



## Fact Sheet



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[www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov)

### **ATF CERTIFIED FIRE INVESTIGATORS (CFI)**

#### **Purpose**

Certified fire investigators (CFIs) from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) are a select group of highly trained special agents who provide technical support, analysis and assistance to ATF and to their state and local partners in the areas of fire origin and cause determination and arson investigations. ATF CFIs are a field division's primary resource in fire and arson-related matters.

#### **Goals**

The goal of the CFI is to support ATF's work to resolve and prevent fire-related crimes. The CFI program raises the field of fire investigation to a more sophisticated level throughout the fire investigation community through example, teaching, research and training.

#### **Training**

The CFIs are graduates of a two-year, two-phase program designed to train them in disciplines such as fire origin and cause determination, fire dynamics, fire modeling, building construction, electricity and fire causation, health and safety, expert witnessing, and computer-aided schematic drawing. The goal of the training program is to provide the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities through training, education and experience to enable the agents to obtain the proper credentials to testify as expert witnesses in the field of fire origin and cause.

#### **Resources**

ATF currently maintains a cadre of 82 CFIs. The 2008 certified fire investigator candidate class consists of 10 special agents and the ATF Arson Training Branch anticipates beginning another candidate class of 15 in fiscal year 2009. The CFIs are based in 40 states and provide support to the entire United States, its territories and other countries.

In addition to its CFIs, ATF contributes the expertise of its U.S. Bomb Data Center, explosives enforcement officers, National Response Team, three forensic science laboratories, and its Fire Research Laboratory to fire and arson investigations.

For more information go to [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov).

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