



Marc Fennell, IAAI-CFI
Regional Fire O&C Practice Manager

Mr. Fennell serves as a Regional Fire O&C Practice Manager, who is an experienced criminal defense expert with a demonstrated history of working in the fire protection, insurance and fire and explosion forensics industry. He has conducted investigations for criminal defense, appellate attorneys, and public defender entities to determine the origin and cause of fire and explosion incidents and other assigned investigative activities. Mr. Fennell has directed technical reviews on forensic investigation projects, collaborated with attorneys, investigators, vendors and clients to assure the best results possible throughout the investigation and litigation process.

Mr. Fennell is a Certified Fire Investigator (IAAI-CFI) with the International Association of Arson Investigators and is a Licensed Private Investigator. He has an undergraduate degree in Fire Science and a graduate degree from Columbia Southern University. Mr. Fennell has testified and been qualified as an expert witness in court proceedings and depositions involving forensic investigations on multiple occasions. He also participates in pro-bono criminal cases for those who have been wrongly convicted of arson related crimes.

Mr. Fennell has served as a manager in the fire investigation industry and was responsible for the project management, claim management, training, recruiting, and daily operations of a multi-state fire and engineering firm. Responsibilities include technical management of all regional and national investigations, technical consultation with staff in the field, providing technical guidance and assistance on large fire and explosion losses, and assisting staff with the identification of subrogation and recovery potential on fire and explosion incidents. He also spoken to a group of International Criminal Defense Lawyer Associations, State Criminal Defense Associations and the National Association for Public Defenders about strategies for an arson trial, preparing for a Daubert Hearing and litigation involving arson cases.

Professional Experience

J.S. Held | Regional Practice Manager | 2019-Present

Fire and explosion evaluations in commercial, residential, industrial facilities and heavy equipment. Investigates fires involving farm equipment, vehicles, industrial equipment, laundry appliances, fireplaces and chimney appliances, mechanical equipment and electrical devices. Assesses potential liability and subrogation issues. Collects, documents, and preserves evidence to ensure the chain of custody. Conducts interviews with witnesses, responding firefighters, state and local fire marshal agencies, and other pertinent third-party individuals and organizations. Provides expert technical and scientific support to claims personnel for litigation purposes. Conducts code compliance research to evaluate potential electrical, gas, and installation code violations. Assists personnel with product design failure analysis to determine if the product was the cause or contributing factor in a loss.

Viking Corporation | Claims Manager | 2017-2019

Fire protection product liability evaluations in commercial, residential and industrial facilities. Investigates product liability activations for causation and failure analysis. Manage the entire life cycle of the claim. Responsible for approving the settlement of the claim. Assesses potential liability and subrogation issues. Collects, documents, and preserves evidence to ensure the chain of custody. Conducts interviews with witnesses, responding firefighters, state and local fire marshal agencies, and other pertinent third-party individuals and organizations. Provides expert technical and scientific support to clients for litigation purposes.

Allianz Insurance | SIU Specialist | 2016-2017

Fire and explosion evaluations in commercial, residential, industrial facilities and heavy equipment. Investigates fires involving farm equipment, appliances, mechanical equipment and electrical devices. Assesses potential liability and subrogation issues. Collects, documents, and preserves evidence to ensure the chain of custody. Conducts interviews with witnesses, responding firefighters, state and local fire marshal agencies, and other pertinent third-party individuals and organizations. Provides expert technical and scientific support to claims personnel for litigation purposes. Conducts code compliance research to evaluate potential electrical, gas, and installation code violations. Assists personnel with product design failure analysis to determine if the product was the cause or contributing factor in a loss.

Rimkus Consulting Group | Fire Consultant | 2014-2016

Fire and explosion evaluations in commercial, residential, industrial facilities, automobiles and heavy equipment. Investigates fires involving fireplaces/chimneys, appliances and electrical devices. Assesses potential liability and subrogation issues. Collects, documents, and preserves evidence to ensure the chain of custody. Conducts interviews with witnesses, responding firefighters, state and local fire marshal agencies, and other pertinent third-party individuals and organizations. Prepares detailed, written investigative reports pertaining to the origin and cause and investigative activities of the fire and explosion incidents. Provides expert technical and scientific support to clients for litigation purposes. Conducts code compliance research to evaluate potential electrical, gas, and installation code violations. Assists personnel with product design failure analysis to determine if the product was the cause or contributing factor in a loss.

