

Edward S. Clark, CFI, CFEI, CVFI

West Coast Fire Investigations

OFFICE

26821 Merced Street
Menifee, CA 92584

CONTACT

951-314-9956
Wcfi.ed@gmail.com

WEBSITE

westcoastfireinvestigation.com

PROFILE

Mr. Clark is a licensed Private Investigator and IAAI and CCAI Certified Fire Investigator who has more than 25 years of experience in the fire service and 25 years as an investigator, specializing in all aspects of residential, commercial, wildland, and vehicle fires. He has also served as a fire service professional, Firefighter/Paramedic, Fire/Arson Investigator, and hazardous-materials specialist.

Mr. Clark has been the principal investigator at over 1,500 fire investigations and involved in fire suppression activity on more than 3,500 fires of various types including structure, vegetation, vehicle, and flammable liquid fires. He has advanced training in fire behavior, burn pattern analysis, identification of accelerants and firebomb devices most used in incendiary fires. He has conducted progressive fire investigations which included search and seizure law, insurance fraud, search warrant preparation and review. He has a broad technical overview of fire prevention codes, ordinances and inspection practices and expertise with key hazards such as flammable and combustible liquids, gases, explosives, fireworks, and extinguishing systems. Mr. Clark has knowledge of California codes, ordinances and the statues that pertain to fire prevention practices including building construction, occupancy, evacuation procedures, inspection reports and processing plans. Mr. Clark is also in the process of completing his Fire Protection Engineering Graduate Certificate through Cal Poly San Louis Obispo.

Key strengths include the following:

- ▶ Electricity and electrical systems
- ▶ Fire science
- ▶ Fire chemistry
- ▶ Thermodynamics
- ▶ Thermometry
- ▶ Fire dynamics
- ▶ Explosion dynamics
- ▶ Computer fire modeling
- ▶ Fire investigation
- ▶ Fire analysis
- ▶ Fire investigation methodology
- ▶ Fire investigation technology
- ▶ Hazardous materials
- ▶ Failure analysis and analytical tools

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- ▶ Fire protection systems
- ▶ Evidence documentation, collection, and preservation

EDUCATION

Master of Science, Clinical Psychology, 2015

California Baptist University, Riverside, CA

Associate of Science, Fire Science, 1992

Crafton Hills College, Yucaipa, CA

LICENSES

California licensed Private Investigator, 188446

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Fire & Explosives Investigator, NAFI, No. 21739-12994v

Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator, NAFI, No. 21739-12994v

Certified Fire Investigator, IAAI-22-111959

Certified Fire Investigator, CCAI-689

Certified Fire Investigator Level 1, California State Fire Marshal

Certified Fire Investigator Level 2, California State Fire Marshal

Fire Officer, California State Fire Marshal

California State Paramedic

Hazardous Materials Specialist

Level 1 Fire Instructor

Fire Prevention (Inspector) 1A & 1B

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
- California Conference of Arson Investigators (CCAI)
- National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)
- Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), Southern California Chapter

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PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

March 2023– Current: West Coast Fire Investigations – Greater Los Angeles Area
Fire Investigator / Business Owner

September 2022– Current: City of Hemet Fire Department – Hemet, CA
Fire/Arson Investigator, Fire Prevention Specialists

August 2021– March 2023: Envista Forensics – Los Angeles, CA
Principal Consultant

July 2016 – August 2021: JENSEN HUGHES (formerly CASE Forensics), Los Angeles, CA
Senior Fire Investigator

November 2010 – March 2016: Pacific Rim ISG, Corona, CA
Fire Investigator

April 1999 – November 2010: City of Riverside Fire Department, Riverside CA
Firefighter-Paramedic / Fire Investigator - ATFE Fire Investigator-Tactical Paramedic / Haz-Mat Specialist

January 1992 – April 1999: City of Rialto Fire Department, Rialto, CA
Firefighter-Paramedic / Haz-Mat Specialist

June 1987 – January 1992: Riverside County Fire Department, Riverside, CA
Firefighter / Firefighter-Paramedic

COURTROOM TESTIMONY

- STATE OF CALIFORNIA VS CARMEN SHARPLESS RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
CASE NUMBER: RIF117234 PC451
- STATE OF CALIFORNIA VS JULIO CEASER RIVERSIDE COUNTY CASE SUPERIOR COURT
CASE NUMBER: RIF129516 PC451, PC 187
- STATE OF CALIFORNIA VS YAIR HERNANDEZ ROMO VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
CASE NUMBER: 2015075036FA PC451
- NATIONAL CLAIMS VS DARRYL HERZON LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL COURT CASE
NUMBER: C0111VTN0103 INSURANCE CODE SECTION 1871-1871.9
- CITY OF RIVERSIDE VS SCE DEPOSITION
- CITY OF RIVERSIDE VS RIVERSIDE STONE & VENEER DEPOSITION

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- STATE FARM VS AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DEPOSITION
- SHAHNA EMIKO CERVANTES, an individual; EFREN SETO, an individual; Plaintiffs, vs. JASON S. ABBODD, Trustee of THE ABBODD FAMILY TRUST Case Number: BC653233, Deposition
- Nelson v. Whirlpool (McDaniel Fire) UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CASE NO. 2:22-CV-00741-JAM-JDP
- STATE OF CALIFORNIA VS Cesar Eslava Hernandez, Superior Court of California, Sonoma County,
Case #: SCR732466-1

CONTINUING EDUCATION

California State Fire Marshall, Fire Marshall 1C, Organization of Fire Investigation Program 16 hours tested 02-16th & 17th, 2024

ATF Smoking fires, LAFD Arson Unit 16 hours tested 01-23rd & 24th, 2024

Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator, CFITrainer.net, 3 Hours Tested 10-20-23.

