



Resume' and Curriculum Vitae **Eugene R. Padgitt**

Eugene is the Vice-President of HearthMasters, Inc. DBA Padgitt Forensic Investigations. HearthMasters is the largest chimney company within 200 miles of Kansas City. Eugene is one of only two Certified Fire Investigators in the Midwest region that specialize in structural fires related to chimneys, fireplaces, and heating appliances.

Industry Experience: 30 years of industry experience in diagnosing chimney and fireplace problems, repairing fireplaces and chimneys: design and building of chimneys, masonry heaters, fireplaces, and brick ovens; installation of wood burning fireplaces, wood stoves, wood stove inserts, wood furnaces, gas logs, gas inserts, and gas stoves. He worked as an Heating, Ventilating, and Cooling contractor for ten years. Gene has 15 years of fire investigation experience and has been a popular industry instructor for 20 years. Gene has completed over 38,000 chimney inspections, and at least 150 Fire investigations involving house fires related to chimneys and heating appliances. He has done fire investigation work for Consolidated Forensic Investigations, Independent Forensics, Dynamic insurance Fire and Fraud Investigations, Anderson Investigations, American Family Insurance Company, Farmers Insurance Company, State Farm Insurance Company, Allied Insurance Company, Allstate Insurance Company, The Raytown Missouri Fire Department, Allstate Insurance Company, USAA Insurance Company, and many attorneys.

Licenses:

Master Mechanical Contractor License in Johnson County, Kansas; Kansas City, Missouri; Raytown, Missouri; Independence, Missouri, Gladstone, Missouri and recognized in all other cities in the KC area

Certifications:

Missouri State Certified Private Fire Investigator through the Missouri Division of Fire Safety since 1999
Certified Woodburning Specialist by the National Fireplace Institute 2000-2009
Certified Gas Specialist by the National Fireplace Institute since 2001
Certified Chimney Sweep by the Chimney Safety Institute of America since 1990
CSIA Certified Dryer Exhaust Technician by the Chimney Safety Institute of America since 2015
Certified Heater Mason by the Masonry Heater Association of North America since 2006
Welding Certificates from Vatterott College 1991-1994

College Education:

Degree in Heating, Ventilation, and Cooling Technology, May 1986, Vatterott & Sullivan College, Kansas City, MO

Gene completed two years of study at Rockhurst College and the Kansas City Art Institute from 1976-1978 with a major in photography.

Education to maintain certifications and licensing: (Technical classes listed only)

House Pressure Testing, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 1990
The Fundamentals of OSHA Compliance, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 1990
Coleman Furnace Installation training for dealers, May, 1991
Basic Gas Appliance Repair and Installation, Midwest Chimney Safety Council, February 15 1995, 8 hrs
Trouble Shooting Gas Appliances, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, February, 1995
HEARTH Specialist Review, Hearth Association, March 1995
Advanced Gas Appliance Repair and Installation, Midwest Chimney Safety Council, May 12 1996, 8 hrs
Sweeping and Inspecting Woodburning Chimneys, MCSC Annual Conference, 1995
Introduction to Vent-Free Appliances, Midwest Chimney Safety Council Annual Conference, 1996
Chimney Draft Problems, Midwest Chimney Safety Council Annual Conference, 1997

