

Program of Instruction

Course Syllabus

Course Title: Fire Origin and Cause Awareness

Course Duration: 4 hours

Program: Investigation / Cornerstone

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to provide firefighters and first responders with information about detecting, preserving, and securing evidence at fire scenes for further investigation. This course may also entice some participants to continue into the longer, more detailed Fire and Arson Investigation program (120 hours) and become eligible to be certified as fire scene investigators.

Course Requirements and/or Recommendations: These can be divided into three categories: those completed prior to arriving in class (Pre-Course Work), those completed during class, such as homework assignments and quizzes (Course Work), and requirements completed after class but prior to receiving a certificate of completion. (Post-Course Work)

Summary of Directions

Pre-Course Work: None

Course Work: Participants must attend and participate in all four hours of the course to receive credit.

Post-Course Work: None

Course Policies:

Safety Policy: Students shall understand and follow all instructions pertaining to operational safety, as stated by instructors or as written in course materials. Instructors and students shall be mindful of safety at all times. Conduct judged to be unsafe shall be grounds for dismissal from the course.

Academic Integrity Policy: IFSI has the responsibility for maintaining academic integrity so as to protect the quality of the education provided through its courses, and to protect those who depend upon our integrity. It is the responsibility of the student to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions. Any violation of the code of conduct is grounds for immediate dismissal from the course.

Course Content:

Module: 1

Title: Cause and Process of Fire

Terminal Learning Objective:

At the completion of this module, students will be able to explain the cause and process of fire.

Module: 2

Title: Fire Origin and Observation

Terminal Learning Objective:

At the completion of this module, students will be able to define origin and observation of fire.

Module: 3

Title: Fire Scene Evidence

Terminal Learning Objective:

At the completion of this module, students will be able to identify the securing and preservation of fire scene evidence.

Module: 4

Title: Case History

Terminal Learning Objective:

At the completion of this module, students will be able to define concepts of fire origin and cause awareness.

Reference List:

Brannigan, V. (1999). *Sloppy arson investigation could undo guilty plea.*

Retrieved April 01, 2007 from Fire Chief at

http://firechief.com/mag/firefighting_sloppy_arson_investigation/index.html

Burnette, Jr. G. (1998). *Spoliation of Evidence: A Fire Scene Dilemma.*

Retrieved March 01, 2007 from http://www.interfire.org/res_file/spoliatn.asp

Cornell Law School (2004). *4 No. 5 MetLife Auto & Home, & c., Appellant, v.*

Joe Basil Chevrolet, Inc., et al., Respondents. Retrieved April 01, 2007 from

http://www.law.cornell.edu/nyctap/I04_0025.htm

Cornell Law School (2007). *Joseph A. Bradley, Appellant, v Earl B. Feiden, Inc., et al., Respondents.* Retrieved April 01, 2007 from

http://www.law.cornell.edu/nyctap/search/display.html?terms=loss%20of%20Fire%20Evidence&url=/nyctap/I07_0016.htm

Coleman, R. (2006). *Fire Service Improvement Tied to Rules of Evidence.*

Retrieved April 01, 2007 from Fire Chief at

http://firechief.com/mag/firefighting_fire_service_improvement/index.html

Department of Homeland Security (2006). *Arson Detection for the First*

Responder (1st ed., 3rd printing) [CD-ROM]. Washington, DC: Author.

Illinois Fire Service Institute (2016). *Fire & Arson Investigation* [Instructor Manual]. Champaign-Urbana, IL: Author.

International Association of Arson Investigators (2010) *The First Responders Role in Fire Investigation*. Retrieved from <https://www.firearson.com/Publications-Resources/First-Responders-DVD.aspx>

International Fire Service Training Association (2005). *Introduction to Fire Origin and Cause* (3rd ed.). Stillwater, OK: Fire Protection Publications.

NFPA 921: Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations (2014 ed.). Quincy, MA: Author.

Course Schedule

DAY ONE

<u>Event</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Module 1 – Cause and Process of Fire	1 hour
Module 2 – Fire Origin and Observation	1 hour
Module 3 – Fire Scene Evidence	1 hour
Module 4 – First Responders Role/Case History	1 hour