

Perry A. Hopkins

PE, CFEI

Senior Managing Consultant, Director - Electrical



Mr. Hopkins is an electrical engineer with experience in electrical and electronic systems design and analysis, electrical accident reconstruction, and electrical equipment failure analysis. He has conducted complex, multidisciplinary failure investigations pertaining to industrial and consumer products, medical devices, and utility distribution equipment. He has provided testimony in matters pending before both state and federal courts.

Mr. Hopkins has been involved in the investigation of electrical accidents, fires, and explosions for over 19 years. In addition, he has over 10 years of experience in compliance testing for national and international products. This includes standard testing for industrial products, medical devices, information technology equipment, HVAC equipment, and motor-operated appliances. His experience includes design consulting, laboratory and field testing. His experience includes solar panel systems electrical failure analysis, fire causation, and loss damage assessment.

Education

BS, Electrical Engineering (Power Systems), Clemson University, 1993

Licenses & Certifications

- State of Alabama PE License 25592
- State of Florida PE License 59861
- State of Georgia PE License 24548
- State of South Carolina PE License 22603
- National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Record
- National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI)

Positions Held

Engineering Systems Inc., Atlanta, Georgia

- Senior Managing Consultant, 2022 – Present

Contact Information

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ESi Atlanta

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Areas of Specialization

- Electrical Codes & Standards
- Electrical Devices
- Fire & Explosion Investigation
- Product Fires
- Residential Fires
- Shock & Electrocution Hazard



- Director, Electrical, 2021 – Present
- Senior Consultant, 2017–2021

Hopkins Forensics Group, LLC

- Forensic Electrical Engineer, 2014–2017

Forensic & Scientific Testing, Inc.

- Forensic Electrical Engineer, 2006–2014

Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc.

- Electrical Engineer, 2003–2006

Conklin Corporation

- Senior Compliance Engineer, 2001–2003

Intertek Testing Services

- Engineering Team Leader, 1998–2001
- Project Engineer, 1994–1998

Duke Power Company

- Cooperative Education Program, 1991–1993

Continuing Education

- **Southeastern Annual Training Seminar** - Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, Savannah, Georgia, July 2025, 28 Hours
- **Southeastern Annual Training Seminar** - Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, Savannah, Georgia, July 2024, 28 Hours
- **NABCEP Course: Energy Storage Intensive** – American Solar Energy Society, Boulder, Colorado, August 2023, 2 Hours
- **NABCEP Course: PV & The NEC** – American Solar Energy Society, Boulder, Colorado, August 2023, 4 Hours
- **Electrical & Computer Exam Development Workshop for Professional Engineering (PE) Examination** – NCEES, Greenville, South Carolina, June 2023, 14 Hours
- **Southeastern Annual Training Seminar** – Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, Savannah, Georgia, July 2022, 28 Hours
- **Southeastern Annual Training Seminar** – Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, Savannah, Georgia, July 2021, 28 Hours

- **Fire Investigation Training Program** – National Association of Fire Investigators, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 2020, 30 Hours
- **Electrical & Computer Exam Development Workshop for Professional Engineering (PE) Examination** – NCEES, Clemson, South Carolina, May 2019, 14 Hours
- **Electrical & Computer Exam Development Workshop for Professional Engineering (PE) Examination** – NCEES, Clemson, South Carolina, November 2018, 14 Hours
- **Electrical & Computer Exam Development Workshop for Professional Engineering (PE) Examination** – NCEES, Clemson, South Carolina, May 2017, 14 Hours
- **IAAI International Training Conference** – International Association of Arson Investigators, Las Vegas, Nevada, April 2017, 28 Hours
- **Southeastern Annual Training Seminar** – Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, Savannah, Georgia, July 2016, 28 Hours
- **Electrical & Computer Exam Development Workshop for Professional Engineering (PE) Examination** – NCEES, Clemson, South Carolina, June 2016, 14 Hours
- **IAAI International Training Conference** – International Association of Arson Investigators, Orlando, Florida, April 2016, 12 Hours
- **Ethics and the Fire Investigator** – International Association of Arson Investigators, February 2016, 3 Hours
- **Southeastern Annual Training Seminar** – Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, Savannah, Georgia, July 2015, 28 Hours
- **NFPA 1033 and Your Career** – International Association of Arson Investigators, July 2015, 28 Hours
- **Electrical & Computer Exam Development Workshop for Professional Engineering (PE) Examination** – NCEES, Clemson, South Carolina, May 2015, 14 Hours
- **Southeastern Annual Training Seminar** – Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, St. Simon's Island, Georgia, August 2014, 28 Hours
- **17th Annual Fire Investigative Approaches** – NC/SC IAAI, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, October 2013, 36 Hours
- **Southeastern Annual Training Seminar** – Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, St. Simon's Island, Georgia, August 2013, 24 Hours
- **Southeastern Arson Seminar** – Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, Savannah, Georgia, August 2010, 24 Hours
- **Southeastern Arson Seminar** – Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, Savannah, Georgia, August 2009, 24 Hours

