

# VERMONT CHAPTER INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS

*Adopted at the chapter meeting in October, 2008 at Rutland, Vt.*

In October, 2007 a discussion was held with regard to our chapter setting recommended training for fire investigators conducting business in Vermont. The Vermont Chapter joins with the National organization and many of our neighboring states in an effort to insure the highest quality of fire investigations and the highest set of standards for the state. Presently New York State has a system of setting standards, Massachusetts, and Connecticut also have set certification standards. Vermont has none. As we have noted in the past, Standards are set for Barbers, Teachers, Realtors etc. None for Fire Investigators.

The only requirement to conduct fire investigations in Vermont is that you hold a Private Investigators License from Vermont. The license does not address or mention fires or fire investigations. No where in Vermont is there mention of standards for fire investigators. **It is not the intention of VTIAAI to review or offer certification at this time. It is an opportunity for this organization to review and give guidance to those requiring a private fire investigator. It makes us a leader in the professionalization of our craft.**

We recognize that the promulgation of standards is not a binding standard of law. It is, however, an opportunity to begin to professionalize the work presented in Vermont. This set of recommendations are a beginning and should not be construed as anything more than a basic outline and an on going work by our Chapter.

The proposal set forth by this organization for review and adoption is simply a recommended set of minimum standards aimed primarily at the private sector-although ongoing training of jurisdictional fire investigators should be noted.

1. A minimum of 120 hours of structured training in an approved or accredited training program giving basic and advanced fire investigation training. These courses can be given through a state or national fire academy or an accredited college. Among the recommended courses are the following:
2. A course in fire evidence collection .
3. Electrical causation of fires
4. Building construction for fire fighters (12 hours).
5. Sprinkler system and ventilation principles (12 hours).
6. Fire Fighter One certification (NFPA) or its equivalent.
7. Confined Space NFPA instruction.

A minimum of 16 hours per year of on going training in fire investigations, fluid dynamics or related training applicable to a fire site

A minimum of ten fire investigations per year at a fire site that the individual is solely responsible for.

Certification by a recognized professional organization, college, or state training facility.

October 23, 2008