



PAAI “Jack Christmas” TRAINING SEMINAR APRIL 18-19, 2026

**The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center
215 Innovation Blvd., State College, PA 16803**

(PAAI ROOM RATE \$149.00/night + TAXES)

Call the hotel to make reservations 814-863-5000, ext. 2

You must use our Group Code “PAAI26J” when making your reservation

The deadline to reserve a room under the PAAI block is March 17, 2026

You can also use the link below for room reservations

<http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=4996585&hotelID=9877123>

Saturday April 18, 2026 (08:00 – 12:00)

NFPA 921 Core 4 Refresher for the Fire Investigation Professional

4 hours

Erik J. Mickelsen, IAAI-CFI, IAAI -ECT, NAFI-CFEI

Fire Marshal / Deputy Housing Official Bound Brook, NJ

Regional task force investigator, NJIT Adj. Prof. – Fire / Arson Investigation

Even the most seasoned fire investigators need a refresher in the basics from time to time. The topics and information contained within NFPA chapters 3,4,5, and 6 form the foundational basis for our ability to process scenes appropriately and to correctly apply advanced principals in the determination of origin and cause. This course is designed to stimulate the brain with a journey into the “core 4” chapters which are the grass roots of our industry. The goal of this course is to have all attendees leave the class with a confident knowledge of basic topics, that will have them searching for more advanced research engagements. Refreshing our knowledge of the basics is not always something that fits into our hectic schedules. This four-hour class offers the educational opportunity and perfect setting for this important task. Included in this training will be: Basic methodology, Fire behavior, Fire science, Recognition of fire patterns, Interpretation of fire effects, and Key terms and phrases



Saturday April 18, 2026 (13:00 – 17:00)

The Use of Fire Dynamics for Origin Determination

4 hours

**Gregory Gorbett, Ph.D., IAAI-CFI Professor Eastern Kentucky University
Co-owner of Fire Dynamics Analysts**

This presentation focuses on using fire dynamics to test origin hypotheses. Fundamental fire dynamics will be discussed, emphasizing ventilation-controlled conditions and the ventilation-generated fire patterns developed from this stage in a compartment fire. Heat release rates of fuels and how these can better be incorporated into testing origin hypotheses within the context of timeline analysis will be examined. In addition, the proper documentation and analysis of fire patterns through applying fundamental fire dynamics will be described. Case studies will be integrated into the presentation to demonstrate how to use fire dynamics in various scenarios effectively.

Sunday April 19, 2026 (08:00 – 12:00))

Fire Patterns

4 hours

**Gregory Gorbett, Ph.D., IAAI-CFI Professor Eastern Kentucky University
Co-owner of Fire Dynamics Analysts**

Fire investigators have historically relied upon damage as a means to conclude where a fire originated. This review evaluates the historical and current literature on the topic, with a specific emphasis towards the research conducted over the past eighty years related to fire patterns. The concept of fire patterns for this review has been broken into four components that better assist in evaluating their effectiveness in determining an area of origin. The first component evaluated is the ability to assess the varying degree of fire damage along the surfaces of the compartment and contents. Next, the ability to identify clusters of damage was evaluated. Interpretation of the causal factors for the generation of the fire patterns was next appraised. Finally, the availability of processes using fire patterns in determining an area of origin was assessed. This deconstruction of the problem provides a gap analysis of the processes present and areas where future work is needed.

Training CEU's Saturday (08) and (04) