

MATTHEW TERRY

Fire Investigator · IAAI-CFI (V)(M) · NAFI-CFEI · IGL K9 Handler · CA PI #190131

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

U.S. Air Force veteran and Fire Investigator with more than 30 years of experience in fire suppression, command operations, and origin and cause investigations. Certified through the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI-CFI) with Motor Vehicle and Marine endorsements, and through the National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI-CFEI). More than 350 origin and cause investigations completed across structure, vehicle, wildland, marine, and fatal fire types.

Currently serving as Fire Investigator, Fire Captain, and Accelerant Detection K9 Handler with certified canine partner Tank at San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, and as Owner/Principal Investigator of Terry Fire Consulting. Investigations conducted per NFPA 921 methodology with emphasis on defensible findings, clear reporting, and litigation-ready documentation.

FIRE INVESTIGATION EXPERIENCE

More than 350 origin and cause investigations completed (2019–Present) under authority of San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District and Terry Fire Consulting.

- Residential and commercial structure fires
- Passenger and commercial vehicle fires
- Marine vessel fires
- Wildland and WUI incidents
- Fatal fire investigations
- Explosion incidents

Technical Capabilities

- Ignitable liquid detection — certified K9 resources
- Post-flashover fire pattern analysis
- Systematic scene examination and documentation
- Hypothesis development, testing, and cause determination
- Multi-agency coordination with law enforcement
- Litigation-quality report preparation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner / Principal Fire Investigator

2025 – Present

Terry Fire Consulting · Oakdale, CA

- Independent O&C investigations for insurance carriers, TPAs, and legal counsel — residential, commercial, vehicle, WUI, and marine.
- Report preparation, consultation, litigation support, and expert witness testimony.
- CA PI License #190131.

Fire Investigator

2019 – Present

San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District

- Assigned district fire investigator — more than 350 origin and cause investigations completed.
- All investigations conducted in accordance with NFPA 921.

Fire Captain

2012 – Present

San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District

- Responsible for command operations and incident management across all hazard types.
- Member, Hazardous Materials (2002–Present) and Technical Rescue teams (2018–Present).

Accelerant Detection K9 Handler — K9 "Tank"

2022 – Present

San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District

- Certified IGL Detection K9 team; conducts scene searches, evidence sampling, and detection work in support of fire investigations.

Firefighter / Paramedic

1996 – 2012

*San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District***Board Member (Elected)**

2002 – 2006

*Ripon Fire Protection District***Firefighter / Paramedic**

1996

*City of Colton Fire Department***Paramedic**

1995 – 1996

*Mercy Ambulance***Airman First Class**

1992 – 1994

*United States Air Force**Basic Training Honor Graduate.***LITIGATION SUPPORT & EXPERT SERVICES**

- Origin and cause investigations conducted under NFPA 921 methodology.
- Deposition testimony — civil litigation (elected Fire District Board of Director capacity).
- Deposition testimony — civil litigation (private civil matter).
- Trial testimony — criminal proceedings.
- Trial testimony — civil litigation (elected Fire District Board of Director capacity).
- Expert Witness Court Testimony Training — CCAI / IAAI, October 2021 (Tested).
- Available for scene examination, consultation, deposition, and trial testimony.

CERTIFICATIONS & CREDENTIALS

Fire Investigation

- Certified Fire Investigator — IAAI-CFI (Exp. 5/13/2030)
- Motor Vehicle Endorsement — IAAI-CFI (V) (Exp. 5/13/2030)
- Marine Fire Endorsement — IAAI-CFI (M) (Exp. 5/13/2030)
- Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator — NAFI-CFEI (2025)
- Certified Fire Investigator — CFMO
- Forensic Fire Death Investigation — Central CA Forensic Fire Death Investigation Academy (40 hrs, Tested, 2026)
- FI-210 Wildland Fire O&C Determination — NWCG (2021)
- Fire Investigation 1A, 1B, 1C — CA State Fire Marshal (2019)

K9 / Legal / Investigative

- IGL K9 Team Certification (Matt Terry & K9 "Tank") — Independent Third-Party Certification (Current)
- California Licensed Private Investigator — License No. PI-190131 (Valid through 5/31/2028)
- CA PI Qualified Manager Certificate — No. PIQ22161 (Issued 4/2/2026)
- PC 832 Laws of Arrest — CA Commission on POST (2026)
- Interview & Interrogation — CA Commission on POST (2020)

Fire Service — State Certifications

- Fire Officer, Fire Instructor 1A/1B, Fire Command 1A/1B/1C, Fire Management 1 — CA State Fire Marshal
- Firefighter I & II — CA State Fire Marshal (Active, Never Expires)
- Safety Officer (S-404) — CA State Fire Marshal (2010)

- Rescue Systems I, Confined Space Rescue Technician, Trench Rescue Technician — CA State Fire Marshal (2017)
- Haz-Mat Technician Specialist 1A–1D — California Specialized Training Institute (2002)
- Paramedic — California Emergency Medical Services Authority (Exp. 01/31/2028)

CONTINUING EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

50+ tested modules and formal courses completed (2019–Present). Selected highlights:

- Forensic Fire Death Investigation, Central CA Academy — April 2026 (40 hrs, Tested)
- Marine Fire Investigation, IAAI — June 2025 (32 hrs, Tested)
- Vehicle Fire Investigation, Greater Houston Fire Marshal's Office — May 2025 (24 hrs, Tested)
- Training Seminar, California Conference of Arson Investigators — 2021–2025 (Annual, Tested)
- Expert Witness Court Testimony — CCAI / IAAI, October 2021 (Tested)
- FI-210 Wildland Fire O&C Determination — NWCG, May 2021 (Tested)
- IAAI-CFI Trainer modules: fire dynamics, electrical analysis, vehicle systems, scene safety, evidence handling, legal proceedings, ethics, youth-set fires, wildland investigation, and more (2019–2026)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
- National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)
- California Conference of Arson Investigators (CCAI)