Professional Reports, Midwest Chimney Safety Council Annual Conference, 1998
Inspection of Pre-Fabricated Fireplaces, Midwest Chimney Safety Council Annual Conference, 1999
Rumford Fireplace Design, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 1999
Mechanical Code Review, Johnson County Community College, March - May, 2000, 40 hours:
Including- Uniform Mechanical code, 1997; Code of Federal Regulations, OSHA Excerpts for Contractors, NFPA 54, Manual n, J & D, Pipefitter's Handbook, System Design Manual, Low Pressure Boilers, High Pressure Boilers, ASHRAE Handbook of Fundamentals, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning.
Diagnosis and Documentation, The Chimney Safety Institute of America, August 10—12, 2000
Codes and Standards Review, Midwest Chimney Safety Council Annual Conference, 2000
Woodburning Specialist Review, Midwest Chimney Safety Council Annual Conference, August, 2000
Chimney Physics, Midwest Chimney Safety Council Annual Conference, August, 2000
Install Direct Vent Fireplace, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2000
40 hours Mechanical Code Review, Johnson County Community College, March 5 - May 6, 2001
Gas and Wood Appliance installation, Midwest Chimney Safety Council August, 2002
Gas Specialist Review, Midwest Hearth, Patio, and Barbecue Association conference, August 2001
Remove Ventless Fireplaces, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2001
Troubleshooting Atmospherically Vented Appliances, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2001
Gas Appliance Service, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2001
Removal & Reinstallation of Wood Burning Fireplaces, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2001
Advanced Troubleshooting of gas appliances, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2001
Codes and Standards Review, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2001
Masonry Masters I, and Masonry Masters II, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2002
17 hours Fire Investigation Training Program, Missouri Chapter IAAI 2002
Historic Masonry Preservation, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2003
Relining Workshop, Chimney Sweeping and Inspections, MCSC Convention 2003
Chimney Fire Burn Demonstration, Midwest Chimney Safety Council Annual Conference, 2002
Basic Concrete: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2002
17 hours Fire Investigation Training Program, Missouri Chapter IAAI 2003
Fireplace Products International dealer training, April 10-13 2003
CPR Certification, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2003
Codes and Standards Update, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2003
Carbon Monoxide and The Chimney Industry, Midwest Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, 2003
Woodburning Certification Review: Midwest Chimney Safety Council 2004
Sustainable Construction: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2004
Radiant Heating Systems: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2004
Concrete Residential Foundations: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2004
Chimney Physics, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2004
Ladder Safety, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2004
Evaluating Factory Built Fireplaces, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2004
Waterproofing Masonry, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2004
Codes and Standards Review, National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention, 2004
Air Conditioning Efficiency Standards: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2006
Light My Fire: A Fireplace Seminar; Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2006
Understanding Residential Hot Water Systems: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2006
Common Errors in Venting Gas Furnaces: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2006
Stucco Applications: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2006
Combustion Analysis For Safety: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas, 2007
Solving Negative Pressure: Midwest Chimney Safety Council, 2007
Codes Review: Midwest Chimney Safety Council, 2007
International Mechanical Code Combustion Air: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2008
International Mechanical Code Exhaust System: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2008
Learning to Live with Carbon Monoxide: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2008

International Fuel Gas Code Update: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2010
Fuel Gas Piping: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2010
Water Heater Installation: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2010
International Residential Code Plumbing Provisions: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2010
Design and Construction Considerations for Handling Moisture in Masonry Walls:
Structural Engineering Aspects of Masonry Wall Construction: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2010
Practices of Sustainable Design for Homes: Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas. 2010

IAAI Conference 2011– MO Division of Fire Safety: 17.5 credit hours

Cellulose Insulation in relation to Zero Clearance Fireplaces Per NFPA 211, UL 103, ASTM c739
Motorhome and RV Fire Investigations Per NFPA 1192 & 921-2011 edition
Factory Built Fireplaces and Chimneys in Relationship to Cellulose Insulation
Digital Photography
NFPA 921 2011 updates

National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention 2012:

Electrical Safety and Back Safety
Waterproofing Methods and Application
Codes and Standards Update
Hearth Protection—UL1618 Changes:
Lessons Learned from Fire Investigations (Consultant)
Transite Pipe-Asbestos:
Building an Efficient Masonry Fireplace (Instructor)
Fireplace Restoration