Commonly Reported Accidental Causes, CFITrainer.net, 3 Hours Tested 10-20-23.

Discovery in Civil Cases, CFITrainer.net, 3 Hours Tested 10-20-23.

Depositions Part 2, Questioning Tactics and Effective Responses, CFITrainer.net, 3 Hours Tested 10-13-23.

Discovery in Criminal Cases, CFITrainer.net, 3 Hours Tested 10-13-23.

Fire Protection Systems CFITrainer.net, 3 Hours Tested 10-13-23.

Insurance and the Fire Investigator CFITrainer.net, 4 Hours Tested 10-13-23.

The PC832, Search and Seizure, San Marco College, 03-2023

The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921, 10-2022

Fire Protection Engineering Certificate Program Fire Protection Management in the Wildland-Urban Interface. Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 2021

Fire Protection Engineering Certificate Program Fire Detection Alarm and Communications systems. Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 2020

Fire Protection Engineering Certificate Program Structural Fire Protection. Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 2020

Fire Protection Engineering Certificate Program Water-Based Fire Suppression. Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 2020

Fire Protection Engineering Certificate Program, Fire Pumps and Automatic Sprinklers Systems. Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 2020

OSHA Asbestos Awareness Training #1360, Safety Compliance Management Haz-mat School, 2020

Fire Protection Engineering Certificate Program, Fire Egress and Exits. Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 2019

Investigating Residential Dryer Fires, Fire Findings, June 2018

Investigating Residential Dryer Fires, Fire Findings, June 2018

Residential Electricity for Fire Investigators, Fire Findings, June 2018

OSHA Asbestos Awareness Training #1360, Safety Compliance Management Haz-mat School, 2018

Fire Dynamics, and Ventilation influenced fires, CCAI, San Luis Obispo Ca. 2017

Southern California Fraud Investigators seminar, Palm Springs, CA, 2017

Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator, Lexington Kentucky, 2017

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Residential Electricity for Fire Investigators, Fire Findings, 2018

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CONTINUED)

Investigating Residential Dryer Fires, Fire Findings, 2018

Certified Fire and Explosives Investigator certification, Lexington Kentucky, 2017

Society of Fire Protection Engineers, Fire Code, Orange County, CA, 2017

OSHA Asbestos Awareness Training #1360, Safety Compliance Management Hazmat School, 2016

Investigation of Gas & Electric Appliance Fires, Fire Findings, 2016

Ethical Duties Beyond the Fire Scene, CFI Trainer.net, 2016

Critical Thinking Solves Cases, CFI Trainer.net, 2016

Electrical Safety, CFI Trainer.net, 2016

Accreditation, Certification, Certificates, CFI Trainer.net, 2016

Electrical Facts, Myths and Others, Combined Claims Conference, Garden Grove, CA, 2015

Vehicle Fire Investigations, Combined Claims Conference, Garden Grove, CA, 2015

Construction Defect, Combined Claims Conference, Garden Grove, CA, 2015

Do So Perfect EUO, Combined Claims Conference, Garden Grove, CA, 2015

Clandestine Meth Labs, Combined Claims Conference, Garden Grove, CA, 2015

Fire Investigation Ethics, Combined Claims Conference, Garden Grove, CA, 2015

Mock Depo, Combined Claims Conference, Garden Grove, CA, 2015

A Ventilation-Focused Approach to the Impact of Building Structures and Systems on Fire Development

Fire Dynamics Calculations - Version 2.0, CFI Trainer.net, 2014

Basic Electricity, CFI Trainer.net, 2014

Documenting the Event, CFI Trainer.net, 2014

The scientific Method, CFI Trainer.net, 2014

Ethics and the Fire Investigator, CFI Trainer.net, 2014

Fundamentals of Interviewing, CFI Trainer.net, 2014

Evidence Examination, CFI Trainer.net, 2014

Arc Mapping; Basic, CFI Trainer.net, 2014

Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, CFI Trainer.net, 2014

Adjuster as Witness - The Seven Deadly Sins, Claims Conference Northern California, 2014

An Introduction to Structural Framing and Load Paths, Claims Conference Northern California, 2014

Geotechnical Forensics and Foundation Failures, Claims Conference Northern California, 2014

Social Media: Investigating a Global Village, Claims Conference Northern California, 2014

