

John D. DeHaan, Ph.D., FABC, CFI, FSSDip, FIFireE

An internationally recognized forensic science expert, Dr. DeHaan is the author of Kirk's Fire Investigation and co-author of Forensic Fire Scene Reconstruction, the leading textbooks in the field of fire and arson investigation. He is also a former principal member of the NFPA 921 – Technical Committee on Fire Investigations.

Dr. DeHaan has been a criminalist for over 41 years and has gained considerable experience in the analysis and interpretation of fire and explosion evidence, as well as human hair, shoe prints, instrumental analysis, and crime scene reconstruction. He was formerly employed with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Treasury Department (BATF), and the California Department of Justice. He is now President of Fire-Ex Forensics, Inc., a consultancy based in Vallejo, California.

His research into forensic fire scene reconstruction is based on first-hand fire experiments in fire behavior involving over 500 observed full-scale structure and 100 vehicle fires under controlled conditions, as well as extensive laboratory-scale studies. He has published the results of this research in dozens of papers in the forensic, fire and law enforcement journals. He has testified as an expert witness in criminal and civil trials involving fires and explosions across the U.S. and overseas.

Dr. DeHaan graduated from the University of Illinois – Chicago Circle in 1969 with a B.S. degree in Physics and a minor in Criminalistics. He was awarded a Ph.D. degree in Pure and Applied Chemistry (Forensic Science) by Strathclyde University in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1995. Dr. DeHaan is a Fellow, American Board of Criminalistics (Fire Debris), and holds Diplomas in Fire Investigation from the Forensic Science Society and the Institution of Fire Engineers. He was awarded his CFI by the International Association of Arson Investigators in 2003. He was awarded a CFEI by the National Association of Fire Investigators in 2007.