

Survey of Fire/Explosion Scene Investigators Technical Working Group for Fire and Explosions

Instructions: The following survey contains questions related to your job responsibilities, education, training, investigative standards and protocols, and information resources. It should take about 20 minutes to complete. Most items can be answered by both fire and explosion investigators, although some items, where indicated, will be applicable to, and should only be answered by those involved in that kind of investigation. All information you provide will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. At the completion of the statistical analysis, this questionnaire will be destroyed. Thank you for your participation.

Demographic considerations

1. Age:
2. Gender: Male Female
3. State in which you work:
4. Are you a supervisor? Yes No
5. Do you have arrest powers? Yes No
6. Current Position (check all that apply):

- Fire Investigator Law Enforcement
- Fire Investigator Fire Department
- Fire Prevention
- Explosion Investigator
- Bomb Technician
- K-9 Handler (Accelerants)
- K-9 Handler (Explosives)
- Forensic Laboratory
- Fire Marshal
- Military
- Engineer
- Insurance Investigator/Adjuster
- Prosecutor's Investigator
- Private Sector

- _____ Other (please specify)
7. Which describes your position (please check one): Volunteer _____ Paid Employee
8. Do you work as a fire/explosion investigator (please check one):
Full time _____ or Part time _____?
9. Agency type that you currently work for (check only one):
 _____ A. Private
 _____ B. Local
 _____ C. County
 _____ D. State
 _____ E. Federal
10. Years of experience in your field (fill in all that apply):
 _____ Fire
 _____ Explosion
 _____ Bomb Technician
11. How many fire/explosion investigators are in your department?
 How many are full-time?
 How many are part-time?
12. What is the average annual percentage of your workload that is devoted to each of the following (please give percentage totaling to 100%):
 _____ Fire Scene Investigation (origin and cause)
 _____ Post Incident Investigation (financial motive, suspects, etc.)
 _____ Post Blast Investigation
 _____ Explosives (render safe, bomb technician)
 _____ Explosives (handle, transport, destroy known or suspected explosives)
 _____ Forensic Analysis
 _____ Other-please describe type of work
13. How many investigations do you perform, on average, per year?
 _____ Fire
 _____ Explosions
14. How many hours per year do you devote to training?
 a. As an Instructor
 _____ Fire
 _____ Explosion

- b. As an Student
 _____ Fire
 _____ Explosion

15. Education (please check highest level completed and fill in corresponding field where applicable):

- GED _____
 High School _____
 2 year degree _____ AA _____ AS _____
 4 year degree _____ BA _____ BS _____ Field _____
 Master's degree _____ MA _____ MS _____ Field _____
 Ph.D. _____ Field _____
 Other _____

16. In your opinion, should your immediate supervisor have experience in the areas of fire or explosion investigation to manage cases in these fields?

- _____ Yes
 _____ No

17. In your opinion what are the minimum number of years of experience in fire or explosion investigation needed to hold a supervisory position?

- _____ a. None
 _____ b. Less than 2 years
 _____ c. 2-5 years
 _____ d. 6-10 years
 _____ e. More than 10 years

18. Does your immediate supervisor have experience in fire or explosion investigations?

- _____ Yes
 _____ No

19. Which professional organizations are **you** a member of (please check all that apply)?

- a. _____ International Association of Arson Investigators
 b. _____ State Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators
 c. _____ National Fire Protection Association
 d. _____ National Association of Fire Investigators
 e. _____ International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators
 f. _____ International Society of Explosives Engineers
 g. _____ World EOD Foundation
 h. _____ Other (please specify) _____

20. Are you certified in your field?
_____ Yes If yes, with whom? _____
_____ No

21. What published guidelines do you apply to your:

Fire Investigations?

_____ NFPA 921
_____ Department Guidelines
_____ Other (please specify)

Explosion Investigations?

_____ ATF
_____ FBI
_____ Other (please specify)

22. Does your department use Standard Operating Procedures/Standard Operating Guidelines?

_____ Yes _____ No

23. Does your department have any formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Mutual Aid Pact (MAP) with (check all that apply)?

