



Fire Investigator (2022) Interim Procedures

Issued: August 2024

Procedure Changes

- Edition:** May 2020 edition of the State Fire Training Procedures Manual
- Effective Date:** July 25, 2024
- Section Changes:** Modify and update the following sections:
- 6.7.13: INVESTIGATION INSTRUCTOR
 - 7.8: INVESTIGATION
 - 9.1.2: APPROVED COURSES
- Justification:** Following approval by the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS), the new Fire Investigator (2022) will go into effect on August 1, 2024. The new curriculum provides directive for instructor qualifications, certification, and course equivalency.
- SFT Contact:** SFT Staff assigned to instructor registration, certification, and course equivalency.
- Note:** All new text appears in underline. All deleted text appears in ~~strikeout~~.

6.7.13: INVESTIGATION INSTRUCTOR

6.7.13.1: Eligible Courses

Table 6.7.13.1: Investigation Instructor Eligible Courses

CFSTES Courses	FSTEP Courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire Investigation 1A: Basic Fire Investigation (201722)• Fire Investigation 1B: Evidence, and Documentation, Interviews, and Wildland (201722)• Fire Investigation 1C: Preparation for Legal Proceedings (201722)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None

6.7.13.2: General Qualifications

- A. A Registered ~~Primary~~ Instructor for a California Fire Service Training and Education System (CFSTES) or Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) Fire Investigation course shall meet the qualifications required of all State Fire Training (SFT) Registered ~~Primary~~ Instructors.
1. See **6.2.1: Qualifications.**
- B. ~~An Instructor registered to teach Fire Investigation 1A: Fire Origin Cause and Determination (2000), Fire Investigation 1B: Techniques of Fire Investigation (2011), Fire Investigation 2A: Criminal and Legal Procedures(1989), or Fire Investigation 2B: Field Case Studies (1989) is authorized to teach Fire Investigation 1A (2017), 1B (2017), and 1C (2017).~~
- C. A Registered Instructor for a California Fire Service Training and Education System (CFSTES) or Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) Fire Investigation course shall be an OSFM-certified Fire Investigator.

6.7.13.3: Course Work

- A. SFT will authorize Fire Investigator (2017) Registered Instructors who complete the following courses to teach Fire Investigator 1A (2022):
- Fire Instructor 1A: Basic Fire Investigation (2017)
 - Basic Electricity (CFITrainer.net)
 - Ethics and the Fire Investigator (CFITrainer.net)
 - Fire Instructor (2022) Instructor Update (virtual)
- B. SFT will authorize Fire Investigator (2017) Registered Instructors who complete the following courses to teach Fire Investigator 1B (2022):
- Fire Investigator 1B: Evidence and Documentation (2017)

- FI-110: Wildland Fire Observations and Origin Scene Protection for First Responders (NWCG) or Wildland Fires Investigation (CFITrainer.net)
- Fundamentals of Interviewing (CFITrainer.net)
- Introduction to Evidence (CFITrainer.net)
- Fire Instructor (2022) Instructor Update (virtual)

C. SFT will authorize Fire Investigator (2017) Registered Instructors who complete the following courses to teach Fire Investigator 1 (2022):

- Fire Investigator 1C: Preparation for Legal Proceedings (2017)
- Motive, Means, Opportunity: Determining Responsibility in an Arson Case (CFITrainer.net)
- Fire Instructor (2022) Instructor Update (virtual)

6.7.13.43: Professional Experience

A. A Registered ~~Primary~~ Instructor for a CFESTES of FSTEP Fire Investigation course shall meet the professional experience qualifications listed below.

1. Performing in an “acting” capacity does not qualify.

Table 6.7.13.3: Investigation Instructor Professional Experience

FSTEP Course	Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Investigation 1A (201722) • Fire Investigation 1B (201722) • Fire Investigation 1C (201722) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held the rank of a position <u>responsible for</u> of <u>Fire Investigator within fire investigation for three years in</u> a recognized fire agency in California fire or law enforcement agency for a minimum of two years

7.8: INVESTIGATION

7.8.1: FIRE INVESTIGATOR (2017/22)

7.8.1.1: Overview

- A. Fire Investigator ~~origin~~ certification provides the knowledge and skills needed to determine fire origin, conduct scene documentation and evidence collection, develop an interview plan, and testify in legal proceedings for structure and wildland fires.
- B. Fire Investigator certification replaced Fire Investigator II and II, which retired on December 31, 2018.

