness, supervising staff investigators and engineers.

08/01/97 – 12/15/97 **Forensic Fire Consultants**
Post Office Box 90084
Raleigh, North Carolina 27675-0084
Chief Fire Investigator

I was responsible for directing all phases of daily business operations. I am also responsible for determining the origin and cause of fire and explosion damage, analysis of code violations (electric, building code, et.), report writing, collection and preservations of evidence, computer generated diagram and animations, testifying as an expert witness, and supervising staff investigators, engineers, and other professionals in failure analysis and research.

01/15/93 – 09/01/97 **Research Engineers, Inc.**
8821 Midway-West Road
Raleigh, North Carolina 27613
Chief Fire Investigator

I was responsible for determining the origin and cause of fire and explosion damage, analysis of code violations, report writing, collection and preservations of evidence, diagramming the incident scene, conducting interviews, testifying as an expert witness, and supervising staff investigators and engineers

08/05/91 – 01/15/93 **Kinvernon/Rudick Associates, Inc.**
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219
Chief Fire Investigator

I was responsible for determining the origin and cause of fire and explosion damage, report writing, analysis of fire code violations, still photography and video presentation, collection and preservations of evidence, diagramming the fire scene, interviewing witnesses, background investigations, testifying as an expert witness, and supervising staff engineers and investigators in evaluating evidence for possible subrogation.

07/01/90 – 08/05/91 **Forensic Fire Consultants**
5642 Mark Drive
Louisville, Kentucky 40258
Chief Fire Investigator

I was responsible for directing all phases of daily business operations. I am also responsible for determining the origin and cause of fire and explosion damage, analysis of code violations (electric, building code, et.), report writing, collection and preservations of evidence, computer generated diagram and animations, testifying as an expert witness, and supervising staff investigators, engineers, and other professional staff in failure analysis and research.

08/01/84 – 6/30/90 **Jefferson Vocational Education Region**
Kentucky Fire Service Training Unit
9127E Galene Drive
Louisville, Kentucky 40299
Senior Instructor Coordinator

I was responsible for implementing all phases of Fire Service Training programs to fifty-seven fire departments within a seven county area. Assisted Fire Chiefs in evaluating their training programs, and aided them in achieving new standards. Taught various coursed at regional fire schools throughout Kentucky. Additional responsibilities included serving as the EMT/Paramedic Regional Coordinator, and Private Security Training Coordinator. Responsible for curriculum development, teacher/student evaluations, providing in-service training for staff instructors, budget management, and served on various statewide safety and program development committees.

02/01/76 – 10/1/80 **Regional Airport Authority**
Crash, Fire & Rescue
1 Lee Terminal
Standiford Field, Kentucky 40209
Airport Firefighter Specialist

I was responsible for all phases of fire suppression and rescue, fire prevention and inspection, airport perimeter security, training, and vehicle – equipment maintenance.

08/01/69 – 8/1/89 **Pleasure Ridge Park Fire Department**
8504 Terry Road
Pleasure Ridge Park, Kentucky 40258
Volunteer Firefighter

I was responsible for fire suppression, engineer (apparatus operator), company commander responsible as incident commander and fire investigation, fire prevention and company inspections, and training coordinator.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

08/01/83 – 01/01/93 **Eastern Kentucky University**

Richmond Kentucky, 40475

Adjunct Faculty

I was responsible for teaching courses in the Fire and Safety Engineering Technology program. My responsibilities included curriculum development, student evaluation, and implementing strategies to engage students in hands-on learning. During my tenure at EKU, I taught the following courses: Arson Investigation, Introduction to Fire Protection Technology, Fire Control 1, Fire Control Tactics and Strategy, Issues and Problems in the Fire Service, Fire Service Management, and Protective Systems.

08/01/85 – 01/01/93 **Jefferson Community College**

Louisville Kentucky

Adjunct Faculty

I was responsible for teaching courses in the Fire Science Technology program. Additionally, I developed an Associate Degree in Fire Science Technology majoring in Arson Investigation. My teaching responsibilities included curriculum development, student evaluation, and implementing strategies to engage students in hands-on learning. During my tenure at JCC, I taught the following courses: Introduction to Criminal Investigation, Criminal Investigation, and Arson Investigation.