Unified Investigations and Science | Field Supervisor | 2010-2014

Fire and explosion evaluations in commercial, residential, industrial facilities, automobiles, heavy equipment, and marine conveyances. Investigates fires involving appliances and electrical devices. Assesses potential liability and subrogation issues. Collects, documents, and preserves evidence to ensure the chain of custody. Conducts interviews with witnesses, responding firefighters, state and local fire marshal agencies, and other pertinent third-party individuals and organizations. Prepares detailed, written investigative reports pertaining to the origin and cause and investigative activities of the fire and explosion incidents. Provides expert technical and scientific support to clients for litigation purposes. Conducts code compliance research to evaluate potential electrical, gas, and installation code violations. Assists personnel with product design failure analysis to determine if the product was the cause or contributing factor in a loss. Provides technical supervision and assistance to investigators based in the Midwest region. Responsible for the recruitment and retention of forensic investigators and engineers within region.

Ken Shelley Associates | Fire Investigator | 2008-2010

Conduct fire, arson, and explosive investigations including residential, commercial, and vehicular losses for clients. Collect and preserve evidence ensuring a precise chain of custody. Conduct interviews with property owners, witnesses, investigators, and pertinent third-party organizations. Photograph scenes and prepare detailed written investigative reports as to the conclusions and opinions of the subject loss. Testify in related depositions and trials.

Grand Rapids Charter Township Fire Department | Sergeant-Fire Marshal | 2002-2008

Respond to emergencies and request for service throughout jurisdiction. Conducted fire inspections throughout businesses within response area and obtain compliance with various NFPA Codes. Conducted structural training fires for firefighters and fire investigators. Conducted fire investigations to determine origin and cause. Worked within a county task force framework to network and build criminal cases. Prepared and presented department-wide training in several subject areas. Conducted fire and life safety inspections.

Plainfield Township Fire Department | Part-time Firefighter | 2004-2008

Response to fire and medical scenes with fire apparatus, use of extrication tools, operation of fire suppression equipment, report writing, assist with public education activities and additional assignments per the public safety officer request. Assist with fire investigations-origin and cause, interviews, scene documentation. Attend weekly training sessions.

Ada Township Fire Department | Paid on call Firefighter | 1999-2004

Response to fire and medical scenes with fire apparatus, use of extrication tools, operation of fire suppression equipment, report writing, assist with public education activities and additional assignments per the public safety officer request. Assist with fire investigations-origin and cause, interviews, scene documentation. Attend weekly training sessions.

Ionia Public Safety Department | Paid on call Firefighter | 1994-1999

Response to fire and medical scenes with fire apparatus, use of extrication tools, operation of fire suppression equipment, report writing, assist with public education activities and additional assignments per the public safety officer request. Assist with fire investigations-origin and cause, interviews, scene documentation. Attend weekly training sessions.

Testimony

Kalamazoo County (Michigan) Circuit Court, Origin and Cause Expert Testimony, May 2010
Ingham County (Michigan) Circuit Court, Origin and Cause Expert Testimony; September 2010
Kent County (Michigan) Circuit Court, Origin and Cause Expert Testimony; February 2011
Kalamazoo County (Michigan) Circuit Court, Origin and Cause Expert Testimony; June 2012
Kent County (Michigan) Circuit Court, Origin and Cause Expert Testimony; September 2012
Montcalm County (Michigan) Circuit Court, Origin and Cause Expert Testimony, January 2013
Crawford Country (Michigan) Circuit Court, Origin and Cause Expert Testimony, August 2020
Brown County (Wisconsin) Circuit Court, Origin and Cause Expert Testimony, April 2021
El Paso County (Colorado) Circuit Court, Origin and Cause Expert Testimony, July 2021

Education

Master of Business Management, Columbia Southern University, Orange Beach AL,
Bachelor's degree in Fire Science – Columbia Southern University, Orange Beach AL
National Fire Academy Graduate-Fire and Arson Investigation-Emmitsburg MA

Professional Certifications, Registrations & Licenses

Certified Fire Investigator – International Association of Arson Investigators-NFPA 1033 - Compliant
Certified Fire Officer I, II, III, Haz Mat Awareness and Operations, Train the Trainer
Certified Fire Officer III, National Fire Protection Association Standard (NFPA 1021)

