

Staffing

Deputy Chief Randall Shadic
Investigator Charles Anderson
Investigator Richard Daus
Investigator John Fairclough / K9 Ashes
Investigator Erik Holter
Investigator Michael Knowlton
Investigator Christopher Lupold
Investigator William McGovern / K9 Braith
Investigator Andrew Pohl
Investigator James Ryan / K9 Shadow

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New York State

Division of Homeland Security
and Emergency Services



Office of Fire Prevention and Control - Arson



**Fire Investigation
Training and Technical Assistance
Program**

Fire / Arson Investigation Training



The Arson Staff deliver advanced programs of instruction and education to the fire investigation community. Programs are presented at the State Fire Academy in Montour Falls by Arson Staff supplemented by subject matter specialists including, electrical engineers, district attorneys, veterinarians. Additional programs are delivered regionally across the state. A listing and detailed description of these courses can be found in the OFPC training catalog or

on its website at <http://www.dhses.ny.gov/ofpc/training/>. Arson Staff also deliver special training programs as part of the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services [DCJS] training curriculum. These programs relative to arson investigation are directed to entry level patrol officers, supervisors and crime scene evidence technicians.

Academy Courses -

Canine Accelerant Detection
 Canine Accelerant Detection Recertification
 Electrical Fire Cause Determination I & II
 Fire Behavior and Arson Awareness / Principles of Fire Investigation Series
 Fire Scene Evidence Collection
 Fire/Arson Investigation
 Fire/Arson Investigation Seminar
 Interviewing Techniques for the Fire Investigator
 Fire Investigative Photography
 Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program Seminar
 Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I & II (NFA)

Regional Course Delivery -

Fire Behavior and Arson Awareness
 Principles of Fire Investigation

Regional Lecture Series -

DCJS Evidence Technician Course
 DCJS Law Enforcement Supervisors
 SUNY Public Safety Officer Training
 Vehicle Fire Investigation
 Zone 5 Law Enforcement Academy
 Prosecutor's Seminar

Academy Courses / Insurance Industry -

Basic Arson Awareness and Identification
 Advanced Origin and Cause Determination

Special Services / Programs

Arson Staff supported investigative services:

- Accelerant detection canine searches
- Special insurance claim searches where fraud is a motive
- Burn injury information for suspect identification
- NYS Corporations information checks



Support Programs:

- NYS fire investigator certification program
- County arson control plan review
- Arson criminal history background check for volunteer firefighter applicants in designated counties
- NYS Crime Laboratory Advisory Committee / Arson Technical Working Group

Fire Investigation Technical Assistance

The Fire Investigation Technical Assistance (FITA) program provides emergency response to the fire service, law enforcement, and prosecutors on a 24 hour basis for the purpose of conducting fire investigations for fires involving ANY of the following;

- Fatalities
- Dollar loss of \$50,000 or greater
- Explosions
- Serial or unusual fire scenarios
- Cigarette caused fires



All Investigators are nationally accredited fire investigators, trained and certified to New York State standards as;

Fire Investigators, Peace Officers, and Crime Scene Evidence Specialists.



Every Investigator is equipped with a cache of equipment. This equipment includes basic hand tools, shovels, rakes, brooms, sifters, and saws, as well as documentation equipment including digital photographic and video cameras and the fundamental equipment necessary for the collection of fire debris evidence.

In instances of a major incident, staff have a response trailer (MIRT) that can be deployed with additional tools to include, a large generator and tripod lighting, portable shelters, scene processing tools, power tools and a portable x-ray unit.



Regional Networking

As a means to keep abreast of the issues and provide information to our client group staff utilize a regional networking program. Investigators interact with fire investigation teams, fire coordinators, and burn treatment facilities to address their concerns and issues.

