



**PREMIER CLAIMS INVESTIGATIONS**  
*Jonathan Companik - Professional Qualifications*

## **Employment**

- February 2003-Present: Premier Claims Investigations, Inc.  
Progressed from fire scene technician to origin and cause investigator, after certification with the National Association of Fire Investigators as a Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator and completion of various other continuing education courses and testing. Began with basic fire dynamics education, combined with basic fire origin and cause determination studies and advanced into origin and cause determination practices as taught by one of the industry's leading O&C analysts. Assists the various investigators with fire scene reconstruction, evidence analysis, documentation and collection. Assists in follow-up investigative efforts and in report preparation. Has investigated hundreds of fire losses.

## **Training**

- Premier Claims Investigations, Inc. – February-March 2003  
  
Fire origin and cause determination course. Instructor: Michael R. Chaney, Chief Fire Analyst, CFI – IAAI. Completed a multi-week educational program, and ongoing CE which covered the following topics:
  - Basic origin and cause determination
  - NFPA 921
  - Fire pattern recognition
  - Building construction
  - Kirk's Fire Investigation*
  - Select NFPA code studies
  - Select PCI case studies
  - Kirks Fire Investigation
  - NFPA 1033
  - Numerous periodicals and treatises.
  - Fire Science and Fire Dynamics
- Premier Claims Investigations, Inc. – Summer - 2003  
  
In-depth Case study CE. Reviewed with the Chief Fire Analyst over fifty complete investigations, with review of their entire photographic and videographic documentation and collateral investigation findings. InterFire Interactive Virtual Reality Fire Investigation courses completed.

- Premier Claims Investigations, Inc. – February 2003-Present

On The Job “OJT” training program. Worked in the field on scores of fire investigations with Chief Fire Analyst Michael R. Chaney, Senior Fire Investigator Richard Benson, Senior Fire Investigator Jerry Wolf, and Senior Investigator Mike Littrell. Assisted the investigators in documentation of the fire scene, debris search, wiring and systems analysis, evidence collection, interviews of witnesses, and collection of fire records and reports, while interfacing with public officials. Assisted in report preparation. Completed “Court Room” testimony course with PCI.

In-depth study and discussion of NFPA 921 with Chief Fire Analyst Michael R. Chaney. Completed testing modules regarding *NFPA 921: Guide for Fire & Explosion Investigation and regarding other texts as supplements to the NFPA 921 training, including, but not limited to: Kirk’s Fire Investigation, The Users Manual for NFPA 921, Dr. Vyto Barbrauskas’ Ignition Handbook, the 19<sup>th</sup> Edition of the NFPA Fire Protection Handbook, USFA Fire Burn Pattern Tests and various building code sections.*

Assisted the Chief Fire Analyst in fire test modules applicable to various cases, to include partial room mock-ups, appliance fire testing, and spontaneous combustion analysis and hot surface ignition of flammable vapors.

## Schools/Seminars

- Premier Claims Investigations Basic and Advanced Fire Investigation Training Program. (Requires more applicable texts than Associates Science Degrees in Fire Science). Ongoing since February 2003.
- Attended the annual Texas Fire and Arson Investigators Seminar in Austin, Texas in March, 2003, completing 32 hours of instruction.
- Attended a five-day conference in Sarasota, Fl. in August, 2003, hosted by the National Association of Fire Investigators. 32 hours of instruction, tested. Obtained license as a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator.
- Completed 32 hours of instruction at the annual Texas Fire and Arson Investigator’s Seminar in Austin, March, 2004.
- Completed 14 hours of instruction at the 21<sup>st</sup> annual East Texas Arson Investigator’s Seminar in Longview, November, 2004.
- Received 8 hours of instruction at the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Arson /Insurance Fraud Symposium in Houston (Ponderosa V.F.D.) in April, 2005.
- Completed 16 hours at the Fuel Gas Fires and Explosions Seminar hosted by the Public Agency Training Council in Houston, July 2005.
- Received 16 hours of instruction at the Scientific Fire Investigation Seminar hosted by Premier Claims Investigations in October 2005 in Houston, TX. (Babrauskas, Churchward, Reiter, Hopkins, & Chaney – Instructors)

