



PREMIER CLAIMS INVESTIGATIONS, Inc.

Michael W. Littrell – Professional Qualifications

Career

- Senior Investigator - Premier Claims Investigations, Inc., Conroe Texas- Austin Office, 2006 to present
- Lieutenant Investigator - Austin Fire Department- Fire Prevention Division, Fire/Arson Investigations Section - December, 1990 to July 4, 2009
- Lieutenant Inspector - Austin Fire Department- Fire Prevention Division- Inspections Section August, 1988 to December, 1990
- Austin Fire Department- Operations Division- March, 1978 to August 1988

History

- Assigned to Fire Prevention Division, Investigations Section, Lt. Fire Investigator- December 30, 1990 to July 4, 2009 (retired).
- Assigned to Fire Prevention Division, Inspection Section, Lt. Code Inspector- August 1988
- Promotion, Lieutenant, Fire Station 1, Engine 30- February 2, 1986
- Promotion, Fire Specialist, Fire Station 1, Engine 1- April 17, 1983
- Transferred to Fire Station 1, Engine 1- October 9, 1981
- Charter member of the Austin F.D. Underwater Rescue Team, 1980 to 1988
- Assigned to Operation Division, Fire Station 15, Engine 15- March 23, 1978
- Austin Fire Department Training Academy- November 7, 1977

Job Description and Experience

Job duties include the investigation of the origin and cause of fires, structural and vehicular: burn pattern interpretation, debris analysis, scene photography, scene sketching, evidence collection, the interviewing of witnesses and suspects, arrests and booking of suspects, reports and document preparation for Criminal Court prosecutions, and Civil Court testimony. Duties also require liaison with the Local, State, and Federal authorities on criminal cases. In non-criminal cases, the Insurance Industry representatives are assisted to expedite victim relief. Investigators are also required to respond to large Hazardous Material-related Incidents for documentation and follow-up investigation.

I have been Lead Investigator in over 1000 fire cases, both accidental and criminal. I have been Court-Certified as an expert witness testifying in State and Federal District Courts.

Certifications (Past and Present)

- **Arson Investigator, Master**- Texas Commission on Fire Protection, Personnel, Standards and Education
- **Arson Investigator, Certified (IAAI-CFI)**- International Association of Arson Investigators, tested
- **Vehicle Fire Investigator, Certified (NAFI)**- National Association of Fire Investigators
- **Texas Peace Officer, Basic**- Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, Personnel, Standards, and Education
- **Firefighter, Advanced**- Texas Commission on Fire Protection, Personnel, Standards and Education

- **Fire Inspector, Advanced-** Texas Commission on Fire Protection, Personnel, Standards and Education
- **Instructor, NFPA Level 1-** National Fire Academy Field Course
- **Instructor, Intermediate-** Texas Commission on Fire Protection, Personnel, Standards and Education
- **Emergency Medical Technician, Basic-** Texas Department of Health
- **Hazardous Material Technician, Basic-** Austin Fire Department

Education

- Associate Degree, Austin Community College, Fire Protection Technology
- University of Texas at Austin, Pharmacy Major, 1975-76
- William B. Travis High School, Austin Texas, 1975,NHS

Memberships (Past and Present)

- International Association of Arson Investigators(IAAI), Inc.
- International Association of Arson Investigators, Texas Chapter
- Central Texas Fire Investigator's Association, Charter Member
- International Association of Fire Fighters(IAFF), Local 975
- Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas (CLEAT)
- Society of Fire Protection Engineers – Austin/San Antonio Chapter
- Austin Texas Claims Association
- San Antonio Texas Claims Association
- Austin Retired Fire Fighters Association

Teaching Experience

- Austin Claims Association, Instructor, Successful Subrogation Strategies, April 1, 2010.
- Austin Fire Department, Instructor, Training Division, Basic Origin and Cause for the First Responder, Fire Cadet Training Class #112, 2008
- Austin Fire Department, Instructor, Training Division, Basic Origin and Cause for the First Responder, Fire Cadet Training Class #111, 2008
- North Travis County Fire Rescue, Instructor, Fire Cause Determination, June 2008
- Austin Fire Department, Instructor, Training Division, Basic Origin and Cause for the First Responder, Fire Cadet Training Class #110, 2007
- Austin Fire Department, Instructor, Training Division, Basic Origin and Cause for the First Responder, Fire Cadet Training Class#109, 2006
- Travis County Emergency Services District #2, Instructor, Fire Cause Determination, Fire Cadet Class, December 2005
- Oak Hill Fire Department Training Academy, Instructor, Fire Cause Determination, Fire Cadet Class, December 2005
- Austin Community College, Instructor, Fire/Arson Investigation I, Spring Semester 2005
- Austin Fire Department, Instructor, Fire Investigator State Certification Class, January 2005
- Oak Hill Fire Department, Instructor, Fire Cause Determination, December 7 & 9, 2004
- Austin Community College, Instructor, Fire/Arson Investigation II, Fall Semester 2004
- Austin Fire Department, Training Division, Fire Officer I, Basic Origin and Cause for the First Responder, May 2004
- Austin Community College, Instructor, Fire/Arson Investigation I, Spring Semester 2004
- Austin Fire Department, Instructor, Fire Investigator State Certification Class, September 2003
- Austin Fire Department Training Division, Basic Origin and Cause for the First Responder, Fire Cadet Training Class #107, graduated April 2003