Municipal Agencies	_____ Yes	_____ No
County Agencies	_____ Yes	_____ No
State Agencies	_____ Yes	_____ No
Federal Agencies	_____ Yes	_____ No

24. Are you a member of a formal task force?

_____ Yes _____ No

FIRE INVESTIGATORS ONLY – QUESTIONS 25-31: Explosion Investigators Skip to 32

25. As an investigator of fire scenes, have you had formal training in the investigation of fire scenes?

_____ Yes If yes, check all that apply:
 _____ local _____ hours
 _____ state _____ hours

- ___ Cleaning scene equipment after each sample is collected
- ___ Submitting reference and comparison samples
- ___ Complying with search and seizure requirements

31. What types of containers do you use in submitting fire debris to a laboratory for accelerant examination (check all that apply):

- a. Unlined Metal Cans ___
- b. Lined Metal Cans
- c. Glass Containers _____
- d. Plastic Containers ___
- e. Paper Bags _____
- f. Nylon Bags _____
- g. Kapak-Type Bags
- h. Plastic (polyethylene) Bags
- i. Cardboard Boxes
- j. Other (please specify)

EXPLOSION INVESTIGATORS ONLY—QUESTIONS 32-38: Fire Investigators skip to question 39.

32. As an investigator of bombing incidents, have you had formal training in the investigation of bombing crime scenes?

- ___ Yes If yes, check all that apply:
- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| ___ local | ___ hours |
| ___ state | ___ hours |
| ___ federal | ___ hours |
| ___ private | ___ hours |
- ___ No

- ___ Locating the center of the blast
- ___ Collecting evidence and place in appropriate container(s)
- ___ Always being aware of cross-contamination and avoiding it
- ___ Documenting each item of evidence and logging it
- ___ Sending the evidence to appropriate lab(s) for analysis
- ___ Taking crater measurements
- ___ Documenting sign bending
- ___ Documenting glass breakage
- ___ Documenting structural failure

38. What types of containers do you use in submitting explosion debris to a laboratory for examination (please check all that apply):

- a. Unlined Metal Cans
- b. Lined Metal Cans
- c. Glass Containers ___
- d. Plastic Containers ___
- e. Paper Bags ___
- f. Nylon Bags ___
- g. Kapak-Type Bags
- h. Plastic (polyethylene) Bags
- i. Cardboard Boxes
- j. Anti-static Bags
- k. Other (please specify) _____

GENERAL INFORMATION (for both fire and explosion investigators)

39. What extent of funding does your agency provide for continuing education and training in the field of fire/explosion investigation?

- ___ a. Full funding
- ___ b. Partial funding
- ___ c. No funding

40. To what extent does your agency encourage continuing college level course work for each

- Mailed information
- Phone calls
- Electronic mail
- Internet web sites or databases
- Trade journals or newspapers
- Conference presentations
- Special seminars
- Association newsletters

48. Does your agency provide fire/explosion investigative literature and publications for you to reference?

Yes No

49. Have you ever given an opinion concerning the origin and cause of a fire and/or explosion in a court of law?

Yes No

If yes, how many times in (check the appropriate lines):

Civil Court

1-5 6-10 11 or above

Criminal Court

1-5 6-10 11 or above

50. Has your expertise been challenged under the Daubert or Kumho Tire v. Carmichael decisions?

Yes No

51. Are you EPA HAZMAT certified?

Yes If yes, to what level are you certified _____.
 No

52. Are you aware of the following agencies standards and guidelines on safety (check all that apply)?

NFPA _____ Yes _____ No
EPA _____ Yes _____ No
OSHA _____ Yes _____ No

Do you follow any or all of these standards and guidelines as they relate to fire investigations (**Fire Only**)? Yes _____ No _____

Do you follow any or all of these standards and guidelines as they relate to explosion investigations (**Explosion Only**)? Yes _____ No _____

53. At what level does your agency provide the following medical screening:

_____ None	
_____ Baseline Screening	
_____ Periodic Physical Exam	How often?
_____ Periodic Cardiac Stress Testing	How often?
_____ Respiratory Testing	How often?

54. Does your agency provide a physical fitness program?

Yes _____ No _____

55. Does your agency have a physical fitness requirement?

Yes _____ No _____

56. Identify three areas of research in fire and explosion investigation that you would like to see explored:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY!

Please feel free to make any additional comments: