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TAL R. NAGOURNEY, PH.D., P.E., CFEI

SENIOR CONSULTANT

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Dr. Tal Nagourney is an electrical engineer specializing in fire investigation and failure analysis of consumer electronics, appliances, batteries, USB devices, and semiconductors. He conducts scientific investigations to guide critical decisions.

His expertise is built on a foundation of research and experimental design from his doctoral studies in micro-electro-mechanical systems. As a forensic electrical engineer, he leverages that experience to lead an effective investigation, identify the root cause, and present the findings clearly to any audience.

In the field, Dr. Nagourney thoroughly documents the scene and ensures critical evidence is preserved. In the laboratory, he performs meticulous testing to identify issues with design, manufacturing, and usage. His experience with failures lends itself to design review, and he helps his clients avoid product failures that elude typical safety standard testing.

Areas of Specialization

Electrical & Electronic Equipment	Consumer Electronics
Fire and Explosion Investigation	Consumer Appliances
Lithium-ion Battery Failures	Semiconductor Devices
Battery Management Systems	Radio Communications (RF)

Education

Ph.D.	Electrical Engineering, University of Michigan, 2018 <i>High-Q Fused Silica Micro-Shell Resonators for Navigation-Grade MEMS Gyroscopes</i>
M.Eng.	Electrical Engineering, Cornell University, 2012
B.S.	Microelectronic Engineering, Rochester Institute of Technology, 2010

Licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.)

State of Washington License No. 21031868

June 2025

Professional Affiliations

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

Member

Product Safety Engineering Society (PSES)

National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)

Member

CFEI Certification No.: 23786-13772

International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization (ICPHSO)

Member

Additional Training

2024 NFPA 70E Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace

Electrical Safety Training Program

1-day Online Training, Jan. 2025

National Association of Fire Investigators

Fire Investigation Training Program

4-day Classroom Training, Feb. 2024

Battery Safety Summit

Implementing Lithium-Ion Battery Safety to Meet Increasing Energy Demands

Additional Tutorial: Li-ion Battery Safety and Thermal Runaway

2-day Conference, Nov. 2023

Timron Advanced Connector Technologies

Intensive Course on Electrical Contacts and Connector Design for Electronics and Microelectronics Applications

3-day Classroom Training, Jun. 2022

National Fire Protection Association

National Electrical Code Essentials

3-day Classroom Training, Nov. 2019

National Association of Fire Investigators

Fire Investigation Training Program

4-day Classroom Training, Mar. 2019

Positions Held

Engineering Systems Inc., Seattle, Washington

Senior Consultant, 2025–Present
Senior Staff Consultant, 2022–2024
Staff Consultant, 2018–2021

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Doctoral Researcher, 2013–2018
Lurie Nanofabrication Facility User Committee Member, 2014–2018

Bright Source Industries (Israel) Ltd., Jerusalem, Israel

Future Technologies Electrical Engineering Consultant, 2011

Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York

Research Assistant on Team Galt, 2009–2010

Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, New York

Co-Op Employee in Display Technologies Group, 2008

Presentations

T. Nagourney, “Electricity and Fire,” Training course presented to National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI), Fire Investigation Training Program, Tempe, AZ, Jun. 2025.

T. Nagourney, “Investigation of Electrical Fires,” Training course presented to International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), Washington Chapter 21, Kent, WA, Jan. 2024.

T. Nagourney, K. Farnam, N. Simons, “Pursuit of Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Claims,” Cozen O'Connor CLE, Seattle, WA, Mar. 2023.

T. Nagourney, “USB Type-C: Connect With Care,” International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization (ICPHSO), Orlando, FL, Feb. 2023.

T. Nagourney, D. Fleming, “Defense of Lithium Batteries Involved in a Fire,” Washington Defense Trial Lawyers (WDTL) CLE, Seattle, WA, Nov. 2020.

Publications

T. Nagourney, J. Jordan, L. Marsh, D. Scardino, and B. May, “The Implications of Post-Fire Physical Features of Cylindrical 18650 Lithium-Ion Battery Cells,” J. Fire Technol., Jan. 2021, DOI: 10.1007/s10694-020-01077-8.