- Austin Community College, Instructor, Fire/Arson Investigation II, Spring Semester 2003
- Austin Community College, Instructor, Fire/Arson Investigation I, Fall Semester 2002
- Austin Fire Department Media Day, Fire Investigation overview for the news media, June 5, 2002
- Austin Fire Department Training Division, City-wide Captain's School, Basic Origin and Cause for the First Responder, Summer 2001
- Austin Community College, Instructor, Fire/Arson Investigation II, Spring Semester 2001
- Austin Community College, Instructor, Fire/Arson Investigation I, Fall Semester 2000
- Austin Fire Department Specialist College, Training Division, Basic Origin and Cause for the First Responder, May, 2000
- Austin Fire Department Officer College, Training Division, Basic Origin and Cause for the First Responder, May, 2000
- Austin Community College, Instructor, Fire/Arson Investigation II, Spring Semester 2000
- Austin Community College, Instructor, Fire/Arson Investigation I, Fall Semester 1999
- Texas Commission on Fire Protection, Basic Investigator Certification Course, August, 1999
- Austin Fire Department, Training Division, Basic Origin and Cause for the First Responder, Lieutenant and Captain College, April 2, 1999.
- Southern Union Gas Company, Texas Area Representatives, Fire Investigation of Gas-related Fires, March 30, 1999.
- Westlake Fire Department, Travis County, Texas, Basic Origin and Cause for the First Responder, In-service school, Summer, 1998
- Austin Fire Department, Ops. Division, Basic Origin and Cause for the First Responder, City-wide Captain's School, Summer, 1998
- Austin Fire Department, Training Division, Basic Origin and Cause for the First Responder, Fire Cadet Training, Spring, 1998
- Texas Public Service Safety Conference, Arson Awareness, Summer, 1998
- Austin Community College, Instructor, Fire/Arson Investigation I, Spring Semester 1997

Specialized Training

- Explosion Dynamics, by John DeHaan,
E Cigarettes, by Mark Goodson P.E.,
Arson Imunity Acts and How to Use Them, by David Icove,
Hydrogen Cyanide- Is it a threat?, by Dr. Nizam Peerwani, M.D., M.E.,
Spoliation of Evidence, by Kathleen Crouch, JD, and
NFPA 1033- The Forgotten Standard, by Tommy Sing,
Corpus Christi, Texas, 12 hours, February 25-26, 2014
- LP, Natural Gas Explosions and Unusual Burn Patterns, by James Novak, Austin, Texas, 24 hours, September 17-19, 2013, tested
- NFPA 1033 and Your Career, CFITrainer.Net, 2hrs., October 16, 2012, tested
- Insurance and the Fire Investigator, CFITrainer.Net, 4hrs., October 16, 2012, tested
- Digital Criminal Evidence: Social Network Sites, Computers and Computer Networks, Public Agency Training Council, New Braunfels, Texas, 20hrs, July 8, 2011
- Hands-On Vehicle Fire/Arson Investigation, Public Agency Training Council, Georgetown, Texas, 20hrs, April 20, 2011, tested.
- Fire Behavior of Upholstered Furniture, Society of Fire Protection Engineers/Texas Fire Academy, in San Antonio, Texas, 2hrs., March 9, 2011
- Fire Scene Investigation Resources and Techniques, Central Texas Fire Investigator's Association and Texas Fire Academy, Pflugerville Tx, 2hrs., October 8, 2010
- Fire Modeling Without Tears & Preparing Expert Reports, Society of Fire Protection Engineers, John Icove, Austin, Tx, 6hrs, May 6, 2010
- Investigating Appliance Fires, Central Texas Fire Investigator's Association and San Marcos Texas Fire and Rescue, San Marcos, Tx, 2hrs., February 5, 2010

