



Vermont Chapter

International Association of Arson Investigators

DATE

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY
21, 2025, 8AM TO
5PM**

REGISTRATION PROGRAM FEES

\$ 50 for VT IAAI
Chapter Members
\$ 75 for Non-members*

A pizza lunch is included
in the registration fee and
will be provided by a local
pizzeria.

*The Vermont Chapter of
the International
Association of Arson
Investigators is
dedicated to improving
the professional
development of fire and
explosion investigators.*

*We strive to improve
the quality of fire
investigations by being
Vermont's principal
resource for fire
investigation training,
technology and
scientific research.*

*Ongoing professional
development is critical
for IAAI Members to
stay current with NFPA
1033 and NFPA 921*

Please plan to join us for our Winter Training
On Friday, February 21, 2025, at the Williston Fire Department at
645 Talcott Road.
Interviewing with the PEACE Model presented by Vermont State
Police Detective Sergeant Dan Trotter

PROGRAM SCHEDULE / AGENDA

Registration – 8AM until 8:30 AM
Morning Session – 8:30 AM to 12 PM
Pizza Lunch from 12 PM to 12:30 PM
Afternoon Session – 12:30 PM to 5:00 PM

The Art of Interviewing using the PEACE Model
Vermont State Police Detective Dan Trotter

Want to improve your interviewing skills? In a world that is forever changing we have to adapt, be flexible, and open to new concepts on a continuous basis. The way we ask questions and elicit information from people is no different. The manner or way we phrase a simple question in a fire investigation can often lead to hours of litigation in court in ways that are unfathomable and are usually not framed in a positive light. From it being perceived as coercion, or planting the seed of self-incrimination, to leading a witness to provide answers WE would like in order to build a case.

This 8-hour block of instruction will provide you with the basic framework on a new method of interviewing that is being adopted by many law enforcement agencies worldwide, to include the Vermont State Police. Dan Trotter is a uniform Trooper that worked his way up to becoming a polygrapher and Detective Sergeant by tackling difficult criminal cases with his ability to talk to people, collect detailed information through his interviews, and document his work in a meticulous manner. Dan spearheaded a move to push the Vermont State Police to try a new method of interviewing called the PEACE Model.

The PEACE model was developed in the late 1980's and early 1990's in the United Kingdom, following several, very public cases in which false confessions were obtained. A group of researchers compiled the most current research and made recommendations to a committee of law enforcement representatives. This committee then created the model known as PEACE. The PEACE framework is an ethical, non-accusatorial, and science-based approach to police interviewing. It begins with proper Planning/Preparation prior to the interview, properly Engaging/Explain the process to the person being interviewed, obtaining the most accurate and reliable Account possible, properly Closing the interview, then Evaluating the information obtained, and the interview process itself.

The PEACE model of interviewing is a Tier based training program that takes into consideration the most current research in all aspects of interviewing. These aspects include building rapport, human memory, strategic use of evidence, best practices to extract information from people without contaminating it, properly closing an interview to assist in future interactions and evaluating the value of information gained as well as the effectiveness of the interviewer.

This class is normally taught over the span of several days. Det. Sgt. Trotter will be presenting a highly condensed version of the course to provide us some innovative ways we can use some of these methods now and give us a different perspective on the way we conduct interviews in the future. For those interested in the complete PEACE Model course, Det. Sgt. Trotter will be able to discuss options on how to make that possible in the near future.

Click on the following link to register on-line through the VT IAAI website. Please remember to include **ALL** the names of who you're paying for when you fill out the on-line application:

<https://www.vermontiaai.org/training.html>