08/01/94 – Present **Durham Technical Community College**

Durham, North Carolina

Adjunct Faculty

I was responsible for teaching courses in the Fire Protection Technology program. My responsibilities included curriculum development, student evaluation, and implementing strategies to engage students in hands-on learning. During my tenure at DTCC, I have taught the following courses: Detection and Investigation, Introduction to Fire Protection, Fire Fighting Strategies, Advanced Fire Fighting Strategies, Issues and Problems in the Fire Service, Fire Service Management, and Protective Systems.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Licensed Private Investigator – License Number 1558
- Qualified in state and federal courts as an expert witness in fire and explosion investigation.
- Certified Fire Investigator – International Association of Arson Investigators
- Certified Fire Investigator – North Carolina Department of Insurance
- Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator – National Association of Fire Investigators
- Certified Fire Investigator Instructor – National Association of Fire Investigators
- Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator – National Association of Fire Investigators
- Experienced Subrogation and Liability Consultant – failure analysis and product defect evaluation.
- Instructor for the National Fire Academy – Fire/Arson Detection, Building Construction
- Certified Continuing Education Instructor for insurance adjusters dealing in property & liability claims – NC Department of Insurance

EDUCATION:

- 1983 Eastern Kentucky University – Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire and Safety Engineering Technology majoring in Arson Investigation.
- 1985 Jefferson Community College – Associate in Applied Science Degree in Fire Science Technology

TRAINING:

KY COMMISSION: FIRE PROTECTION PERSONNEL STANDARDS and EDUCATION

- Total training hours as a firefighter: 7,533 as of 08/09/90.
- Total training hours in Arson Investigation: 771 as of 08/09/90.

FIRE/ARSON EXMINARS ATTENDED:

- 1983 Office of the KY State Fire Marshal: Fire and Arson Investigation, (40 hours tested).
- 1983 Vocational Education Train-the-Trainer – National Fire Academy: Fire/Arson Detection, (16 hours tested).
- 1985 Eastern KY University: Determining the Cause and Origin of Fires, (24 hour non-tested).
- 1985 Green River Firefighters Association: Arson Investigation, (16 hours non-tested).
- 1986 National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, MD: Building Construction Series, Train-the-Trainer, (40 hours tested).
- 1987 National Association of Fire Investigations: Determining the Cause of Fires and Explosions, (40 hours tested).
- 1987 Kentucky State Police: Arson Investigation I, (40 hours tested).

- 1988 Kentucky State Police: Arson Investigation II, (40 hours tested).
- 1988 Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms: Successful Prosecution of an Arson-for-Profit Investigation Seminar, (40 hours non-tested).
- 1988 Eastern Kentucky University: Fourth Annual Fire & Arson Investigation, Seminar, (40 hours non-tested).
- 1988 National Association of Fire Investigators: Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator and Instructor program. (24 hours tested).
- 1988 Kentucky State Police: Arson Investigation III, (40 hours tested).
- 1992 Barker & Herbert Analytical Laboratories: Investigation of Gas and Electric Appliances Fires, (20 hours non-tested).
- 1994 North Carolina Chapter IAAI: Fire Investigation of Wood Framed and Manufactured Homes, (16 hours tested).
- 1999 Insurance Committee for Arson Control: Arson Investigation, (40 hours tested).
- 2000 NC Insurance Crime Information Exchange: Aspects of Insurance Fraud, (15 hours non-tested)
- 2002 NC Insurance Crime Information Exchange: Aspects of Insurance Fraud, (12 hours non-tested)
- 2002 National Association of Fire Investigators: Vehicle Fire, Arson & Explosion Investigation Science & Technology Seminar, (40 hours tested)
- 2003 National Association of Fire Investigators: Vehicle Fire, Arson & Explosion Investigation Science & Technology Seminar, (32 hours tested)
- 2004 NC Insurance Crime Information Exchange: Fraud Detection, (15 hours non-tested)
- 2008 International Association of Arson Investigators: Forensic Fire Scene Reconstruction, (24 hours tested)
- 2013 International Association of Fire Investigators: Documenting the Fire Scene: A Practical approach Based on NFPA 921-2011 (Online course), (2 hours non-tested)
- 2014 NC Association of Private Investigators – Fall Conference: Fraud Investigation, (12 hours non-tested)
- 2014 Society of Fire Protection Engineers: Global Professional Recognition of the Fire Protection Engineer (Online Webinar), (1 hour non-tested)
- 2014 International Association of Fire Investigators: Ten Most Common Fire Scene Errors (Online), (2 hours non-tested)