- Scientific Protocols for Fire Investigations, Texas Engineering Extension Service, John Lentini, Schertz, Tx, 16hrs, December 2, 2009
- Case Study of a Forensic Fire Investigations, Central Texas Fire Investigators Association, San Marcos, Tx, 2hrs., October 2, 2009
- Special Investigative Topics, Capital Area Council of Governments-Regional Training Academy, 8hrs., March 13, 2009
- Fire, Blast, and Impact Effects on Steel Structures; Analyzing Residential Electrical Systems, Central Texas Fire Investigator's Association, Texas Engineering Extension Service, December 17, 2008
- Taser X26, Austin Public Safety and Emergency Management Department, February 25, 2008
- Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, IAAI-CFITrainer.net, 4hrs., October 19, 2007
- Crisis Intervention Training, City of Austin Public Safety and Emergency Management Department, 16hrs., May 9, 2007
- Photography and Digital Photography, Grand Prairie, Texas; Public Agency Training Council, 16hrs., March 13, 2007
- Cultural Diversity, Travis County Sheriff's Office Training Academy, 8hrs., October 6, 2006
- Fire Investigator Scene Safety, IAAI-CFITrainer.net, 2hrs., May 28, 2006
- Investigations of Electrical and Appliance Related Fires Point-Counterpoint, I.A.A.I.&A.H.A.M., December 7-9, 2005, 24hrs
- Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator, IAAI-CFITrainer.net, 4hrs., October 4, 2005
- Statement Analysis/Interview and Interrogation-CAPCO, Leander PD, April 13, 2004, 16hrs
- Post Blast Investigation Course- Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Waco, Tx., October 6-10, 2003, 40hrs.
- Fire Investigations- FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia, June 24-28, 2002
- Clandestine Laboratory Awareness Course- Texas Counterdrug Training Institute, February 21, 2001, 4hrs.
- Hands-on Electrical Fire Investigation- Public Agency Training Council, San Antonio, Tx., March 1-3, 2000, 24hrs.
- Emergency Response to Terrorism:Basic Concepts- National Fire Academy Course, DOJ/FEMA, April 21, 1999
- Cause and Origin/Court Technique(S&L), Advanced- Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, ATF Academy, Glynco, Georgia, September 14-24, 1998
- Management for Arson Prevention and Control -National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, Maryland, June 1-12,1998, 80hrs.
- Hazardous Materials Technician, Austin Fire Dept., March 2-13, 1998, 80hrs.
- Advanced Course on The Reid Technique of Interviewing and Interrogation- John E. Reid and Associates, Chicago, Ill., November 20-21, 1997, 16hrs.
- The Reid Technique of Interviewing and Interrogation- John E. Reid and Associates, Chicago, Ill., November 17-19, 1997, 24hrs.
- Practical Fire/Arson Scene Search and Evidence Recovery- Public Agency Training Council, San Antonio, Tx., September 22-23, 1997, 16hrs.
- Arson Investigation -National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, Maryland, August 1997, 80hrs.
- Austin/Travis County Medical Standards of Care Program, Austin F.D.- MedOps, AFD Training Academy, August 20, 1997, 5hrs.
- Hazardous Materials Incident Command- Austin Fire Dept., January 23-24, 1997, 8hrs.
- Austin/Travis County Medical Standards of Care Program, Austin F.D.- MedOps, AFD Training Academy, June 11, 1996, 5hrs.
- Advanced Origin and Cause/Expert Witness- International Training Association, San Antonio, Tx., May 20-22, 1996, 24hrs.
- Gas and Electrical Appliance Fire Investigation- Barker and Herbert Analytical Laboratory, New Haven, Indiana, November 13-14, 1995, 16hrs.
- Fire Investigation Theory Applied to Live Burns- International Association of Arson Investigators, Galveston, Tx., January 27-28, 1994, 40hrs.

- Electronic Surveillance Techniques- Round Rock P.D., Round Rock, Tx., February 7, 1992, 8hrs.
- Kinesic Interviewing Technique, Levels 1 and 2- Lamar Univ. Regional Police Academy/Sam Houston State Univ., Beaumont, Tx., March 28, 1991, 32hrs.
- Fire and Arson Investigation Certification Course- State of Texas Fire Marshal's Office, Austin, Tx., March 1, 1991, 90hrs.
- Instructional Techniques for Company Officers, NFPA Level 1 Instructor and TCFPPSE Basic Instructor Course- National Fire Academy Field Course, Austin Tx., April 5, 1990, 16hrs.
- Financial Investigative Techniques Course- Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service Center, Austin, Tx., March 5-9, 1990, 40hrs.
- Texas Peace Officer Certification Course- Travis County Sheriff's Academy, Austin, Tx., July 5, 1989- September 18, 1989, 400hrs.
- Fire Prevention Inspections Training- Austin F.D., Inspections Section- Prevention Division, January 17, 1989, 200hrs.
- Hazardous Materials First Responder Course- U.S. E.P.A. and Union Pacific Railroad, Alamo Area Law Enforcement Academy, Univ. of Texas at San Antonio, Tx., January 12-13, 1988, 15hrs.,
- Texas Fire and Arson Investigators Seminar- Texas A&M Univ. Extension Service, Austin, Tx., (32hrs.) every March from 1984 to present

