



AMY L. BLADES, CFEI, CVFI
STAFF CONSULTANT

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Ms. Blades is a Staff Consultant for Engineering Systems Inc. (ESi), where she performs fire and explosion origin and cause investigations of structures, wildland, and vehicles since 2020.

Prior to joining ESi, Ms. Blades was a servicemember in the United States Navy. She is a military veteran with over 22 years of service, including more than nine years as a firefighter. Ms. Blades attended the Department of Defense, Louis F. Garland Fire Academy where she obtained certifications as Firefighter I & II, Airport Firefighter, and Hazardous Materials Technician. Ms. Blades attained her bachelor's degree in Fire, Arson, and Explosion Investigation from Eastern Kentucky University, graduating with Cum Laude honors.

Ms. Blades is a member of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI), International Association of Wildland Fire (IAWF), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI). She has tested and earned NAFI's designations as a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI) and Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI).

Areas of Specialization

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Fire O&C determination | Fire behavior and patterns |
| Failure Analysis | Protection engineering technologies |
| Fire safety | Wildland fire origin and cause determination |
| Post blast analysis | Residential, commercial, marine, and vehicle fires |

Education

- B.S., Fire, Arson, and Explosion Investigation (Cum Laude). Eastern Kentucky University. 2018
- A.S., Fire Science. Keiser University. 2005

Certifications

- Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, CFEI.....License No. 22682-12930v
- Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator, CVFI.....License No. 22682-12930v
- Certified DoD Firefighter I/II, Hazmat and Airport Firefighter, Louis F. Garland Fire Academy, Goodfellow Air Force Base, TX, 2003

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Professional Affiliations/Honors

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Member

National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)

Member, CFEI, CVFI

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)

Member, Private Fire Investigation Training Coordinator, WA Chapter

International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI)

Member

International Association of Wildland Fire (IAWF)

Member

EKU Phi Kappa Phi, Honor Society

Member

Positions Held

Engineering Systems Inc., Seattle, WA

Staff Consultant, 2020 – Present

United States Navy

USS Nimitz (CVN-68), Bremerton, WA

Division Officer and Aircraft Launch and Recovery Officer 2019 – 2020

US Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, VA

Analyst, 2015 – 2019

Aviation Survival Training Center, Pensacola, FL

Department Lead, 2013 – 2015

Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Two, Whidbey Island, WA

EP-3E Senior Tactical Director, 2008 – 2012

USS Nimitz (CVN-68), San Diego, CA

Flight Deck Aircraft Director, 2006 – 2008

Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Fentress, Chesapeake, VA

USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67), Mayport, FL

Fire, Rescue, and Salvage Specialist, 1998-2006

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Continued Education

Alternative Fuel Vehicles, CFITrainer.net, June 5, 2023

Fire Investigation Specialties, IAAI & NW Fire Investigators Association, Leavenworth, WA, May 1-6, 2023

S-215 Fire Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, April 20th, 2022 – March 16, 2023

Accreditation, Certification, and Certificates, CFITrainer.net, February 28, 2023

S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior 2023, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, February 10, 2023

Fire Service Webinar: Fires in an Urban Environment, Society of Fire Protection Engineers, November, 29, 2022

Computational Analysis, ESi Sebastian Chialvo, Alejandro Jimenez, Kristen Lussier, September 29, 2022

Circuit Board Potential Ignition, ESi Darren Slee, September 29, 2022

LP Gas Sample Collection, ESi Mike Fitz, Dale Mann, September 28, 2022

Industrial Loss Prevention, ESi Amy Gray, September 28, 2022

Contacts and Terminal, ESi Tal Nagourney, September 28, 2022

Chemistry and Thermal Events, ESi Brian May, September 28, 2022

Current States of OSAC, NFPA 921, 1033, 1321, ESi David Wilson, September 28, 2022

OR 2022-Annual Training Seminar, OR IAAI, Newport, OR, September 19-22, 2022

FI-210 Wildland Fire Origin & Cause Investigation, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, Scappoose Fire District, Scappoose, OR, August 29-September 2, 2022

