



JAMES R. LEHTOLA, CFI

36135 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Michigan 48150
800-961-2909 - Fax 734-591-0140

Licensed, Bonded & Insured in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Arizona, Florida and Ontario, Canada

EXPERTISE:

Commercial and residential structure fires and explosions.

EXPERIENCE:

Oakland County Sheriff's Department
1201 N. Telegraph Road
Pontiac, MI 48341
(248) 858-4960

Arson Investigator

June of 1972 employed as a Deputy Sheriff / Patrolman with Oakland County Sheriff's Office, state certified as a Police Officer.

For the year of 1980 assigned to the Detective Bureau as an Investigator to conduct general assignment investigations.

May of 1985 promoted to Fire/Arson Investigator.

Certified as a Fire Investigator (C.F.I.) by the International Association of Arson Investigators, certificate number 05-008.

Conducted or participated in the investigation of more than one thousand fires.

SPECIAL TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS:

Oakland 1972 Basic Police Academy, Oakland Police Academy - Oak Park, Michigan

October 1986 Basic Fire Investigation Course – Michigan Department of State Police - Tustin, Michigan

January / February 1989 Advanced Arson for Profit Course – Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms – Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, - Glynco, Georgia.

June 1995 Modular and Mobile Home Fire Investigation – Michigan Arson Prevention Committee – Tustin, Michigan

Numerous related police training courses including:

October 1989 Interview and Interrogation Techniques – Michigan Association of Polygraph Examiners – Lansing, Michigan

July 1990 Scientific Content Analysis – Laboratory for Scientific Interrogation – Novi, Michigan

March 1992 Reid Method of Interviews and Interrogation – Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates – Pontiac, Michigan

March 1995 Medicolegal Investigation of Death – Wayne State University Medical School – Detroit, Michigan

INSTRUCTOR FOR:

I have provided instruction for Police and Fire Agencies in Oakland County, the Oakland Police Academy, the Oakland Fire Academy, the Oakland County Association of Arson and Fire Investigators, as well as other organizations.

COURT QUALIFICATIONS:

- 39th District Court – Roseville
- 43rd District Court – Madison Heights
- 47th District Court – Farmington Hills
- 51st District Court – Waterford
- 52nd District Court – Rochester Hills
- 43rd District Court – Ferndale
- 44th District Court – Royal Oak
- 48th District Court – Bloomfield
- 52nd District Court – Novi
- Oakland County Probate Court
- 43rd District Court – Hazel Park
- 45th B District Court – Oak Park
- 50th District Court – Pontiac
- 52nd District Court, Clarkston
- Oakland County (6th) Circuit Court

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

A member of: International Association of Arson Investigators (I.A.A.I.), Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, and the Oakland County Association of Arson and Fire Investigators (past Secretary, Director, and Chairman of the Education Committee).

Former Farmington Township “On Call” Fire Fighter-Lieutenant.

State of Michigan licensed Residential Builder, license number 2101112969.

AWARDS:

Oakland County Sheriff’s Office awards include Officer of the Year (1977)

Lifesaving Citation (1984)

Professional Excellence Citation (1985 & 1990)

Unit Citation for Professional Excellence (2001)

Sheriff’s Distinguished Service Award (2003)

Sheriff’s Special Commendation Award (2004)

Investigator of the Year (2005).

Recognition from other organizations include:

Deputy Sheriff of the Year – Pontiac Exchange Club (1977)

Distinguished Service Award – Oakland County Association of Arson & Fire Investigators (1992)

Distinguished Policeman of the Year for Oakland County Sheriff’s Office – Clawson-Troy Elks Lodge (1995)

Anti-Arson Achievement Award – Michigan Arson Prevention Committee (2002)

Investigator of the Year – Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (2002).

EDUCATION AND TRAINING :

Graduate of West Bloomfield High School (June, 1968), Oakland Community College, Law Enforcement Program

January 1971 Regional Fire Training School – The University of Michigan Extension Service, Mt. Clemens, Michigan

June 1985 Michigan Arson School – Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Western Michigan University

July 1985 Vehicle Fire Seminar – Macomb Community College, Mt. Clemens, Michigan

October 1985 Juvenile Fire Setters Seminar – National Fire Academy – Wayne, Michigan

November 1985 Arson Seminar – Michigan Prosecuting Attorney Association, Lansing, Michigan

Oakland County Association of Arson and Fire Investigators, Origin and Cause Seminar, Electrical Investigations, May 2007

EDUCATION AND TRAINING : (continued)

Certificate, International Association of Arson Investigators (Michigan Chapter), Bay City, Michigan May 22-25, 2007.

January 1986 Regional Fire Investigation Seminar – Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Pontiac, Michigan

May 1986 Fire Investigation – International Associate of Arson Investigators, Atlanta, Georgia

June 1986 Michigan Arson School – Michigan Chapter of International Association of Arson Investigators, Eastern Michigan University

May 1989 Fire Investigation – International Associate of Arson Investigators, Clearwater Beach, Florida

May 1989 Vehicle Theft, Fraud, and Arson Seminar – International Association of Auto Theft Investigators, Warren, Michigan

May 1990 Fire Investigation* – International Associate of Arson Investigators, Dearborn, Michigan

January 1987, 1988 February / March 1986, March 1990, March 1991, April 1992, March 1993, March 1994, April 1995, April 1997, April 1998. April 2000, April 2001, April 2002, April/May 2004, May 2005 - Fire and Arson Investigation Oakland County Association of Arson and Fire Investigators,

May 1993 Gas and Electrical Product Failure Analysis* - Barker and Herbert Analytical Laboratories, New Haven, Indiana

March 1996 Fire and Explosion Dynamics* – Oakland County Association of Arson and Fire Investigators, Troy, Michigan

May 1996 Michigan Arson School* - Michigan Chapter of International Association of Arson Investigators, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan

March 1999 Interviewing the Fire Setter* – Oakland County Association of Arson and Fire Investigators, Royal Oak, Michigan

May 2000 Fire Investigation – International Associate of Arson Investigators – Grand Rapids, Michigan

October 2001 N. F. P. A. 921 2001 Edition Update* - International Association of Arson Investigators, Auburn Hills, Michigan

May 2002 Michigan Arson School* - Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Boyne Falls, Michigan

May 2005 Michigan Arson School* - Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Midland, Michigan