



## James DeSouza

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### **OBJECTIVE**

Qualification for Fire Scene Investigation

### **EDUCATION**

Chaffey College – Courses Associates Science  
Mt. San Antonio College – Courses Associate Science  
Firefighter I State Certification - Ontario Fire Department/Chaffey College  
Levels I and II Fire Investigation - California State Fire Marshal Training  
Incendiary and Explosives Scene Investigation - Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms  
Training Academy, Glynco, Georgia  
Vehicle Fire Investigation, Structure Fire Scene Investigation, Interview and Interrogations  
Training, Search and Seizure Laws - California Conference of Arson Investigators F.I.R.S.T.  
TEAM Fire Investigation Response Strike Team - Fire Investigation Updates and  
Procedures  
N.F.P.A. 921 and 1033 Compliance Standards-California Conference of Arson Investigators

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

July 1994- May 2009 Retired	Los Angeles County Fire Department Firefighter/Paramedic, Alternate Fire Investigation Unit
July 1988 - July 1994	City of Pomona Fire Department Fire Investigator
January 1976 - July 1988	City of Montclair Firefighter, Fire Inspector, Fire Investigator
July 2006-Present	Peek Investigations Inc. Fire Investigator, Auto/Mechanical, Inspection/Investigation
January 1989 - 1998	Crystal Investigations Fire Investigator, Private
January 1984-1990	Baldy View Regional Occupational Program Fire Technology Instructor

## **SPECIAL LICENSES/TRAINING/PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION:**

Court Qualified Expert-San Bernardino & Los Angeles County Superior Court  
Post Explosive Scene Investigation Certification, ATF Academy, Glynco,  
Georgia Level II Certification Fire Investigator, California State Fire Marshal  
Certified Fire Instructor 1A & 1B  
Firefighter Survival Trainer-Los Angeles County Fire Department  
State Fire Training/SFM Fire Investigation Curriculum Development Committee  
Instructor Fire Investigation, California Fire Academy, Asilomar, California  
Fire Technology Instructor-Baldy View Regional Occupational  
Program Licensed Paramedic, National Registry/ State of California  
Division Coordinator Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program-L.A. County Fire  
Dept. Past Treasurer California Conference of Arson Investigators  
Past Board Member California Conference Arson Investigation  
Past Board Member San Bernardino County Fire Investigators Association  
Past Board Member San Bernardino County Fire Prevention Officers  
Association Past Certification-A.S.E. Automotive Mechanical Repair  
CFI Certification – CCAI # 694

## **NFPA 921 & NFPA 1033 TRAINING**

November 7-9, 2011 Pismo Beach, CA- CCAI- Allen, Konefal, Bilancia  
Meeting the NFPA 921 and NFPA 1033 Fire Investigation challenges.  
Overview of the NFPA 1033 2009 Edition  
Overview of the NFPA 921 2011 Edition  
Overview of collection and organization of  
data Overview and review: Fire science;  
Fire chemistry;  
Thermodynamics;  
Thermometry; Fire  
dynamics;  
Explosion dynamics;  
Computer fire  
modeling; Fire analysis;  
Fire investigation methodology;  
Fire investigation technology;  
Hazardous materials;  
Failure analysis and analytical tools.

Information provided and obtained during this training seminar has been incorporated into my operational approach and methodology while conducting a fire and/or explosive scene investigation. A scientific approach is taken and applied including the formation of a testable and reliable hypothesis. When formulating a hypothesis, any and all available collected data, must be included in the final analysis of the incident. Only then can a conclusion be drawn upon, which includes a level of certainty, with a proven hypothesis when providing an expert opinion.

## **ADVANCED INTERVIEW & INTERROGATION TRAINING**

November 18-20 Pismo Beach, CA CCAI-ATF-20hrs.

## **EXPLOSIVES INVESTIGATION & CASE MANAGEMENT**

June 12, 2014 Anaheim, CA CCAI-Orange County Sheriffs Explosives Detail

## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

Fire Investigation 1A CSFM Fire Cause and Origin Determination.  
Fire Investigation 1B CSFM Criminal Investigative Procedures  
Fire Investigation 2A CSFM Fire Investigation Techniques and Burns  
Fire Investigation 2B CSFM Fire Case Studies, Case Presentation P.C.  
832 Laws of Arrest/Firearms - San Bernardino County Sheriff  
Explosives and Post Blast Analysis/Investigation - A.T.F.  
Electrical Fire Investigation - Public Agency Training Council  
Wildland Fire Investigation - Los Angeles County Fire Dept.  
Live Fire Scene Investigation Training – California Conference of Arson Investigators  
Vehicle Fire Investigation - California Conference of Arson Investigators  
Fire Death Investigation - Los Angeles County Coroner's Office  
Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Training - Los Angeles County Fire Department  
Hazardous Materials Identification/Response Training - Los Angeles County Fire Department  
Officer Safety and Survival Training – California Specialized Training Institute  
Firefighter Survival Training - Los Angeles County Fire  
Department Fire Prevention Officer Training - CSFM  
Fire Officer Training -CSFM  
California Basic Level I Fire Academy - Ontario Fire Department/Chaffey College  
Paramedic Training and Certification – Paramedic Training Institute Los Angeles County  
Small Appliance Fire Investigation - Public Agency Training Council  
CFI TRAINER On line self-study modules – International Association of Arson Investigators

## **FIRE INVESTIGATION EXPERIENCE**

I have been employed in the field of fire investigation for the past thirty years. This has been in both the public sector as a Fire Investigator, and in the private sector, as a Private Investigator. I have retired from the Los Angeles County Fire Department and have continued my employment as a Private Investigator, with Peek Investigations Inc.

During the course of employment as an Investigator I have testified as an expert witness in over 100 plus criminal cases. My investigative experience includes the participation as lead investigator and/or assisting investigator in over 1000 fire related incidents.

I have trade experience as an automotive mechanic. I have also attended classes and certification training in the field of auto repair. My familiarity with automobiles has assisted me in the field of vehicle fire investigation, and mechanical failure inspection. I currently conduct all vehicle fire, and mechanical failure related investigation assignments for Peek Investigations Inc.

I have instructed classes in fire investigation, both in structural and vehicle fire investigations. These included live burns, with various devices being utilized to simulate accidental and incendiary fires.

Additionally, I have taught at workshop seminars, addressing the insurance industry relative to arson identification versus accidental fire origin and cause.

### **PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**

**Pete Galassi**, Mercury Insurance Group

**Anthony Jakabowski**, Nationwide Insurance Company

**Captain Kenneth Ortiz**, Los Angeles County Fire Department-Retired