



Session 1B:

Panel Discussion: The FPE's Role in Large Loss Fire Investigations

Guided by recent case examples, the panel will share their personal experience of the FPEs role in investigating large fire losses. Referenced examples will include among others the QVC Distribution Center fire in Rocky Mount Hill, NC and the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) in San Diego, CA. Topics to be addressed will include:

- Use of Specialized Personnel and Technical Consultants
- Coordinating with fire investigators and other engineering disciplines
- Investigation protocols and procedures
- Roles of involved entities (public, private, interested parties, etc.)
- Scientific method and Levels of Certainty
- Role in the Legal Process



Phil Fouts IAAI - CFI The Fouts Group

As a Special Agent for over 15 years with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF), Phil Fouts worked as a Certified Fire Investigator. He served as a full-time member of ATF's National Response Team (NRT), where he was also assigned to the International Response Team. While a member of the NRT, Phil participated in dozens of large loss fires to include the multiple fatality fire at the Mizpah Hotel in Reno, NV, the West, TX fire and explosion that killed multiple firefighters and the Los Angeles, CA serial arson case with over 50 fires in a four-day period. Phil became a federal agent after graduating from law school and becoming a member of the California Bar Association.

Phil is a subject matter expert on fire investigation for the Texas Science Advisory Workgroup. Phil has been an IAAI-CFI since 2011 and has been qualified as an expert in Origin and Cause in both state, federal and military courts. With expertise in Origin and Cause and having investigated hundreds of fire scenes, Phil formed The Fouts Group, based in Austin, TX in 2014.

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