

Professional Resume

Curriculum Vitae

Travis G. Thiessen

CFEI, SCO-Fire, NCSO, FIT

Fire and Explosion Investigator

Calgary Fire Department

4124-11 St. SE, Calgary AB

T2G3H2

October 2024

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I am currently employed as a Fire Investigator with the Calgary Fire Department. I became a member of the Calgary Fire Department in 2003 where I gained valuable experience and training in many areas of emergency services involving fire suppression, confined space, structural collapse, medical first response and hazardous materials. Since joining the Fire Prevention Bureau in 2008, I have conducted **1496** origin and cause investigations, including vehicles, residential structures, commercial buildings, incendiary fires, and fire fatalities. I am certified to the National Fire Protection Association's 1033 standard for Fire Investigator {Investigator Group C Level 2} and 1031 standard for Fire Inspector {Group B Level 2}. I hold professional qualifications through the Office of the Fire Commissioner of Alberta, and I hold certifications from the National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) in Fire and Explosion investigations and International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) as a Fire Investigation Technician (FIT)

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

October 2024 to Present – Forensic Fire Investigator contractor to The Fire Investigation Company.

2008 to Present      Fire Investigator/ Fire Inspector, Calgary Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau

### Description of Responsibilities:

Primary responsibility is to investigate fire and explosion incidents, with duties including: identifying hazards, conducting a scene exam, determining area of origin and ignition sequence; interpreting fire damage and fire patterns; fire debris removal and analysis; area of origin reconstruction; inspection of building systems including but not limited to electrical systems, HVAC, systems, and life safety systems; documenting the scene; evidence recognition, preservation, collection, and chain of

custody preservation; interviewing witnesses; coordinating expert resources with Insurance industry, and preparing reports on investigative findings.

2003 to 2008      Professional Fire fighter, Calgary Fire Department

Description of Responsibilities:

Primary responsibilities include responding to emergency incidents, identify and implement strategies and tactics to mitigate hazards, observing fire characteristics such as smoke colour and velocity, flame height and movement; observe victims, witnesses, and crowds; conduct overhaul and salvage operations and document the movement of furniture and contents. Use training in confined space, trench rescue, hazardous materials and structural collapse to conduct hazard assessments.

1992 – 2003      Professional Hockey Player

## **VOCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

October 2024      *Expert Witness testimony Court of Kings Bench Jury Trial*

April      2023      *House Full of Gas HFOG*

Four-day tested training studying explosions along with a practical investigation of an actual planned natural gas house explosion. Hosted by Global Forensics Inc.

March      2023      *Lithium-Ion battery safety symposium*

6.75 hours online seminar

April      2022      *Fire and Explosion Death Investigation Course*

Twenty-four hours of tested training delivered by Ed NORDSKOG and sponsored by the Edmonton Police Service

February 2021      *Fire Investigation Technician certification*

Tested certification by International Association Arson Investigators (IAAI) for FIT certification.

December 2019      *Courtroom Testimony for Expert Witnesses*

Former City of Calgary Prosecutor Jonathan HAK presented a three day course on Courtroom Testimony. Course consisted of theory and mock court practical training.

November 2019 *L380 Leadership Course*

Four-day training for CFD Officers. Leadership and communication techniques introduced via theory and practical lessons

June 2018 *Fire Investigation Interview Techniques training*

Dr Sarah MacDonald led training on Investigative Interview techniques in a CFD-hosted 3-day training event at CPS HQ. Theory and practical skills were applied.

October 2015 *Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI), NAFI,*

Travis Thiessen holds National Board registration as a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI) from the National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI). This certification is achieved by evaluation of qualifications and experience, and by passing a comprehensive written examination, administered by the National Certification Board. This Toronto based training was a re-certification of CFEI.

September 2011 *Hot Wheels – Vehicle Fire Course*

3-day theory and practical training in Rocky Mountain House AB

2011 – present day *CFI Trainer – online theory and testing*

Online Fire Investigation training and testing – International Association of Arson Investigators.

December 2011 *Bylaw Enforcement Officer, Animal and Bylaw Services, City of Calgary,*

Travis Thiessen has been granted status as a Bylaw Enforcement Officer within the Calgary Fire Department to assist in the education and enforcement of Community Standards directly related to bylaws

associated with fire or situations that pose a threat to the citizens of Calgary.

October 2010     *Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI), NAFI,*

Travis Thiessen holds National Board registration as a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI) from the National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI). This certification is achieved by evaluation of qualifications and experience, and by passing a comprehensive written examination, administered by the National Certification Board.