Certified Hazardous Materials Emergency Response –Operations (NFPA 472)
Certified Hazardous Materials Emergency Response–Awareness (NFPA 472)
Certified Homeland Security Explosives Train the Trainer
Certified Firefighter I & II, Certified Instructor

Professional Memberships

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
Illinois Chapter of IAAI
National Fire Protection Association
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan
Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Arkansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice
Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
Kentucky Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
Idaho Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
Colorado Criminal Defense Bar Association
National Association for Public Defense
The Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science-Fire & Explosion Subcommittee

Speaking Engagements

Mr. Fennell has coordinated and instructed continuing education training seminars in forensic investigation for defense attorneys, appellate attorneys, and public defenders tasked with the investigation of fire and explosion incidents and continuing education classes. He also spoken to State Criminal Defense Associations, an International Forum of Legal Professionals, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the National Association for Public Defenders about strategies for an arson trial, preparing for a Daubert Hearing and litigation involving arson cases.

Specialized Training

Minnesota IAAI-Commercial Kitchen Fire Protection Systems-May 2021-2 hours (Tested)
Minnesota IAAI-Case Study: The Use of an Explosion to Conceal a Homicide-May 2021-2 hours (Tested)
Minnesota IAAI-What Can Your Forensic Laboratory Tell You? -May 2021-2 hours (Tested)
Minnesota IAAI-Case Study: Molly Delgado Filicide Investigation, May 2021-2 hours (Tested)
Minnesota IAAI-NFPA 1321: Standard on Fire Investigation Units-May 2021-1 hour (Tested)
OSHA 40-hour HAZWOPER Certified, July 2020 (Tested)

F.I.R.E. Associates-Certified Fire Inspector, June 2016 (Tested)

CSIA-Chimney Sweep Certification Course, June 2014-40 hours (Tested)

Vehicle Theft & Fire School, October 2-5, 2012 – 32 Hours (Tested)

DeLisle, Asbestos Operations & Maintenance, February 2012 – 16 Hours (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, The Practical Application of the Relationship between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921, 2011 (2 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Preparation for the Marine Fire Scene, 2011 (4 hrs.) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, The Potential Value of Electronic Evidence in Fire Investigations, 2011 (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, A Ventilation-Focused Approach to the Impact of Building Structures and Systems on Fire, 2011 (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Fire Investigator Scene Safety, 2011 (3 hrs) (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Hazardous Materials Operations Train the Trainer, 2006 (8 hrs) (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Hazardous Materials-Awareness Train the Trainer, 2006 (8 hrs) (Tested)

Michigan Chapter of International Association of Arson Investigators, 2006 (30 hrs), (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, National Response Plan: An Introduction, 2005 (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council NIMS: An Introduction, 2005 (Tested)

National Fire Academy (FEMA), Fire/Arson Investigation, (80 hrs) (Tested)

City of Grand Rapids Fire Department, High Rise Strategy/Tactics & IMS, 2004 (16 hrs) (Tested)

Michigan Fire Inspectors Society, National Fire Protection Association, NFPA Plan Examiner I, 2003 (24 hrs) (Tested)

Michigan Fire Inspectors Society, National Fire Protection Association, NFPA Fire Inspectors Course (80 hrs) (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Incident Command System, 2003 (Tested)

New Mexico Tech University, Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings, 2002 (32 hrs) (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Firefighter Health and Safety, 2002, (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Leadership III, 2002 (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Leadership II, 2002 (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Leadership I, 2002 (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Managing Company Tactical Operations- Tactics, 2001, (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Wildland Fire Behavior S-190, 2001, (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Building Construction: Noncombustible, 2001 (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Introduction to Fire Inspections Principles and Practices, 2001 (Tested)

Michigan Propane Gas Association, Handling Gas Emergencies, 2000, (4 hours) (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Building Construction: Principles, 2000 (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Firefighter Safety and Survival, 2000 (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Instructional Techniques for Comp. Officer, 2000 (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Fire Service-Team, 2000 (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Fire Service Supervision-Personal, 2000, (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Managing Comp. Tactical Operations- Decision, 2000 (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Records and Reports, 2000, (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Educational Methodology, 2000 (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, IFSTA Instructor Orientation, 2000, (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Arson Detection for the First Responder, 2000 (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Managing Co. Tactical Operations- Preparing, 1999 (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Incident Command System, 1999 (Tested)