G. He, R. Gordenker, J-K. Woo, J. Nees, B. Shiari, **T. Nagourney**, J. Cho, and K. Najafi, “Laser Self-Mixing Interferometry for Precision Displacement Measurement in Resonant Gyroscopes,” in 2019 IEEE Int. Symp. on Inertial Sensors and Systems (INERTIAL), Naples, FL, 2019, pp. 183–186, DOI: 10.1109/ISISS.2019.8739659.

S. Singh, **T. Nagourney**, J. Cho, A. Darvishian, K. Najafi, and B. Shiari, "Design and fabrication of high-Q birdbath resonator for MEMS gyroscopes," in 2018 IEEE/ION Position, Location and Navigation Symp. (PLANS), Monterey, CA, 2018, pp. 15–19, DOI: 10.1109/PLANS.2018.8373358.

B. Shiari, **T. Nagourney**, S. Singh, J. Cho, and K. Najafi, "Simulation-Based Approach for Fabrication of Micro-Shell Resonators with Controllable Stiffness and Mass Distribution," in 2018 IEEE Int. Symp. on Inertial Sensors and Systems (INERTIAL), Moltrasio, Italy, 2018, pp. 145–148, DOI: 10.1109/ISISS.2018.8358146.

T. Nagourney, S. Singh, B. Shiari, J. Cho, and K. Najafi, "Fabrication of Hemispherical Fused Silica Micro-Resonator with Tailored Stiffness and Mass Distribution," in 2018 IEEE Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS), Belfast, Ireland, 2018, pp. 1000–1003, DOI: 10.1109/MEMSYS.2018.8346727.

A. Darvishian, **T. Nagourney**, J. Cho, B. Shiari, and K. Najafi, "Thermoelastic Dissipation in Micromachined Birdbath Shell Resonators," J. Microelectromech. Syst., vol. 26, no. 4, pp. 758–772, Aug. 2017, DOI: 10.1109/jmems.2017.2715319.

B. Shiari, **T. Nagourney**, A. Darvishian, J. Cho, and K. Najafi, "Simulation of Blowtorch Reflow of Fused Silica Micro-Shell Resonators," J. Microelectromech. Syst., vol. 26, no. 4, pp. 782–792, Aug. 2017, DOI: 10.1109/JMEMS.2017.2693291.

T. Nagourney, J. Cho, B. Shiari, A. Darvishian, and K. Najafi, "259 Second Ring-Down Time and 4.45 Million Quality Factor in 5.5 kHz Fused Silica Birdbath Shell Resonator," in 2017 Transducers — 19th Int. Conf. on Solid-State Sensors, Actuators and Microsystems (TRANSDUCERS), Kaohsiung, Taiwan, 2017, pp. 790–793, DOI: 10.1109/transducers.2017.7994167.

B. Shiari, **T. Nagourney**, A. Darvishian, J. Cho, and K. Najafi, "Numerical Study of Impact of Surface Roughness on Thermoelastic Loss of Micro-Resonators," in 2017 IEEE Int. Symp. on Inertial Sensors and Systems (INERTIAL), Kauai, HI, 2017, pp. 74–77, DOI: 10.1109/isiss.2017.7935681.

C. Boyd, J.-K. Woo, J. Cho, **T. Nagourney**, A. Darvishian, B. Shiari, and K. Najafi, "Effect of Drive-Axis Displacement on MEMS Birdbath Resonator Gyroscope Performance," in 2017 IEEE Int. Symp. on Inertial Sensors and Systems (INERTIAL), Kauai, HI, 2017, pp. 175–176, DOI: 10.1109/isiss.2017.7935697.

A. Darvishian, B. Shiari, J. Cho, **T. Nagourney**, and K. Najafi, "Anchor Loss in Hemispherical Shell Resonators," J. Microelectromech. Syst., vol. 25, no. 1, pp. 51–56, Feb. 2017, DOI: 10.1109/JMEMS.2016.2636080.

J. Cho, **T. Nagourney**, A. Darvishian, and K. Najafi, "Ultra Conformal High Aspect-Ratio Small-Gap Capacitive Electrode Formation Technology for 3D Micro Shell Resonators," in 2017 IEEE 30th Int. Conf. on Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS), Las Vegas, NV, 2017, pp. 1169–1172, DOI: 10.1109/MEMSYS.2017.7863623.

