



History of the **Maine Chapter IAAI** International Association of Arson Investigators

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The Maine Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators was established on September 24, 1992 during its first regular meeting which was held at the Gray Fire Station. There were twenty-three members present for the meeting. Sr. Fire Investigator Richard Shepard of the State Fire Marshal's Office was the first president of the organization.

The membership averages over 150 members per year and consists of fire investigators, firefighters, law enforcement officers, insurance investigators and other professionals. You do not need to be a fire investigator to belong to the organization. Annual dues are \$25.00 and an application for membership can be obtained through the Maine Chapter's website.

The Maine Chapter was primarily formed to provide fire investigators with localized training. Since its inception, the organization has not only provided excellent training seminars but it has provided members with great networking opportunities with other professionals and organizations in the field of fire investigations.

The Maine Chapter offers four training seminars each year, which are held throughout the State of Maine. Most of the seminar topics are related to fire investigations and they range from basic fire investigation techniques to more technical aspects of investigations. Past seminar topics included Interview Techniques, Search Warrants, Evidence Techniques, Legal Aspects of Fire Investigations and Spoliation Issues, to just name a few. From time to time, we also provide seminars with hands-on practical fire investigation exercises.

There is a Maine Chapter IAAI newsletter which is distributed to members on a quarterly basis. The newsletters contain informative articles in reference to fire investigations. It also contains updated information on the Maine Chapter, fire prevention tips, fire related consumer product recalls, fire investigation news and other related articles. Various archived newsletters are also posted on the Maine Chapter's website.