IAAI Conference 2012-MO Division of Fire Safety: 18 credit hours

Don't Cross Me: Deposition of Public and Private Investigator: The Death of Negative Corpus
Hearth & Safety for the Fire Investigator: Insurance Fraud; Sometimes Crime Does Pay
Now more than Ever; Cooperation Between Public; Private Investigators
Litigation on Fire; NFPA 921 in the Eyes of the Judicial System

Contractor Licensing of Johnson County, Kansas, November 2012: 18 credit hours

2012 IMC Design, Installation and Inspection Principles
Carbon Monoxide Safety Preparation
Venting Gas Appliances
Framing for Plumbers, Mechanics, and Electricians

Masonry Heater Association of North America Annual Conference 2012: 40 credit hours

Masonry Heater Building Workshop
IRC Codes & NFPA 211 Standards for Masonry Heaters
Heater Mason Education and Development Program

International Association of Fire Investigators Missouri Chapter June 24-26, 2013:

Litigation on Fire: NFPA 921 In the Eyes of the Judicial System
Don't Cross ME-Depositions of Public and Private Fire Investigators
The Death of Negative Corpus
The Health and Safety of the Fire Investigator
Crime Does Pay: Insurance Fraud
Now More Than Ever: Public and Private Fire Investigation Cooperation

Johnson County Contractor Licensing Education 2013:

2/21/2013 Building Pressure Testing For Code Compliance
2/21/2013 Duct And Building Envelope Tightness for Code
10/29/2013 International Mechanical Code Update
10/29/13 Missouri Contract Law
10/31/2013 Retrofits And Options or R-22 Replacements
10/31/2013 Advanced HVAC And Air Quality

Midwest Chimney Safety Council Annual Conference 2013:

Diagnosing & Solving Negative Pressure (Instructor)
Installation of a Whole-House Ventilator (Instructor)
Safe Access to Chimneys
Flashing 101
Codes and Standards Update

National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention 2014: 16 hrs

Gas Update and Reinforcement
Annual Gas Appliance Service Procedure
IRC Model Codes
We Fix Leaking Chimneys-Revisited
Creating a Thorough Inspection Program
Efficient Masonry Fireplaces-Part 3

Johnson County Contractor Licensing Education 2014: 8 hrs

2/18/2014 An Overview of UL Resources
2/17/14 Chimney Fundamentals
2/17/2014 Carbon Monoxide in the Built Environment

IAAI Conference, Missouri Chapter 2014: 18 hrs

Juvenile Fire Setters and Bomb Making
Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing
Premeditated Response Ambush
Spoliation
PV (Solar) Informational / Investigation & Solar System Safety

Midwest Chimney Safety Council Conference Aug 2014: 22 hrs

Installation of Class A Chimney Systems
Installation of a wood-burning stove
How to build three types of poured cement chimney crowns
How to make chase tops and flashing
Business and Personal Risk Management

Certified Dryer Exhaust Technician Course and Certification April 2015 8 hrs

IAAI Conference, Missouri Chapter June, 2015: 18 hrs

Investigation Photography
Suburban Fire Tactics
Interview & Interrogation Techniques
Interview & Interrogation Case Studies

OSHA 10-Hour Training August 2015 and 2020

Certified 10-Hour OSHA Construction Course

Johnson County Contractor Licensing Education 2015: 8 hrs
Johnson County Contractor Licensing Education 2016: 8 hrs
Johnson County Contractor Licensing Education 2017: 8 hrs
Johnson County Contractor Licensing Education 2018: 8 hrs
Johnson County Contractor Licensing Education 2019: 8 hrs
Johnson County Contractor Licensing Education 2020: 8 hrs
Johnson County Contractor Licensing Education 2021: 8 hrs

IAAI Conference, Missouri Chapter 2015: 18 hrs
IAAI Conference, Missouri Chapter 2016: 18 hrs
IAAI Conference, Missouri Chapter 2017: 18 hrs
IAAI Conference, Missouri Chapter 2018: 18 hrs
IAAI Conference, Missouri Chapter 2019: 18 hrs
IAAI Conference, Missouri Chapter 2020: 18 hrs
IAAI Conference, Missouri Chapter 2021: 18 hrs

