

**FIRE INVESTIGATION
INSTRUCTORS**



BRIAN M HOBACK
CFI & RET. NRT/ATF



BARRY M GRIMM
CFI IAAI 2019-20
PRESIDENT

IDAHO CHAPTER IAAI CONFERENCE

TWO TRACKS TO CHOOSE FROM

November 5-7

2024 Annual Conference & Meeting
Track #1: Advanced Fire Investigation

Idaho Chapter Members \$250

Non-Chapter Members \$350

1 Hoku Way Pocatello, ID 83204

**NOVEMBER 4-8
FUNDAMENTALS
OF FIRE
INVESTIGATION**

**POCATELLO
IDAHO**

TRACK #2 40- Hour Class
\$300 for Chapter Members
\$400 Non- Chapter Members

**Book your group rate for Fire Investigator's Conference \$110 per night Last
Day to Book : Monday, October 21, 2024**

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IDAHO CHAPTER IAAI CONFERENCE

TWO TRACKS TO CHOOSE FROM

November 5th



BRIAN M HOBACK
CFI & RET.NRT/ATF

**Title: Innocence Project and Your
Old Case**

**Date: November 5, 2024
Session Overview:**

This all-day session will focus on how the Innocence Project challenges old cases by presenting "new evidence," which often involves claims of "false testimony" by investigators due to evolving scientific standards. The speaker will explore whether the evidence truly reflects new science or is simply a reinterpretation of existing data. Attendees will examine three real cases the speaker has been involved in and discuss the results.

Key topics include:

- How the Innocence Project targets old cases.
- Report writing, trial testimony, technical and peer reviews.
- Analyzing past case work and learning how it's questioned today.
- Trial transcripts and evidence will be presented to show how old cases are being re-evaluated.

Brian M. Hoback is a retired Special Agent and Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) for the ATF, where he also served as a National Response Team (NRT) Supervisor. Starting his career in 1987, he received the "Dedicated to Service" award from President George Bush in 1991 for his work on a serial bombing case involving the murder of a Federal Appellate Judge and a Civil Rights Attorney.

In 1999, Hoback became the Program Manager for the NRT at ATF Headquarters, and in 2001, he was appointed NRT Supervisor for the Western Region. Throughout his career, he responded to over 112 national and international callouts, including major incidents like the Pentagon attack on 9/11, a fire in Peru's National Bank, and gas line bombings in Mexico. He also led investigations into serial arsons, such as the church fire investigations in Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas, and he supervised the response to the West, TX ammonium nitrate explosion in 2013.

Hoback has taught fire and explosion investigation to ATF agents, as well as at national and international seminars, including at ILEA in Thailand. He has been selected to instruct at ATF's National Academy at FLETC in Georgia and the National Center for Explosives Training and Research (NCETR).

In addition to his ATF career, Hoback has consulted on legal cases, including work opposing the Innocence Project, where he reviewed high-profile cases involving arson convictions. He has also worked as a licensed private investigator in Texas, advising on fire and explosion litigation. Currently, he operates Brian Hoback Consulting, LLC.

**POCATELLO
IDAHO**

**Track #1: Advanced Fire Investigation Topics
8:00AM to 5:00pm Tu.-Th. Lunch will be
catered to the site all three days.**



IDAHO CHAPTER IAAI CONFERENCE

TWO TRACKS TO CHOOSE FROM

November 6th



**Javier Cervantes - Chief
Deputy State Fire
Marshal**

**The evaluation of
suppression & alarm
system for fire
investigation 4-hour
CE**

Course Title: Fundamentals of Physical Evidence Collection in Fire Investigations

Instructor: Idaho State Forensic Crime Lab

Course Description:

This 4-hour introductory course, led by professionals from the Idaho State Forensic Crime Lab, offers fire investigators a foundational understanding of the essential techniques for identifying, preserving, and collecting physical evidence at fire and explosion scenes. Drawing from the principles outlined in NFPA 921, this course covers the basics of scene security, documentation, and the proper handling of physical evidence to ensure its integrity and admissibility in legal proceedings.

Participants will gain practical knowledge on how to effectively collect and package key types of evidence, such as fire debris, accelerants, and electrical components, while maintaining the chain of custody. The course also introduces methods for working with forensic labs to analyze collected evidence, emphasizing the importance of proper documentation and communication between investigators and forensic experts.

Key topics include:

Basic scene preservation and contamination control
Collection techniques for fire debris and accelerants
Overview of proper packaging and labeling of evidence
Chain of custody basics to ensure legal admissibility
Introduction to laboratory analysis of fire evidence
Through concise lectures, real-world examples, and interactive discussions, participants will leave with a practical understanding of the core responsibilities involved in fire scene evidence collection, providing a solid foundation for further training in fire investigations.