Expert Testimony

- **Texas v. Juvenile, Cause#J-25,333**, Trial, 98th District Court, Travis County, Texas
This was a criminal case involving an Attempted Arson of a High School during classroom hours. Conviction.
- **Capital Metropolitan Transit Authority v. Gillig Corporation, Case Number A04-CA-094-SS**, Trial, United States District Court, Western District of Texas- Austin Division
This case involved fires in City Transit buses built by Gillig Corporation. Verdict for the plaintiff.
- **Sutton, Henderson v. Valdez Remodeling & Weatherization, Inc., Cause #9714134**, Trial, 261st District Court, Travis County, Texas
This was a civil case involving a fire in a ceiling fan improperly installed by the respondent. Verdict for the plaintiff.
- **Texas v. Juvenile, Cause#J-03,401**, Trial, 98th District Court, Travis County, Texas
This was a criminal case involving two juveniles setting fires in three separate department stores the same afternoon. Conviction.

Deposition

- **Mildred Watson v. Mastec Services Company, Inc., Mastec North America, Inc., and Mastec, Inc., Cause #2010-40344-362**, 362nd Judicial District Court, Denton County, Texas; Oral; November 22, 2011
This case involved an attic fire in a house that started when a satellite TV installer was working in the attic. Verdict for the Plaintiff.
- **Federico Pena v. Ryland Homes of Texas Limited Partnership, Cause #08-22108-CV**, 25th Judicial District Court, Guadalupe County, Texas; Oral and Video; September 30, 2010
This case involved the improper installation of a fireplace system. Verdict for the Plaintiff.
- **Zawardy Ab Latiff vs. University Housing Corporation, Cause #GN301342**, 250th Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas; Oral and Video
This was a civil case involving a college student severely burned during a fire that was set by his roommate. Verdict unknown.
- **Dean Goddard v. Mark Hodgson and Michael Putegnat, Cause #GN102878**, 201st Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas; Oral and Video
The details of this case were unavailable.

- **Shiloh Newman and Smith & Newman Enterprises, L.L.C. v. Neo-Neon USA, Inc., Home Depot USA, Inc. and Light Tech, L.L.C., Cause #GN204502**, 353rd Judicial District Court, Travis County Texas; consolidated with **Jamil F. Boukarim v. Smith & Newman Enterprises, Ltd. Co., Smith & Newman Enterprises L.L.C. and Shiloh Newman, Cause #GN 204617**, 200th Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas, Oral
This case involved the improper installation of tube-lighting in a bar. The lighting was installed by the owner of the bar. The claim was product failure, verdict for the Respondent.
- **Robert Jewett v. Myrtle Moynahan, W.O. Harper Plumbing and Sewer Service, and Rheem Manufacturing Company, Cause #98-09186**, 261st Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas, Oral and Video
This case involved a tenant of a house who was severely burned while changing a fuel filter on his VW bus in the garage. The claim was the gas-fired water heater in the garage was improperly installed, causing the vapors from the spilled gasoline on the floor to ignite. Verdict unknown.

Awards

- Certificate of Appreciation, Fire Chief Rhoda May Kerr, Austin Fire Dept., July 4, 2009
- Austin Fire Department Unit Citation, 2003
- Austin Fire Department Unit Citation, 2002
- Customer Service Star, Assistant Chief Paul Maldonado, Abatement of Child Fires, Sept. 3, 1998
- Phoenix Bar (CPR confirmed save), Austin Fire Dept., September 22, 1994
- Certificate of Appreciation, Fire Marshal Chief Roy Bishop, October 11, 1993
- Letter of Commendation, Capt. of Inspections Don Smith, Austin Fire Dept., January 24, 1989
- Letter of Commendation, Fire Chief Bill Roberts, Austin Fire Dept., September 27, 1985
- Certificate of Merit, Fire Chief Bill Roberts, Austin Fire Dept., September 27, 1985
- Pride of the City Award, City of Austin Employee Appreciation Program, 1985
- Employee of the Year Award, Mayor Frank Cooksey, December 11, 1985
- Letter of Commendation, City Council Member Mark Spaeth, August 24, 1983
- Letter of Commendation, Lowell H. Lebermann, Jr., February 23, 1983
- Letter of Commendation, Mayor Carole Keeton McClellan, February 23, 1983
- Letter of Commendation, Governor Mark White, February 18, 1983
- Certificate of Recognition, Acting Fire Chief Brady Pool, February 6, 1983

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