August 2010     *NFPA 1033 Fire Investigator Professional Qualifications, Office of the Fire Commissioner, Alberta Municipal Affairs,*

Travis Thiessen holds certifications as a fire Investigator through both the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress and the Pro Board Fire Service Professional Qualifications System. This certification was achieved through the successful completion of additional course work, coupled with a comprehensive written exam administered through the Office of the Fire Commissioner, Alberta Municipal Affairs.

August 2010     *NFPA 1031 Level II Fire Inspector Professional Qualifications, Office of the Fire Commissioner, Alberta Municipal Affairs,*

Travis Thiessen holds certifications as a fire Inspector through both the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress and the Pro Board Fire Service Professional Qualifications System. This certification was achieved through the successful completion of additional course work, coupled with a comprehensive written exam administered through the Office of the Fire Commissioner, Alberta Municipal Affairs.

April 2003     *NFPA 1001 Level II Fire fighter Professional Qualifications, Office of the Fire Commissioner, Alberta Municipal Affairs,*

Travis Thiessen holds certifications as a Professional Fire fighter through both the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress and the Pro Board Fire Service Professional Qualifications System. This certification was achieved through the successful completion of classroom and practical course work, coupled with comprehensive written exams administered through the Calgary Fire Department.

June 2012      *Investigation Procedures, Lakeland College (32 hours, Tested)*

October 2013      *Investigation Procedures, Lakeland College (32 hours, Tested)*

*Student Course Objectives:* Objectives include but are not limited to the following. Describe the purpose of conducting an investigation and identify the primary and secondary objectives associated with an investigation. Gain an understanding of the authority granted under the Safety Codes Act of Alberta, Evidence collection and storage and continuity, and the importance of the “Chain of Custody” as it relates to fire investigations. Students gain an understanding into the Scientific Method and the Investigative Process. This includes documenting a fire scene, media relations, securing and searching the scene, research and evidence analysis and legal aspects of conducting and presenting an investigation in court.

June 2012      *Investigator Practical Evaluation, Lakeland College (32 hours, Evaluated)*

October 2013      *Investigator Practical Evaluation, Lakeland College (32 hours, Evaluated)*

*Student Course Objectives:* Demonstrate the process, methodology and reporting procedure acquired in the prerequisite course materials to properly conduct a fire investigation in accordance with the competencies outlined in NFPA 1033 Fire Investigator Professional Qualifications.

October 2012      *Advanced Investigation Processes, Lakeland College (32 hours, Tested)*

November 2013      *Advanced Investigation Processes, Lakeland College (32 hours, Tested)*

*Student Course Objectives:* Objectives include managing victims and fatalities, selecting evidence for analysis, coordinating expert resources, and a practical demonstration of advanced investigation processes.

October 2012      *Applied Investigation Practical Evaluation II, Lakeland College (32 hours, Evaluated)*

November 2013      *Applied Investigation Practical Evaluation II, Lakeland College (32 hours, Evaluated)*

*Student Course Objectives:* Demonstrate the application of NFPA 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations to a fire incident and complete all applicable documentation including but not limited to fire reports, fire alarm reports, casualty reports, written narratives, sample exhibits, written witness statements, and photographs that will be presented in front of the lead instructor and peers.

June 2011      *Introductory Fire Investigation, Alberta (16 hours)*

Student Course Objectives: Learn the duties authorized under the Safety Codes Act using NFPA 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations and review the application of NFPA 921 during a fire investigation.

September 2009      *Fire, Groups B and D, Evaluating Alternative Solutions, AFC 2006 – Safety Codes Council of Alberta*

April 2009      *Fire, CUT Alberta Fire Code 2006 – Safety Codes Council of Alberta*

December 2008      *Fire, Groups B and D, Introduction to Objective Based Codes – Safety Codes Council of Alberta*

## **FIRE INVESTIGATIONS**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Number of Fire & Explosion Investigations	4	107	100	97	120	90	107	118	87	111	33 *Acting INV Coordinator for 9 mths*	99

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024							
	87	98	101	90	47							

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- NAFI, National Association of Fire Investigators (2010-Present)
- IAAI, International Association of Arson Investigators (2009 – Present)
- FIAA, Fire Investigation Association of Alberta (2008 – Present)
- SCCA, Safety Codes Council of Alberta (2008 – Present)
- IAFF, International Association of Fire fighters (2003 – Present)