Javier Cervantes - Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal

Javier Cervantes -Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal, bringing extensive knowledge and experience to his new leadership role. Javier began his career with the office in October 2017 as a Fire Plans Examiner, quickly establishing himself as an expert in fire prevention and investigation. In 2021, he was promoted to Deputy Fire Marshal, continuing to expand his skill set and contributions to the office.

Javier's expertise and leadership abilities have earned him recognition as an instructor at the National Fire Academy, where he teaches Fire Prevention Principles and Fire Sprinkler Plan Review. Known as the office's "go-to" resource for fire sprinklers and fire prevention issues, Javier's talents and approachable demeanor make him an invaluable asset to the State Fire Marshal's Office.

**POCATELLO
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IDAHO CHAPTER IAAI CONFERENCE

TWO TRACKS TO CHOOSE FROM

November 7th



BARRY M GRIMM
CFI IAAI 2019-20
PRESIDENT

Course Title: Interview and Interrogation,
Patterns, Evidence, Photography, and
Documentation in Fire Investigations
Instructor: Detective 1st Class Barry M.
Grimm (Retired)

Course Description:

Taught by retired Detective Barry M. Grimm,
this course includes four two-hour sessions
covering key aspects of fire investigations,
such as interview and interrogation
techniques, fire pattern recognition,
evidence collection, photography, and
documentation.

Referencing NFPA 921 and NFPA 1033, the
course focuses on best practices for
accurate and legally sound investigations,
emphasizing the importance of proper
documentation and evidence handling.

Audience: Fire investigators, law
enforcement, and responders seeking to
enhance investigative skills.

Duration: Four 2-hour sessions (8 hours
total)

This course provides essential tools for
improving investigation techniques and
adhering to NFPA standards

Short Bio, Detective 1st Class Barry M. Grimm (Retired)

Detective Grimm served as a police officer in a large municipality in Monmouth County NJ for over 30 years prior to retiring . Most of that time was spent (25+ years) in the Major Crimes Unit as a Detective. Major Crimes providing Forensics as well as fire/arson IV and all death investigations.

In the late 80's Barry began instructing at NFA providing instruction both on and off campus in the Arson Curriculum concentrating on Interview Interrogation courtroom, Fire/Arson, and Forensic Evidence (being chosen to teach the first offerings in the country)

Barry continues to teach at NFA in the most current Fire Arson curriculum and in June 2022 will teach the new residential 6-day Courtroom/Report writing course and the monthly Fire Arson Course R772. These courses partner with ATF and IAAI.

Barry is a past President of the NJ IAAI and served as President of the International from 2019 to 2020, now serving on the International T&E Committee, he has taught in forty plus states in the US. Barry is a US Army veteran.

**POCATELLO
IDAHO**

Register by November 1st 2024
<https://www.firearson.com/>



IDAHO CHAPTER IAAI CONFERENCE

TWO TRACKS TO CHOOSE FROM

November 4th-8th

Track #2: Fundamentals of Fire Investigation:

This class qualifies for the IAAI-FIT Track-A requirement of a 40-hour fundamentals class. We will not be holding FIT testing at the conference.

Monday, Nov. 4th through Friday, Nov. 8th

7:30AM to 5:00PM M.-Th., Noon end time on Friday. Lunch will be catered to the site M-Th.

This course will establish a foundation to which a student can build on and become a successful fire investigator. You will learn how the scientific method is used to identify the origin and cause of the fire and you will understand the importance of a systematic approach. This course will cover fire dynamics, photo documentation, the effects of ventilation on fire patterns, evidence collection, common ignition sources, and much more.

This course features Fire Investigator: Principles and Practice, Sixth Edition, covering the 2020 NFPA 921 and 2021 NFPA 1033 standards. The textbook is included with the course cost.

NFPA 921 and 1033 will also be referenced but are not required for the class.

Students are also encouraged to create a free account at www.cfitrainer.net and take the following three classes.

- 1. Ethics and the Fire Investigator (3 hours)**
- 2. NFPA 1033 and Your Career (2 Hours)**
- 3. The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921 (2 hours)**



Glen Powell served nearly 28 years with the Pocatello Fire Department, holding roles such as firefighter/EMT, company officer, and code enforcement officer. As Captain of the Fire Prevention Bureau, he focused on fire investigation, joining the department's investigation team full-time in 2008. Glen became a Certified Fire Investigator in 2016 and a Certified Instructor in 2020 through the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI).

An IAAI member since 2011, Glen has also been active in the Nevada and Utah Chapters since 2018. He served as Idaho Chapter President in 2019 and contributed to the training committee. Glen enjoys mentoring new fire investigators and sharing his expertise.

The registration deadline for the Fundamental Fire Investigation course is October 25th. Space is limited, so sign up soon to secure your spot
<https://www.firearson.com/>