



## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **John C. Kernan**

Washington's Crossing, PA 18977

215-715-5278 cell

[jckfm272@aol.com](mailto:jckfm272@aol.com) / [certifiedcfi@aol.com](mailto:certifiedcfi@aol.com)

## **Professional Summary**

**Fire Marshal / Chief FM 272** : John C. Kernan has over thirty-three years experience as a Chief Fire Marshal, Internationally Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator, IAAI Motor Vehicle Credential (V), Evidence Collection Technician, Certified Fire Investigation Instructor, Internationally Certified Fire Code Official, Certified Level I & II Interior Firefighter and Chief Fire Officer.

**Certified Investigations, LLC** : John is also the "Principal" and owner of Certified Investigations, LLC. Certified Investigations, LLC is an internationally recognized privately held forensic investigative firm who's primarily focus is the scientific processing of fire scenes, including post-explosion events, leading to the determination of "Fire Origin and Cause." [www.certifiedinvestigationsllc.com](http://www.certifiedinvestigationsllc.com)

John has investigated over 1000+ fires and worked as a certified private investigator in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Connecticut, and Delaware. Investigator Kernan also has international experience having conducted Origin and Cause investigations in Canada, Great Britain, Bahrain and Kuwait. Fires investigated include, but not limited to, multi-million dollar losses, fire fatalities, motor vehicles including trucks and agricultural, hotels and resorts, commercial restaurants, maritime shipping, private yachts and boating, industrial and military establishments as well as single and multi-family dwellings.

**Corporate Senior Executive** : John also has over thirty five years of experience as a corporate senior executive, having been a senior vice

president with two Fortune 500 companies as well as an owner and principal of two privately held multi-million dollar domestic and internationally based companies.

## **Certifications**

### **International Association of Arson Investigators**

Certified Fire Investigator CFI #29-072

Certified Fire Investigator CFI (V) IAAI Master Vehicle Fire Credential,  
expires 7/30/2024

Pro Board Certified Fire Investigator #395822

Fire Investigator Technician FIT #2-2021

Evidence Collection Technician ECT #302

### **National Association of Fire Investigators**

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator CFEI #4132

Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator CVFI #4132v

Certified Fire Investigation Instructor CFII #4132i

### **International Association of Fire Investigators "Fellow"**

### **Institution of Fire Engineers "Graduate"**

### **National Fire Protection Association**

Member "Technical Committee - Enforcer" NFPA #1033 Standard for  
Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator

Certified Fire Code Inspector CFI-10-0123

### **International Code Council**

Certified Fire Code Inspector #5318575

### **National Board Fire Service Professional Qualifications**

Pro Board Certified Fire Investigator #232598

Pro Board Certified Fire Inspector #BC-16526

### **PA Department of License and Inspections**

Certified Fire Code Inspector #004802

### **PA Fire Commissioner's Office**

Certified Fire Investigator #278

Certified Fire Inspector #BC-016526

### **PA State Police**

Assistant State Police Fire Marshal FM-11498

**Jurisdictional and Municipal**

Upper Makefield Township PA

Chief Fire Marshal FM-272 32 years

Chief Fire Code Official 32 years

20 year experience Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator

**Professional Experience and Recognitions**

Investigator Kernan brings a dynamic multi-disciplined senior executive/chief officer background of experience, expertise and certification to all incident investigations. He has served as a Senior Vice President with two Fortune 500 companies, Owner-Principal for two privately held multi-national corporations, Chief Fire Marshal, Fire Code Official, Emergency Management Coordinator, Fire Officer and Level I & II Interior Fire Fighter.

His Investigations over the past 33+ years have included, but are not limited to...

- multi-million dollar losses
- fire fatalities
- single family dwellings
- apartment complex & multi family
- motor vehicle including commercial trucking
- heavy equipment (forestry / construction / industrial)
- agricultural equipment
- farms / farming
- hotels & resorts
- commercial restaurants
- maritime shipping
- private yachts & boating
- industrial establishments
- military facilities
- premises liability (corporate / retail)
- credit fraud
- interstate shipping
- retail theft / fraud
- employee integrity / theft

Recognized by Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshal for 33 years of service and investigative expertise

John has been recognized as a Certified Expert Witness and has testified in over 300+ court cases on the local, County, State and Federal court level.