Fundamentals of Interviewing, CFITrainer.net, August 4, 2022

Introduction to Wildland Fuels NAFRI 2021-01, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, July 27, 2022

Wildland Fires Investigation, CFITrainer.net, July 27, 2022

S-110 Basic Wildland Fire Orientation NWGC (2014), National Wildfire Coordinating Group, July 27, 2022

Fire Investigation for Fire Officers Multi-Program, CFITrainer.net, July 12, 2022

Uncommon Knowledge Regarding Fireplace and Chimney Related Fires, 2022 IAAI ITC, CFITrainer.net, July 6, 2022

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Strengthening Fire and Explosion Investigations, 2022 IAAI ITC, July 6, 2022
Kansas City FF Fatality Case Study, 2022 IAAI ITC, July 6, 2022
Case Study – Allentown Vehicle Explosion, IAAI ITC, July 6, 2022
Boat and Ship Systems, Construction and Structures for the Fire Investigator, IAAI ITC, July 6, 2022
Impact of an HVAC System in Fire Growth and Development, 2022 IAAI ITC, July 6, 2022
Fire Investigation in an Arson Case in Brazil, 2022 IAAI ITC, July 6, 2022
Demystifying Fire Sprinklers for the Fire Investigators Systems, 2022 IAAI ITC, July 6, 2022
Fire Scene Origin Determination, 2022 IAAI ITC, July 6, 2022
Collaboration with the Fire Department & Forensic Medical Community, 2022 IAAI ITC, July 6, 2022
FI-210 Wildland Fire Origin and Cause (Pre-Course Work), National Wildfire Coordinating Group, June 14, 2022
FEMA IS-00700.b An Introduction to the National Incident Management System, Jun 13, 2022
FEMA ICS-100 Introduction to Incident Command Systems, June 7, 2022
Post Blast Investigation, IAAI, NW Fire Investigators Association, & ATF, Leavenworth, WA, May 2-6, 2022
73rd IAAI International Training Conference, Jacksonville, FL, April 10-15, 2022
International Fire, Arson, & Explosion Investigation Training Program, NAFI, Boston, MA, February 21-24, 2022
Residential Natural Gas Systems, CFITrainer.net, February 15, 2022
Fire Investigator Scene Safety, CFITrainer.net, February 15, 2022
Effective Investigation and Testimony, CFITrainer.net, January 21, 2022
Explosion Dynamics, CFITrainer.net, January 21, 2022
Fire Chemistry, CFITrainer.net, January 21, 2022
Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Causes, CFITrainer.net, January 12, 2022
Understanding Undetermined, CFITrainer.net, January 12, 2022
How First Responders Impact the Fire Investigation, CFITrainer.net, January 10, 2022
Legal Aspects of Investigating Youth Set Fires, CFITrainer.net, January 10, 2022
Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, CFITrainer.net, January 10, 2022

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Fire Flow Analysis, CFITrainer.net, December 29, 2021

Introduction to Youth Set Fires, CFITrainer.net, December 29, 2021

Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical, and Fuel Systems, CFITrainer.net, December 28, 2021

Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake, and Accessory Systems, CFITrainer.net, December 28, 2021

Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, CFITrainer.net, December 28, 2021

Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene, CFITrainer.net, December 28, 2021

Introduction to Evidence, CFITrainer.net, December 28, 2021

Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab?, CFITrainer.net, February 9, 2021

The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, CFITrainer.net, January 11, 2021

The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921, CFITrainer.net, January 8, 2021

Ethics and the Fire Investigator, CFITrainer.net, January 6, 2021

DNA, CFITrainer.net, December 2, 2020

Documenting the Event, CFITrainer.net, December 2, 2020

Electrical Safety, CFITrainer.net, November 19, 2020

Vehicle Fire Investigation Training Program, NAFI, Richmond, KY, September 16-19, 2019

International Fire, Arson, & Explosion Investigation Training Program, NAFI, Tampa, FL, July 31-August 3, 2017

Presentations

“Utilizing State-of-the-Art Tools for Fire and Explosion Investigations”, presented by Amy Blades at the 2023 Puget Sound Special Investigators Spring Conference, North Bend, WA, May 11th, 2023.