- **Southeastern Arson Seminar** – Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, Savannah, Georgia, August 2008, 28 Hours
- **Investigations of Electrical & Appliance Related Fires** – International Association of Arson Investigators, Davenport, Iowa, March 2008, 24 Hours
- **Southeastern Arson Seminar** – Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, Savannah, Georgia, August 2007, 28 Hours
- **Southeastern Arson Seminar** – Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, Savannah, Georgia, August 2006, 28 Hours, Tested
- **Southeastern Arson Seminar** – Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, Savannah, Georgia, August 2005, Tested
- **Fire Investigation Training Seminar** – Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, Macon, Georgia, March 2005, 20 Hours, Tested
- **Ethical Consideration for Expert Testimony** – Center for Collaboration & Education in Design, February 2005, 4 Hours, Tested
- **Southeastern Arson Seminar** – Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, Savannah, Georgia, August 2004, 23 Hours, Tested
- **Fire Investigation Training Seminar** – Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, March 2004, 19 Hours, Tested
- **Ethics Training and Mock Trial** – Southern Loss Association, August 2003, 8 Hours
- **Investigations for Insurance Professionals** – Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc., April 2003, 30 Hours
- **Investigation of Gas and Electric Appliance Fires** – Fire Findings, May 2003, 16 Hours, Tested
- **Lightning 101 Seminar** – VAISALA Inc., May 2003, 2 Hours
- **Network Equipment Building System (NEBS) Training to Standards GR-1089/GR-63** – Intertek Testing Services, April 2001, 16 Hours
- **Advanced Product Safety Evaluation** – Intertek Testing Services, June 2000, 40 Hours
- **Basic Product Safety Evaluation** – Intertek Testing Services, March 1999, 40 Hours

Professional Affiliations/Honors

Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers

National Fire Protection Association

International Association of Arson Investigators

Georgia Fire Investigators Association

- President, 2016–2017
- 2nd Vice President, 2016–2017

Metro Fire Investigators Association

- President, 2006
- Vice President, 2005

Presentations

Defense Research Institute, DRI, Fire Science and Litigation Seminar: “Ain’t No Sunshine,” **P.A. Hopkins** Investigating Solar Panel Fires, 1 Hour presentation on September 11, 2025

“PLRB: Solar Panel Losses: Not a Matter of If, But When,” **P.A. Hopkins**, Product & Liability Resource Bureau, Atlanta, Georgia, November 16–17, 2023.

“Solar Panel Investigations & Safety,” **P.A. Hopkins**, GFIA Spring Conference, Marietta, Georgia, March 13, 2023.

“Lightning Strikes: Meteorology, Science, Investigation and Damaging Effects,” **P.A. Hopkins**, GFIA Spring Conference, March 16, 2022.

“NRTLs in the Forensic World,” **P.A. Hopkins**, ESI Electrical Practice Group Meeting, Charlotte, NC, April 3, 2019.

“Electrical Fire Causations and Analyses,” **P.A. Hopkins**, Liberty Mutual In-House Investigations Unit, Allentown, PA, October 18, 2018.

“Product Liability: Investigations, Analyses, Tools and Case Study,” **P.A. Hopkins**, CPCU Society (Dallas Chapter), Dallas, TX, August 28, 2018.

“Arc Mapping Tools and Techniques,” **P.A. Hopkins**, Georgia Fire Investigators Association (Northeast Chapter), Hall County, GA, November 15, 2016.

“Electric Heating Appliances,” **P.A. Hopkins**, GFIA Spring Seminar, McDonough, GA, March 23, 2016.

“Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigations,” **P.A. Hopkins**, Tennessee IAAI Annual Seminar, Pigeon Forge, TN, August 6, 2015.

"Thermal Devices and Thermal Cut-Outs," **P.A. Hopkins**, GFIA Spring Seminar, McDonough, GA, March 27, 2014.

"The Electrical Aspect of Fire Investigations," **P.A. Hopkins**, Georgia Fire Investigators Association (Southwest Chapter), Albany, GA, December 4, 2013.

"Basic Electrical Investigations," **P.A. Hopkins**, Georgia Fire Investigator Association & Columbus Department of Fire/EMS Investigations Division, Columbus, GA, December 15, 2011.

"Investigation of Fire Involving Hybrid and Electric Vehicles," **P.A. Hopkins**, South Carolina International Association of Arson Investigators Quarterly Training Session, Lexington, SC, August 30, 2011.

"Look, Listen and Learn: Tips in Performing an Efficient Investigation from the Aspect of an Electrical Engineer," **P.A. Hopkins**, GFIA Spring Seminar, March 22, 2006.

"Electric Circuit Breakers," **P.A. Hopkins**, Metro Fire Investigators Association, March 15, 2006.

"Lightning and Losses," **P.A. Hopkins**, Tri-State Fire & Fraud Investigators Association, December 6, 2005.

"Lightning and Losses," **P.A. Hopkins**, Metro Fire Investigators Association, October 19, 2005.

"Lightning and Losses," **P.A. Hopkins**, Middle Georgia Claims Association, April 22, 2004.

"Product Safety: What Makes a Product Safe?" **P.A. Hopkins**, Southern Loss Association, September 11, 2003.

"Product Safety: What Makes a Product Safe?" **P.A. Hopkins**, Metro Fire Investigators Association, July 16, 2003.

"UL 63 Motor Operated Appliances Training," **P.A. Hopkins**, Intertek Testing Services, Taipei, Taiwan, November 2000.