Masonry Heater Association of North America Annual Conference 2014: 40 credit hours
Masonry Heater Association of North America Annual Conference 2015: 40 credit hours
Masonry Heater Association of North America Annual Conference 2016: 40 credit hours
Masonry Heater Association of North America Annual Conference 2017: 40 credit hours
Masonry Heater Association of North America Annual Conference 2018: 40 credit hours

Midwest Chimney Safety Council Conference Aug 2015: 22 hrs
Midwest Chimney Safety Council Conference Aug 2016: 22 hrs
Midwest Chimney Safety Council Conference Aug 2017: 22 hrs
Midwest Chimney Safety Council Conference at Lake of the Ozarks May, 2018: 32 hrs
Taught masonry heater construction 32 hours
Midwest Chimney Safety Council Conference at Lake of the Ozarks June, 2019: 32 hours
Taught masonry heater finishing work with river stone, Lake of the Ozarks, June, 2019 32 hours

Annual Education:

1. Attends 8-16 hours of technical classes sponsored by the Johnson County Licensing Board to maintain Licensed Mechanical Contractor designation annually.
2. Attends 32 hours of training every three years at the Masonry Heater Association Conference in order to maintain Certified Heater Mason designation.
3. Attends 16+ hours of training at the Missouri Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators conference annually to maintain PFI designation
4. Attends 16 hours of training at the National Chimney Sweep Guild annual Convention annually.
5. Attends 16 hours of training at the Hearth, Patio, and Barbeque Association annual Convention every three years.
6. Attended 12-16 hours of training at the annual Midwest Chimney Safety Council Conference until its dissolution in 2019.

Instructional Seminars Designed and Taught by Gene Padgitt:

Scaffold and Ladder Safety, Midwest Chimney Safety Council meeting, August 1998

Installation of a Gas-Burning Fireplace Insert, Midwest Chimney Safety Council meeting, August 1999

Chimney Inspection Guidelines for the Home Inspector, ASHI Plains Chapter Meeting, August 2000

Masonry Repair Methods for Chimney Crowns and Fireplaces, MCSC Annual Conference, 2002

Construction of Rumford and Bellfires Fireplaces: Midwest Chimney Safety Council, March, 2002

What is a Rumford Fireplace? Midwest Chimney Safety Council Annual Conference, 2003

Level III Chimney and House Fire Origin and Cause Investigations, MCSC Annual Conference, 2003

Understanding Make-up Air, Midwest Chimney Safety Council Annual Conference, March 27, 2004

Solving Negative Air Pressure Problems, Masonry Heater Association Annual Conference, April, 2004

Construction of Masonry Bake Ovens, Midwest Chimney Safety Council, April 2005

Forensic Evaluations of Structural Fires Caused by Chimneys and Heating Appliances: Hearth, Patio, and Barbeque Association April 2010

Stone Chimney Restoration, and Rumford fireplace building, Midwest Chimney Safety Council, August 2010

Bake Oven Building Workshop, Midwest Chimney Safety Council, June 2011

Masonry Finishing in Stone and Brick, Midwest Chimney Safety Council workshop, May, 2012

Building an Outdoor Smoker, Masonry Heater Association, April 2013

Rumford Fireplace Construction, National Chimney Sweep Guild, April, 2013

Identifying Negative House Pressure, Midwest Chimney Safety Council workshop August 2013

Installation of a Whole-House Ventilator, Midwest Chimney Safety Council workshop August 2013

Masonry Chimney Restoration, Midwest Chimney Safety Council Conference, June, 2016

How to Construct an Outdoor Brick Oven, HearthMasters Masonry School, June, 2017

How to Repair Stucco and Plaster, Midwest Chimney Safety Council Conference June, 2017