The International Association of Fire Investigators has recognized John with the first "Fellow" designation in the State of Pennsylvania.

The National Fire Protection Association has recognized John as an "International Fire Marshal" since 1993.

Thirteen years investigative experience working with the FDNY Office of the Fire Marshal in all five boroughs.

Recognized as "Firefighter of the Year" with the UMFVD 1990 and recipient of numerous specialized fire fighting certifications, including "Responder of the Year". Awarded "Burpee Fire Service Award" for "Spirited Volunteerism". Received letters of special recognition from President George H. W. Bush as well as the Pennsylvania State Senate and the Congressional Fire Service Institute.

On scene numerous times and bestowed with the "Kuwait Humanitarian Award" in 1993 for involvement and contributions in the extinguishment of the 620 oil well fires, investigating numerous fire and explosion scenes and contributing to the rebuilding of the county infrastructure following the first Kuwait War.

2020 Recipient of the IAAI "Distinguished Service Award."

Recipient of the 2011 "Distinguished Service Award" by the PA State International Association of Arson Investigators for "talent, investigative expertise, dedication and commitment." Further recognized by first Director of Homeland Security, the Honorable Tom Ridge as well as PA Governor, State Senate and Fire Commissioner.

Presented both in 2012 and 2020 with the "Certificate of Recognition" by the International Association of Arson Investigators at the annual IAAI National Awards Dinner.

Appointed in 2015 to the NFPA National Fire Protection Association #1033 Technical Committee "Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator" Enforcer Level.

Chief Kernan was awarded the 3rd annual prestigious "First Responder Award" in Manhattan NY on November 2016. This award was presented by the International Association of Fire Fighters and the Irish Echo news

publication and honors selected individuals who have served on the front line of Fire and Emergency Service Companies around the USA.

Received special recognition from the Fire Department New York, Office of the Chief Fire Marshal Louis Garcia, for quickly responding and volunteering as part of the "South Tower Search and Rescue Team" at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001

Recognized by the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate and Major General Jassim Al-Mansouri February 14, 2016 for oversight and contributions made relative to the implementation of the Kuwait Training Academy for Fire Science - "your great contributions relative to the planning and layout of our facility. Your advise, sharing, efforts and expertise and vision made the academy a fact today. Your further efforts on fire investigation was an added value..."

### **Professional Organizations & Affiliations**

Central European Association of Fire Investigators ACTIVE  
International Association of Arson Investigators 1994 to Present  
Active Member  
PA Association of Arson Investigators 1994 to Present; Active Member  
Fire Marshal Association of North America 1993 to Present; Active Member  
National Fire Protection Association 1993 to Present; Active Member  
NFA International Fire Marshal's Association 1993 to Present;  
Active Member  
National Association of Fire Investigators 1996 to Present; Active Member  
International Association of Fire Investigators 2012 to Present;  
Active Member  
Fraternal Order of Police 1990 to Present; Active Member  
International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators 2001 to  
Present; Active Member  
Bucks County Fire Marshals Association 1990 to Present; Active Member  
International Code Council 2001 to Present; Active Member  
PA Building Code Association 2001 to Present; Active Member and  
Member of Enforcement Council  
Institute of Fire Engineers 2012 to Present; Active Member Level  
Threat Assessment Team – Council Rock School District

## **Recent Training Summary**

*\*Note – Below represents the most recent training that has taken place over the last three years. A multi-year summary is available that represents over 4,000 hours TESTED cerAfied training leading to multiple state, national and international certficaions over the past thirty-three years.*

Fire Safety Research Institute 4 hours, Inductive Reasoning in Fire Investigation, TESTED

Fire Safety Research Institute 8 hours, Lithium Battery Symposium, Challenges for the Fire Service, TESTED

NFPA 3 hours, Lithium Battery Fire Safety, TESTED

International Code Council 3 hours, Lithium-Ion Battery Safety and Investigation, TESTED

International Association of Bomb Technicians 2 hours, Fireworks and Black Powder Explosives