- 2015 National Fire Protection Association: Alternative Fuel Vehicles (On-line training), (3 hours non-tested)
- 2017 Cary Police Department: Citizen Police Academy (48 hours non-tested)
- 2018 National Academy of Forensic Engineers: Mechanical Failure, Fire Investigation, and Advanced Fire Investigation for Professional Engineers, (12 hours non-tested)
- 2018 National Association of Fire Investigators: Vehicle Fire, Arson & Explosion Investigation Science & Technology Seminar, (32 hours tested)
- 2019 Indigent Defense Services: Effective Use of Expert Testimony – A Seminar for Experts and Attorneys, (4.5 hours non-tested)
- 2019 National Association of Fire Investigators: Advanced Fire and Explosion Investigation, which included Fire Investigation Photography, Diagraming the Fire & Explosion Scene, Fire Investigator Scene Safety, Origin Determination, Fire Chemistry & Fire Dynamics, Electricity and Fire (32 hours non-tested)
- 2020 South Carolina IAAI – Advanced Fire Death Investigation – presented by Ed Nordskog and Joe Konefal, (16 hours non-tested)
- 2020 South Carolina IAAI - Challenges to Expert Qualifications, Methodology, & Opinions – presented by Mr. David E. Bridges, Esq., IAAI-CFI, IAAI-CI, (Meagher & Geer, P.L.L.P.), (8 hours non-tested)

OTHER RELATED COURSES:

- 1985 National Fire Academy: Conducting Basic Fire Prevention Inspections, (16 hours tested).
- 1985 Office of the KY State Fire Marshal: Home Fire Safety, (16 hours non-tested).
- 1986 Vocational Education Train-the-Trainer – National Fire Academy course: Recognizing and Identifying Hazardous Materials, (24 hours non-tested).
- 1986 Vocational Education Train-the-Trainer – National Fire Academy course: Initial Company Tactical Operations, (16 hours tested).
- 1986 Vocational Education Train-the-Trainer – National Fire Academy course: Commanding the Initial Response, (16 hours tested).
- 1986 Green River Firefighters Association: Fire Ground Commander seminar, (16 hours non-tested).
- 1987 Kentuckian HazMat Conference and School: Hazardous Materials - Incident Analysis, (24 hours tested).
- 1987 National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg MD: Fire Risk Analysis: A Systems Approach, (16 hours tested).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) – Currently serving on the Board of Directors
- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – Training and Education Committee, and Membership committee
- ASTM International – Member currently serving on the Fire Standards (E05) and Forensic Sciences (E30) committees
- National Academy of Forensic Engineers (NAFE) Affiliate Member serving on the Fire Investigation Committee.
- North Carolina Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (NCIAAI)
- South Carolina Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (NCIAAI)
- Kentucky Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (KYIAAI) – Past First Vice President
- Kentucky Arson Task Force – Past President
- Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) – Affiliate Member
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) – Member serving on the Fire Science and Technology Educators committee, Education committee, Research committee, Fire Service committee, and Electrical committee
- Raleigh Claims Association – Affiliate Member
- North Carolina Insurance Crime Information Exchange – Member
- National Academy of Expert Witnesses – Member serving on the Fire Investigation Training Committee.
- NC Bar Association – Member of the Small Firm and Technology
- Citizens Assisting Police (CAP) – Cary Police Department, Cary, North Carolina

AWARDS:

- Certificate of Appreciation, Jefferson Count Fire Prevention Inspector's Association for establishing a Juvenile Firesetter's program.
- Certificate of Service, City of Shively, Ky. For establishing a 400 hour basic recruit class of the Shively Fire Department.
- Colonel, Aid de Camp, the highest civilian award given by the Kentucky State Police Commissioner. This award was in recognition for establishing Kentucky's first Arson Certification Program.
- Certificate of Appreciation, Kentucky State Police for establishing Kentucky's first Arson Certification Program.
- Certificate of Appreciation, Department of Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for assisting in the Arson-for-Profit program.