General Session - Property Claims and Fire Investigations Ethics, Claims Conference Northern California, 2014

Semi-Annual Training, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2013

Deliberate and Accidental Fire Causes, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013

Component Failure Identification and Analysis, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013

Motive Evidence and Indicators, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013

Charging Systems, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013

Service Provider Negligence, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013

Fuel Delivery and Storage, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013

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NHTSA Recalls, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Hydraulic / Fluid Delivery and Storage, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CONTINUED)

NHTSA Technical Service Bulletins, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Electrical System Engagement While in Use, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Aftermarket Components Identification, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Electrical Engagement While Not in Use, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Vehicle Identification, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Drivetrain Components, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Identifying Ignition Sources, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Identifying First Fuels, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Electrical Systems and Components, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Solid and Semisolid Ignitable Components, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Electrical Heat Generation Resistance / Arcing, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Vehicle Related Fluids, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
OEM and Aftermarket Component Identification, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Solid and Liquid Accelerants, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Stored Heat Energy, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Light and Heavy Petroleum Based Products, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Friction Heat Generation, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
OEM and Aftermarket Oxidizing Agent's, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Friction Components Identification and Analysis, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Fuel Load Analysis, Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Advance Automotive Investigation, 2013
Insurance Industry Client Needs, Arson Claims: Investigation, Evaluation and Live Fires and Explosions Demonstrations Resolution, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Ensuring Accurate, Reliable and Provable Determinations, Arson Claims: Investigation, Evaluation and Live Fires and Explosions Demonstrations Resolution, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Using Analytical Outlines and Investigative Plans, Arson Claims: Investigation, Evaluation and Live Fires and Explosions Demonstrations Resolution, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012

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Investigative Tools and Tips, Arson Claims: Investigation, Evaluation and Live Fires and Explosions Demonstrations Resolution, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Dangerous Pitfalls to Avoid, Arson Claims: Investigation, Evaluation and Live Fires and Explosions Demonstrations Resolution, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Insurer Duties of Good Faith and Fair Dealing, Arson Claims: Investigation, Evaluation and Live Fires and Explosions Demonstrations Resolution, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CONTINUED)

Practical Application Ignition and Fuel Sources Arson Claims: Investigation, Evaluation and Live Fires and Explosions Demonstrations Resolution, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Electrical Caused Fires, Arson Claims: Investigation, Evaluation and Live Fires and Explosions Demonstrations Resolution, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Cigarette Caused Fires, Arson Claims: Investigation, Evaluation and Live Fires and Explosions Demonstrations Resolution, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Accelerants, Ignitable Liquids, Arson Claims: Investigation, Evaluation and Live Fires and Explosions Demonstrations Resolution, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Understanding Water and Electrical Current, Arson Claims: Investigation, Evaluation and Live Fires and Explosions Demonstrations Resolution, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Accelerants, Ignitable Liquids⁰¹², Arson Claims: Investigation, Evaluation and Live Fires and Explosions Demonstrations Resolution, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Hypotheses, Documentation and Conclusions, Investigative Reports under the Microscope, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Standards in NFPA 1033, Investigative Reports under the Microscope, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Recommended Procedures in NFPA 921, Investigative Reports under the Microscope, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Evolving Standards and Recommendations, Investigative Reports under the Microscope, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Identifying Vulnerabilities in Reports, Investigative Reports under the Microscope, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Documenting Your Fire Scene, Investigative Reports under the Microscope, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Real-World Arson Trials, Investigative Reports under the Microscope, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Automotive Investigation Review, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Fire Pattern Generation, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Live Vehicle Fire Pattern Demonstration, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
Live Vehicle Fire Heat Transfer, California Conference of Arson Investigators Conference, 2012
California State Fire Marshal's Fire Command 2B, California Fire Service Training and Education System, 2010
California State Fire Marshal's Fire Command 1C, California Fire Service Training and Education System, 2009
California State Fire Marshal's Prevention 1A-B, California Fire Service Training and Education System, 2009
I-300 Intermediate ICS, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, 2009
California State Fire Marshal's Fire Instructor 1A-B, California Fire Service Training and Education System, 2007

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IS-00200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents, Emergency Management Institute, 2006
Level III Peace Officer Academy, Investigator Safety and Tactic, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, 2005

Ethics/Professionalism/Leadership, Investigator Safety and Tactic, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, 2005

First Aid & CPR, Investigator Safety and Tactic, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, 2005

Vehicle Operations, Investigator Safety and Tactic, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, 2005

Search & Seizure, Investigator Safety and Tactic, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, 2005

Firearms / Custody, Investigator Safety and Tactic, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, 2005

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CONTINUED)

Chemical Agents Use of Force, Investigator Safety and Tactic, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, 2005

Hazardous Materials Course, Clandestine Drug Laboratory Waste Operations, California Specialized Training Institute, 2000

Hazardous Materials Course, Incident Commander: Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Agents, California Specialized Training Institute, 2000

Hazardous Materials Course, Specialist 1A-G, California Specialized Training Institute, 1998