Construction of a Prior Fire Fireplace, Hearthmasters Masonry School, October 2019

Articles Written by Gene Padgitt:

Is the Smoke Chamber a Smoking Gun? Masonry Construction Magazine, April 2008

Fire Investigations Regarding Pre-Manufactured Appliances, Printed in SWEEPING Magazine, 9/2001

A series of 12 forensic articles for SNEWS magazine demonstrating how to avoid installation and maintenance issues that can lead to a structural fire 2009-2012

Rebuilding a Leaning Chimney, SNEWS Magazine, October, 2012

Masonry Heater Maintenance, SWEEPING Magazine, January, 2013

Gene has also consulted on over 150 articles written by Marge Padgitt for examiner.com, chimneys.com, and SNEWS magazine.

Books:

Consulted on The Chimney and Hearth Pro's Resource Book 2013 by Marge Padgitt
Co-authored Wood-Fired Heating and Cooking by Marge and Gene Padgitt, 2021

Current books in progress by Eugene and Margaret Padgitt:

Forensic Evaluations of Structural Fires Caused by Chimneys and Heating Appliances
Chimney and Fireplace Inspections
The Complete Guide to Chimney and Fireplace Restoration

Expert Witness Testimony and Depositions:**1. 1998- Ruben Kristal: Trial.** Kansas City, MO

Deposition, then expert witness testimony in court regarding damage to a chimney caused by nearby explosions.
For the plaintiff Ruben Kristal.

2. 2005- H. Kent and Shirley Dressle: Trial. Lake Lotawana, MO Case No. 04CV209949

Jackson County Circuit Court at Independence—Division 2

House fire caused by incorrect installation of a fireplace. Worked with Chuck Jacobs.

3. 2006- Georgetown Apartments: Investigation and report. 7200 Eby Drive Merriam, KS 66204

Report submitted to attorney who presented it in court regarding incorrect sizing and installation of chimney flue liners, and the judge found in favor of the plaintiff, Georgetown Apartments.

4. 1989- Missouri State Attorney General: Investigation and report. Investigated a fraudulent chimney repair case in 1989 and provided video evidence for a case against Allstate Chimney company in Kansas City, MO.**5. 11/22/2011- USAA Insurance: Deposition.** Re: 9070 NW 310th St, Gower, MO 64454

Report submitted 1/3/06, Deposition 11-22-11. Incorrect installation of combustibles around a Quadra-Fire brand fireplace.

6. 10/03/2012- Deposition: Richard McCann, owner. House fire caused by incorrect installation of a pellet appliance vent.

7. 3/28/2013 Deposition: St. Joseph, MO. Nationwide Insurance Co., Plaintiff: Patrick & Mary Cargill-Owners, 2610 Ashland Ave., St. Joseph, MO 64506 House fire caused by improper gas line installation to Heatilator brand model #EL42 CR 40 unit manufactured by Hearth & Home Technologies. James Myers of Shaffer Lombardo Shurin PC, 911 Main St., Suite 2000, Kansas City, MO 64105 for plaintiff designated Gene as an expert witness in this case.

8. 1/11/16 Deposition: Rogers, Arkansas. Farmer's Insurance Co., for the Plaintiff: Tricia Hasty. House fire caused by improper installation of metal chimney pipe.

9. 1/22/16 Trial: Expert Witness for Carol Foulds, Plaintiff vs ABD Chimney Arthur Dehnam, Defendant. Div 32, Independence, MO. Improper installation of a wood-burning insert and chimney into a manufactured fireplace. Attorney Joe Fridkin, Fridkin Law for C. Foulds. Outcome: the Plaintiff won the case.

10. 2019 Investigation and Deposition: Expert witness for Plaintiff vs Tamara Day. Improper construction of a chimney which caused a house fire.

Multiple Fire Investigation Reports: Submitted to insurance companies and investigators 1998-2022 which resulted in cases settled out of court and without depositions.