Michigan State Police, Terrorism Awareness for First Responders, 1999, (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Firefighter II, 1995 (240 hrs.) (Tested)

Michigan State Police, Hazardous Materials Operations, 1994, (Tested)

Michigan Firefighters Training Council, Firefighter I, 1994 (240 hrs) (Tested)

CFI Trainer.net

International Association of Arson Investigators, Residential Electrical Systems, CFITrainer.net, April 13, 2021 (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Introduction to Youth-Set Fires, CFITrainer.net, April 13, 2021 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Thermometry, Heat, and Heat Transfer, CFITrainer.net, April 13, 2021 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Insurance and the Fire Investigation, CFITrainer.net, March 24, 2021 (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Preventing Occupational Exposures to Carcinogens at the Fire Scene, CFITrainer.net, August 20, 2020 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Introduction to Appliances, CFITrainer.net, April 2, 2020 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Causes, CFITrainer.net, March 16, 2020 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, CFITrainer.net, March 31, 2020 (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Fire Chemistry, CFITrainer.net, February 6, 2020 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Fire Flow Analysis, CFITrainer.net, February 3, 2020 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, What the Insurance Professional Needs to Know About Fire Investigation, CFITrainer.net, May 24, 2019 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Fire Investigation for Fire Officers, CFITrainer.net, May 24, 2019 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Residential Natural Gas Systems, CFITrainer.net, May 22, 2019 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Ethical Duties Beyond the Fire Scene, CFITrainer.net, May 22, 2019 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Understanding Undetermined, CFITrainer.net, May 18, 2019

(3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Discovery in Criminal Cases, CFITrainer.net, May 18, 2019

(3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Discovery in Civil Cases, CFITrainer.net, May 15, 2019, (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Investigating Natural Gas Systems, CFITrainer.net, May 13, 2019 (3 hrs) (Tested)

Fire Protection Systems, International Association of Arson Investigators, CFITrainer.net, July 20, 2017 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical, and Fuel Systems, CFITrainer.net, May 19, 2017 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake, and Accessory Systems, CFITrainer.net, May 29, 2017 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Understanding the Fire Investigator's Job: A Guide for Non-Investigators, CFITrainer.net, May 18, 2017 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, The Deposition Part 1: Format, Content, and Preparation, CFITrainer.net, February 3, 2015 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Basic Electricity, CFITrainer.net, September 20, 2014 (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Process of Elimination, CFITrainer.net, August 26, 2014 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, NFPA 921 and 1033 2014 Editions: Important Revisions Tested, CFI Trainer.net, February 19, 2014 (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, NFPA1033 and Your Career, CFITrainer.net, February 4, 2013 (2 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, CFITrainer.net, February 4, 2013 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Using Resources to Validate Your Hypothesis, CFITrainer.net, February 4, 2013 (2 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigation, CFITrainer.net, January 20, 2013 (16 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA

1033 and NFPA 921, August 4, 2012 (2 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, The Hazwoper Standard, 2011 (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Critical Thinking Solves Cases, 2011 (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, The Fire Investigator & the 2011 NFPA 921 Changes, 2011 (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Post Flashover Fires, 2011 (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene, 2011 (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Explosion Dynamics, 2011 (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, DNA, 2011 (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations, 2011 (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, How First Responder Impacts Fire Investigation, 2011 (2 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, MagneTek: A Case Study in the Daubert Challenge, 2011 (2 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Search and Seizure, 2011 (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab, 2010 (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Effective Investigation and Testimony, 2010, (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Electrical Safety, 2010, (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Understanding Fire through the Candle Experiments, 2009, (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Motive, Means, and Opportunity: Determining Responsibility in an Arson Case, 2009, (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Introduction to Evidence, 2009, (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Fire and Explosion Investigations: Utilizing NFPA 1033 and 921, 2009, (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Documenting the Event, 2009, (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Arc Mapping Basics, 2009, (4 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Ethics and the Fire Investigator, 2005, (3 hrs) (Tested)

International Association of Arson Investigators, Updated 2009- The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, 2005, (3 hrs) (Tested)