



Fact Sheet

Public Affairs Division - Washington DC



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CERTIFIED FIRE INVESTIGATORS (CFI)

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) is a highly trained special agent who provides technical support, analysis and assistance to ATF and its state and local partners in fire origin and cause determination and arson investigation. The ATF CFI is a field division's primary resource in fire- and arson-related investigations.

The ATF CFI investigates violent crimes of arson and arson-for-profit, conducts fire scene examinations, makes origin and cause determinations, provides expert testimony, assists other special agents and prosecutors with investigations and conducts training for ATF agents and other federal, state and local fire investigators. ATF's CFIs provide support for fire and arson investigations throughout the entire United States, its territories and other countries.

The CFI completes a two-year training program that includes fire origin and cause determination, fire dynamics, fire modeling, building construction, electricity and fire causation, health and safety, scene reconstruction and evidence collection. The program relies on rigorous training, education and experience to provide agents with the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to obtain credentials to testify as expert witnesses in the field of fire origin and cause.

In addition to its CFI's, the expertise of ATF's U.S. Bomb Data Center, explosives enforcement officers, National Response Team, three forensic science laboratories and the Fire Research Laboratory contribute to fire and arson investigations. ATF's CFI's provide support for fire and arson investigations throughout the entire United States, its territories and other countries. ATF initiated 1,818 arson investigations in fiscal year 2014.

ATF's basic investigative jurisdiction in arson is delineated in 18 United States Code, Chapter 40, Section 844 (Title XI of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, as amended by the Anti-Arson Act of 1982) and Section 846 and 26 United States Code, Chapter 53 (Title II of the Gun Control Act of 1968, as amended).

For more information about CFIs, go to www.atf.gov.

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