T. Nagourney, J. Cho, A. Darvishian, B. Shiari, and K. Najafi, “130 Second Ring-Down Time and 3.98 Million Quality Factor in 10 kHz Fused Silica Micro Birdbath Shell Resonator,” in Hilton Head Workshop: A Solid-State Sensors, Actuators and Microsystems Workshop, Hilton Head Island, SC, 2016, pp. 408–411, DOI: 10.31438/trf.hh2016.109.

B. Shiari, **T. Nagourney**, A. Darvishian, J. Cho, and K. Najafi, “Numerical Prediction of Stress Evolution During Blowtorch Reflow of Fused Silica Micro-Shell Resonators,” in 2016 IEEE Int. Symp. on Inertial Sensors and Systems, Laguna Beach, CA, 2016, pp. 13–16, DOI: 10.1109/ISS.2016.7435533.

T. Nagourney, J. Cho, A. Darvishian, B. Shiari, and K. Najafi, “Micromachined High-Q Fused Silica Bell Resonator with Complex Profile Curvature Realized Using 3D Micro Blowtorch Molding,” in 2015 Transducers — 18th Int. Conf. on Solid-State Sensors, Actuators and Microsystems (TRANSDUCERS), Anchorage, AK, 2015, pp. 1311–1314, DOI: 10.1109/TRANSDUCERS.2015.7181172.

B. Shiari, A. Darvishian, **T. Nagourney**, J. Cho, and K. Najafi, “A Comparison Between Experiments and FEM Predictions for Blowtorch Reflow of Fused Silica Micro-Shell Resonators,” in 2015 Transducers — 18th Int. Conf. on Solid-State Sensors, Actuators and Microsystems (TRANSDUCERS), Anchorage, AK, 2015, pp. 776–779, DOI: 10.1109/TRANSDUCERS.2015.7181038.

T. Nagourney, J. Cho, A. Darvishian, B. Shiari, and K. Najafi, “Effect of Metal Annealing on the Q-Factor of Metal-Coated Fused Silica Micro Shell Resonators,” in 2015 IEEE Int. Symp. on Inertial Sensors and Systems, Hapuna Beach, HI, 2015, pp. 13–17, DOI: 10.1109/ISS.2015.7102361.

J. Cho, **T. Nagourney**, A. Darvishian, B. Shiari, J.-K. Woo, and K. Najafi, “Fused Silica Micro Birdbath Shell Resonators with 1.2 Million Q and 43 Second Decay Time Constant,” in Hilton Head Workshop: A Solid-State Sensors, Actuators and Microsystems Workshop, Hilton Head Island, SC, 2014, pp. 103–104, DOI: 10.31438/trf.hh2014.28.

A. Darvishian, B. Shiari, J. Cho, **T. Nagourney**, and K. Najafi, “Investigation of Thermoelastic Loss Mechanism in Shell Resonators,” in ASME 2014 Int. Mech. Eng. Congr. and Expo., Montreal, Canada, 2014, pp. 1–6, DOI: 10.1115/IMECE2014-39331.

Patents

K. Najafi, **T. Nagourney**, and J. Cho, “Three Dimensional Microstructures and Fabrication Process,” U.S. Patent 9 796 586, Oct. 24, 2017.

K. Najafi, J. Cho, A. Darvishian, G. He, B. Shiari, and **T. Nagourney**, “Gyroscope and Fabrication Process,” U.S. Patent 11 548 805, Jan. 10, 2023.

Honors

University of Michigan Engineering Graduate Symposium

Best Poster Award, 1st Prize, 2017

Best Poster Award, 2nd Prize, 2016

University of Michigan Lurie Nanofabrication Facility Users Symposium

Best Poster Award, 1st Prize, 2017

Best Poster Award, 1st Prize, 2016

University of Michigan Workshop on Microsystems Tech for Internet of Things

Best Poster Award, 1st Prize, 2017

DARPA micro-PNT MRIG micro-Challenge

Winner, 2015