7.8.1.2: History

- A. Established
 - June 1, 2017
- B. Updated
 - Month #, 202#

7.8.1.3: Prerequisites

- A. Not applicable
Completion of the following courses:
 - ~~Basic Electricity (CFITrainer.net)~~
 - ~~Ethics and the Fire Investigator (CFITrainer.net)~~
 - ~~Introduction to Evidence (CFITrainer.net)~~
 - ~~Motive, Means, and Opportunity (CFITrainer.net)~~
 - ~~POST-certified PC 832-Arrest (POST)~~
 - ~~POST-certified Interview and Interrogation (POST)~~
 - ~~FI210 Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination (NWCG)~~

7.8.1.4: Education

- A. Fire Investigation 1A: Basic Fire Investigation (2017 or 2022)
- B. Fire Investigation 1B: Evidence, Documentation, Interviews, and Wildland (2022)
or
Fire Investigation 1B: Evidence and Documentation (2017) **and** FI-110: Wildland Fire Observations and Origin Scene Protection for First Responders (NWCG) **and** Fundamentals of Interviewing (CFTITrainer.net) and Introduction to Evidence (CFTITrainer.net)
or

Fire Investigator 1B: Evidence and Documentation (2017) and Wildland Fires Investigation (CFITrainer.net) and Fundamentals of Interviewing (CFTITrainer.net) and Introduction to Evidence (CFTITrainer.net)

C. Fire Investigation 1C: Preparation for Legal Proceedings (2017 or 2022)

D. PC832: Arrest (POST #80102)

- Must be completed within two years of applying for certification unless candidate is employed as a peace officer

7.8.1.5: Certification Exam

A. Not applicable

7.8.1.6: Certification Task Book

A. Fire Investigator (2022) Certification Task Book

7.8.1.7: Experience

A. A minimum of two (2) years' full-time paid experience with a recognized California fire or law enforcement agency

~~Fire Service or Law Enforcement (one of the following three options)~~

- ~~1. Have a minimum of two years' full time paid experience in a recognized fire agency in California with the primary duty as a Fire Investigator~~
- ~~2. Have a minimum of four years' volunteer or part time paid experience in a recognized fire agency in California with the primary responsibility as a Fire Investigator~~
- ~~3. Have a combination of full time paid and part time paid or volunteer experience equal to two years' full time paid experience in a recognized fire agency in California with the primary duty as a Fire Investigator~~
 - ~~i. Part-time paid or volunteer to full time paid ratio is 2:1 (for example, two months' part time paid or volunteer = 1 month full time paid)~~

B. Investigate ~~250~~ fires, ~~10 of which must be structure fires~~, as the primary lead investigator, and ~~develop complete fire investigation reports~~ (verified by task book and Chief's, Sheriff's, or equivalent's letter)

7.8.1.8: Position

A. ~~Appointed to the position of Fire Investigator~~ Meets the qualifications for this level of certification, fulfilling the role of the specific duties as defined by the Fire Chief

7.8.1.9: Application

A. See **7.2.4: Application Process – With a Certification Task Book**.

B. ~~Supporting documentation:~~

- ~~1. Copies of all prerequisite course completion verification~~
- ~~2. Copies of course completion certificates for each SFT education requirement~~

7.8.1.10: Maintenance

A. Not applicable

9.1.2: APPROVED COURSES

- A. In Table 9.1.2: SFT Approved Courses (following), SFT has identified the following SFT courses as either equivalent (E) or reciprocal (R).
- B. See **Acronym Glossary** for a complete list of provider acronyms.

Table 9.1.2: SFT Approved Courses

SFT Course	E/R	Approved Equivalent	Provider	Effective Dates
Fire Investigation 1A	E	Fire/Arson Investigation (R811) <u>Fire Investigation: Essentials (R0772)</u>	NFA (6-day course) <u>FEMA (10-day course)</u>	
Fire Investigation 1B	E	Fire/Arson Investigation (R206) <u>Fire Investigation: Essentials (R0772)</u>	NFA <u>FEMA (10-day course)</u>	
Fire Investigation 1C	E	Interviewing-Interrogation Techniques and Courtroom Testimony (R208) <u>Fire Investigation: Case Preparation and Testimony (N0790)</u>	NFA (10-day course) <u>FEMA (6-day course)</u>	