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PAAI ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE October 24-26, 2022

**RAMADA INN STATE COLLEGE, PA
814-238-3001
(PAAI ROOM RATE \$71.00/night + TAXES)
Call the hotel to make reservations**

Monday October 24, 2022

Hypothesis Development in Fire Investigations: **Theory and Practice** 7.5 hours

**Steven Avato, IAAI-CFI, Educator/Mentor
Retired Loudoun Co. (VA) Fire Marshal's Office and retired ATF
Supervisory Special Agent**

This presentation is designed to encourage participants to critically examine the concepts of the hypothesis and hypothesis development in fire investigation. Across the range of experience levels, fire investigators should be aware of the systematic methodology of fire investigation, based on the scientific method, as described in Chapter 4 of *NFPA 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations*. This approach includes the crucial step "Develop hypotheses" in what is presented in Figure 4.3 of NFPA 921 as a linear, iterative process. Some of the issues addressed in this presentation will be: Is the "scientific method" a myth? Is the "scientific method" a linear process as described in NFPA 921? Is the "scientific method" as described in NFPA 921 normative or descriptive?

Through a series of discussions, questions and real-world examples, the presenter will take participants through the process of fire investigation and present the points at which hypotheses can, and should, be developed, and discuss such issues as: What is a hypothesis and what is required to form a hypothesis? What aspects of fire investigation can/should an investigator hypothesize about? What is a "valid" hypothesis, and can there be "invalid" hypotheses? How can a hypothesis be "tested" and what is required of testing? How can a hypothesis be "falsifiable" and where did "Falsificationism" come from? How do I "prove" a hypothesis? Can they be "proven"? What does "Confirming" or "Refuting" a hypothesis mean?

Building on the morning presentation, the discussion will expand into the investigator's documentation of hypotheses formulated during a fire investigation and the presentation of those hypotheses in legal proceedings. This will include examples from courtroom proceedings that illustrate hypotheses and the importance of articulation of those hypotheses. This discussion will examine questions such as: How are hypotheses documented at a fire investigation? How does and investigator present hypotheses in written reports?



Does an investigator need to describe all possible hypotheses? Can a fire investigator's hypotheses guard against claims of "Confirmation bias"? Are all hypotheses about the "science" of fire investigation? How does an investigator articulate fire investigation hypotheses and why is that critical?

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will have taken a fresh look at one of the most common procedures in fire investigation, hypothesis development. Hopefully, the concepts presented in this discussion will better prepare the fire investigator to recognize the prevalence of hypotheses inherent in fire investigation, the importance of hypothesis development, what a hypothesis is and is not, and the need to both document and articulate their hypotheses.

Tuesday October 25, 2022

Evaluating Electrical Energy as an Ignition Source

8 hours

Michael Keller, E.E. Oklahoma State University

This course will discuss electricity, electrical theory, and the varied methods to evaluate electrical energy as an ignition source, to include common first fuels and failures associated with electrical energy as an ignition source.

During the afternoon session, demonstrations, and hands-on testing will give the attendees an opportunity to evaluate and document electrical energy as an ignition source, which will assist them in hypothesis development, testing of their hypothesis, and determining a final hypothesis.

(Attendees should bring eye protection and gloves for the afternoon session)

Wednesday October 26, 2022

Process for Origin Determination

4 hours

**Gregory Gorbett, Ph.D., IAAI-CFI Professor Eastern Kentucky University
Co-owner of Fire Dynamics Analysts**

This presentation describes how the scientific method can be directly applied to evaluating fire patterns in relation to the fire dynamics that caused them. The focus will be on what processes exist that assist investigators in effectively documenting their observations of fire effects and fire patterns, as well as their analytical process in determining the area of origin. Participants will be able to perform a heat and flame vector analysis and have an awareness of other processes that exist to assist in determining the area of origin of a fire.



PAAI 2022 Annual Training Conference Schedule

Sunday October 23, 2022

17:00 – 18:45 Registration
19:00 PAAI Board of Directors Meeting
19:00 Hospitality Room Open

Monday October 24, 2022

07:00 – 08:00 Registration
08:00 – 08:30 Opening Ceremony/President's Welcome Message/Announcements
08:30 – 12:00 Classroom Instruction
12:00 – 13:00 Lunch (Provided)
13:00 – 17:00 Classroom Instruction
18:00 PAAI Annual General Meeting
Hospitality Room Open after the General Meeting

Tuesday October 25, 2022

(Instruction at the Centre County Public Safety Training Center)

08:00 – 12:00 Classroom Instruction
12:00 – 12:30 Lunch (Provided)
12:30 – 16:30 Demonstrations and Hands-On Instruction/Testing
18:30 **PAAI 45th Anniversary Banquet and Awards Ceremony**
See registration sheet for more information
(Business casual dress allowed)
Hospitality Room Open after the Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Wednesday October 26, 2022

08:00 – 12:00 Classroom Instruction
12:00 – 12:30 Closing remarks



Cost for the seminar: \$250 for both days
EARLY REGISTRATION AND FEES
POST MARKED BY OCTOBER 01, 2022 - \$225
Individual days - \$100.00/day
PAAI Banquet included with registration

SEND COMPLETED REGISTRATION TO:
Nancy Love: 585 Firethorn Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146
Nancy.Love@AlleghenyCounty.US

NAME: _____ PAAI NO. _____
EMAIL: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE NO. _____
COMPANY _____

___ I am attending all three days \$250.00 \$225 early registration

___ I wish to attend Monday \$100.00

___ I wish to attend Tuesday \$100.00

___ I wish to attend Wednesday \$100.00

PAAI 45th Anniversary Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Banquet cost is included with 2022 Annual Training Conference registration fees
Please indicate below if you will or will not be attending the banquet

___ I **WILL** be attending the PAAI 45th Anniversary Banquet

___ I **WILL NOT** be attending the PAAI 45th Anniversary Banquet

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$225 POST MARKED BY OCTOBER 01, 2022

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER MADE OUT TO: PAAI –TRAINING

Those wishing to pay by Credit Card please see the PAAI website,
PAAI.org, for details.

Questions concerning the conference training can be directed to Roger Spadt, Training & Education Chairman (roger@technicalfireanalysis.com)

Register before October 1st to take advantage of the discounted registration fee.

I hope to see everyone at the conference !

David B. Klitsch, IAAI-CFI(V)

President (2021-2023)

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