Conan University 2 hours, Investigating Residential Kitchen Fires, TESTED

IAAI-CFI 3 hours, Fire Investigation Scene Safety, TESTED

IAAI-CFI 2 hours, Fire Investigator Investigative Best Practices and Courtroom Testimony, TESTED

RECERTIFIED 8 hours as Instructor “ALICE” Armed Intruder Response TESTED

RECERTIFIED 40+ hours NAFI Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, TESTED

Pennsylvania IAAI 19.5 hours Hypothesis Development in Fire Investigation: Theory and Practice, Evaluating Electrical Energy as an Ignition Source and Process of Origin Determination, TESTED

U.S. Fire Administration 5 hours, Summit on Fire Prevention and Control: State of Science, TESTED

Justice Department Arson and Explosives Task Force 16 hours, Fire Investigation Techniques, TESTED

IAAI-CFI 20 hours, Analytical Forensic Fire Scene Processing and Evidence Collection, TESTED

NFPA 921 and 1033 4 hours, Fire Cause Classifications, Fire Effects & Patterns and Ignitable Liquid Canine Teams, TESTED

Public Agency Training Council 16 hours, Fire / Arson Search and Evidence Recovery, TESTED

RECERTIFIED 40+ hours, National Fire Protection Association, Fire Code Inspector, TESTED

RECERTIFIED 40+ hours, IAAI Certified Fire Investigator, TESTED

RECERTIFIED 60+ hours, IAAI Enhanced Motor Vehicle Fire Investigator CFI(V), TESTED

International Code Council 8 hours, International Fire Code Inspection Essentials, TESTED

NAFI 4 hours, Fire Investigation Negative Habeas Methodology, TESTED

***Total Training Hours from January 2022 to April 2023 are 267.5 hours***

RECERTIFICATION / "Certified Fire Investigator IAAI-CFI" International Association of Arson Investigators #29-072 expires 2027

RECERTIFICATION / "Certified Fire Investigator IAAI-CFI (V)" Motor Vehicle Fire Credential expires 3/2/27

"Practical Fire/Arson Scene Search and Evidence Recovery" 16 hours TESTED – National Fire Arson Investigation Training Institute 5/18 & 19, 2022

Philadelphia ATF Arson & Explosives Task Force – “Fire Dynamics” June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Bensalem PA Training Facility

Topics:

Origin Determination & Pattern Persistence

Arc Mapping

Lithium Ion Battery Failure

Electrical Appliance Operation and Failure Modes

Fire Scene Photography

ATF Resources

Certified ALICE Instructor “Enhanced Certification” for Active Shooter Incidents expires 2026

“International Fire Code Inspection Essentials” International Code Council  
8 hours TESTED 4/2022

“Fire Investigation Negative Habeas Methodology” National Association of Fire Investigators 4 hours TESTED 3/2022

“Evidence Collection Technician”, International Association of Arson Investigators Certificate #302 recertification 110 hours Tested expires 10/15/2024

“Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator”, National Association of Fire Investigators recertification expires 10/31/2022

“Certified Fire Investigation Instructor”, National Association of Fire Investigators recertification expires 10/31/2022

“Handling Fire and Explosion Scenes”, Institute of Strategic Education  
4 hours Tested

“Explosion Dynamics”, IAAI-CFI Trainer 4 hours Tested

“Post Flashover Fires”, IAAI-CFI Trainer 4 hours Tested

“Certified Fire Code Inspector”, International Code Council 36 hours Tested

“Identifying Pre and Post Blast Components”, Department of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives 2 hours Tested

“ALICE Active Shooter Instructor”, Council Rock School District recertification 2 hours Tested



"Fire Code Inspector and Plans Examiner", PA Department of License and Inspections 40 hours Tested

"Evidence Preservation and Laboratory Destructive Exams", JS Held LLC  
4 hours Tested

"Fireworks and Bomb Technicians" / "Explosives Mitigation" / "Improvised Explosive Devices from Fireworks", International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators 4 hours Tested

"Advanced Fire Scene Investigations with Field Potable Technologies", Forensic Center for Excellence in Forensic Sciences 2 hours Tested

"Analytical Forensic Fire Scene Processing and Evidence Collection", IAAI-CFI Trainer 20 hours Tested

"Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Fire Causes", IAAI-CFI Trainer 6 hours Tested