Resume of Fire Investigator Jonathan M. Companik

- Attended the Fire Origin and Cause-NFPA 921 Seminar hosted by the Public Agency Training Council (PATC) in October, 2005, completing 24 hours.
- Attended the Hands-On Electrical Fire/Arson Investigation Seminary hosted by the Public Agency Training Council (PATC) in August, 2006, completing 21 hours.
- Attended the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual Texas Fire and Arson Investigators Seminar in Austin, TX March, 2007. John DeHaan taught on myths of fire investigation. Steve Carmen taught on spontaneous combustion and the effects of ventilation on fire investigations. Mark Holloway taught on LP gas. Twenty-four hours of instruction completed.
- Completed 21 hours of instruction at the Fire Pattern Certification class hosted by the Public Agency Training Council from 3/25-3/27 2008 in Missouri City, TX.
- Attended the 53<sup>rd</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> annual Texas Fire and Arson Investigators Seminar in Austin, TX March 2008 and March 2009. Topics included NFPA 921 procedures, electrical issues, burn pattern analysis, fire scene documentation and numerous others.
- Completed 32 hours of instruction at the 55<sup>th</sup> annual Texas Fire and Arson Investigator's conference hosted by the International Association of Arson Investigators (I.A.A.I.) in Austin, TX, March, 2010. Topics included "Junk Science: The Willingham Arson Case", "Recreational Vehicle Fire Investigation", "Arson Profiling" (criminal psychological profiling), "Penal Code, Civil Law Updates", and "Case Histories and Testimony Preparation".
- Completed 16 hours of instruction on "Hands-On Arson Scene Search & Evidence Recovery" in Conroe, TX, January, 2011 under instructor, Steve Riggs.
- Completed 12 hours of instruction on "Forensic Fire Death Investigations" at the Texas Fire Investigation Forum in Tomball, TX, Jan.7-8, 2013. Speakers included Dr. John DeHaan, Dr. Nizam Peerwani, Dr. David Icove, et. Al.
- Completed 32 Hours of tested instruction on Texas Fire and Arson Investigators Seminar, Best Practices, Professional Standards for Fire/Arson Investigator, Video Surveillance, Cell Phone/Ping Warrants, Investigator Safety at Clandestine Drug Lab, Ventilation Patterns & Fire Investigation, Evidence and Property, NFPA 921 Sword and Shield. March, 2013 – Austin, Texas
- Completed 32 Hours of tested instruction on Texas Fire and Arson Investigators Seminar, – Motor Vehicle Fire Investigation, Investigating Fire Fatalities, Daubert Defense, NFPA 921, NFPA 1033, Interviews, Interrogations, Expert Report Writing. Burn Patterns, Hazardous Environment Investigation of Fires - March 2014 – Austin, Texas

## **CFI IAAI Trainer Certification Modules**

- NFPA 921 & 1033 Editions: Important Revisions -3 credit hours. (March 25, 2014)
- Basic Electricity - 4 credit hours (March 25, 2014)
- The Fire Investigator & the 2011 NFPA 921 Changes—November, 2011 (4 hrs.)
- Fundamentals of Interviewing—July, 2011 (4 hrs.)
- Search and Seizure—June, 2011 (4 hrs.)
- Wildland Fires Investigation—October, 2010 (5 hrs.)
- Electrical Safety—August, 2010 (3 hrs.)
- Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling – February, 2010 (4 hrs.)
- Effective Investigation and Testimony – February, 2010 (3 hrs.)
- Fire Investigator Scene Safety – September, 2009 (3 hrs.)
- Arc Mapping Basics – September, 2009 (4 hrs.)
- Understanding Fire Through Candle Experiments – September, 2009 (4 hrs.)
- Critical Thinking Solves Cases – September, 2009 (4 hrs.)
- Motive, Means and Opportunity: Determining Responsibility in an Arson Case – September, 2009 (4 hrs.)
- Investigating Fatal Fires – September, 2009 (4 hrs.)
- Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations – August, 2009 (4 hrs.)
- Vacant and Abandoned Buildings: Hazards and Solutions – July, 2009 (4 hrs.)
- A Ventilation-Focused Approach to the Impact of Building Structures and Systems on Fire Development – July, 2009 (4 hrs.)
- Postflashover Fires – July, 2009 (4 hrs.)
- Fire and Explosion Investigations: Utilizing NFPA 1033 and 921 – July, 2009 (4 hrs.)
- Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene – July, 2009 (4 hrs.)
- Documenting the Event – July, 2009 (4 hrs.)
- Introduction to Evidence – July, 2009 (4 hrs.)
- The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation – July, 2009 (3 hrs.)
- Ethics and the Fire Investigation – July, 2009 (3 hrs.)

## **Certifications**

Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (National Association of Fire Investigators)

Licensed Private Investigator, State of Texas

## **Additional Education, Seminars & Affiliations & Educational Pursuits**

Webster Academy, Beaver, Pennsylvania: Graduated 1998.

Keeps current in fire science and technology issues through study of journals and publications received at Premier Claims Investigations to include, but not limited to: The

IAAI's Fire and Arson Investigator Journal, Claims Magazine, Fire Protection Engineering, Fire Findings, NFPA Journal and various other newsletters and on-line resources. Mr. Companik's continuing education hours are extensive; when not on fire scenes or assisting in information collection on active cases Mr. Companik is completing a multi-year study of the various technical references listed in this resume and is tested periodically by the Chief Fire Analyst regarding the various issues. He has attended other one-day industry educational events also and has worked in the field with various electrical engineers who specialize in fire failure analysis. His post-secondary education centering on Fire Investigation and NFPA 921 far exceeds those at various colleges and universities. Research assistant for investigators on various fire science issues, codes and related matters for an Associates Degree in Fire Science.