"Understanding and Fighting Basement Fires", UL 2 hours Tested

"Ventilation Effects on Fire Area of Origin", UL 2 hours Tested

"Photovoltaic Systems and Cells", IAAI-CFI Trainer 4 hours Tested

***ABOVE = 246 hrs Certification and Investigative Training 2021***

Pennsylvania International Association of Arson Investigators "NFPA-921 Review and Changes" 2 hours

IABTI NCETR: "Pre-Blast Components" 1 hour

ICC International Code Council "Commercial Inspections"  
8 hours Tested

IAAI CFI-Trainer "Resources to Validate Your Hypothesis"  
2 hours Tested

IAAI CFI-Trainer "Fire Dynamics and Modeling" 4 hours Tested

Recertification IAAI "Fire Investigator Technician" 45 hours Tested

ICC International Code Council "Certified Fire Inspector" Certificate  
#53185775 36 hours Tested

PA Construction Code Academy "NFPA 101 Life Safety Code" 12 Tested

IAAI CFI-Trainer "Post Flash Over Fires" 4 hours Tested

JS/Held "Handling A Fire or Explosion Investigation" 2 hours

IAAI CFI-Trainer "Emerging Technologies in Fire Investigation"  
3 hours Tested

IAAI CFI-Trainer "Appliances Investigations" 3 hours TESTED

IAAI CFI-Trainer "Knowledge 1 Motor Vehicle Fires Tier 1" 8 hours TESTED

IAAI CFI-Trainer "Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake and  
Accessory Systems" 3 hours TESTED

IAAI CFI-Trainer "Motor Vehicles: Engine and Ignition, Electrical and  
Fuel Systems" 3 hours TESTED

IAAI CFI-Trainer "Insurance and the Fire Investigator" 4 hours TESTED

IAAI CFI-Trainer "Interviewing" 4 hours TESTED

IAAI CFI-Trainer "Fire Investigator Scene Safety" 3 hours TESTED

IAAI CFI-Trainer "Residential Natural Gas Systems" 3 hours TESTED

IAAI CFI-Trainer "Principles of Fire Investigation Multi-Program"  
67 hours TESTED

IAAI CFI-Trainer "Digital Photography and Fire Investigation"  
4 hours TESTED

IAAI Seminar "Giving Stronger Deposition and Trial Testimony"  
8 hours TESTED

Philadelphia Fire Academy / ATF "Gas Appliances & Fire Dynamics"  
16 hours TESTED

Paradigm "Pipeline Emergency Response & Damage Prevention"  
2 hours TESTED

IAAI CFI-Trainer "Electrical Vehicle Fires" 4 hours TESTED

NFPA Fire Inspector "Recertification – Pro Board" CFI-10-123  
60 hours TESTED

ALICE Institute CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR "Active Shooter Response"  
17 hours TESTED

PA-IAAI Investigating and Litigating Fire Losses for Subrogation Insurers  
8 hours TESTED

Carterson Forensic Training "NFPA #1033 JPR Demonstrating Compliance  
for Fire Investigators" 20 hours TESTED

PATCO "Fire/Arson Investigation and Arson Case Management"  
20 hours TESTED

PATCO "Arson Scene Search and Evidence Recovery" 16 hours TESTED

Monroeville Fire Academy "Advanced Electrical Fire Investigation"  
16 hours TESTED

IAAI-CFI Trainer "Fire Flow Analysis" 3 hours TESTED

AFAA "Fire Alarm System Code & Standard Requirements" 3 hours

PA IAAI Seminar "Fire Dynamics" 3 hours TESTED

AFAA "Fire Alarm Systems" 3 hours

IAAI-CFI Trainer "Thermometry, Heat and Heat Transfer" 3 hours TESTED

PA Construction Code Academy "Permitting and Inspection Solar Panel  
Systems" 3 hours

NASP Arson Investigator Series "Propane Fires and Explosions" 3 hours

Emergency Management Institute FEMA IS-00100 "Introduction to the  
Incident Command System" (ICS 100)

Emergency Management Institute FEMA IS-00700 "National Incident  
Management System (NIMS) an Introduction

Emergency Management Institute FEMA IS-00200 "ICS for Single Resources  
and Initial Action Incidents

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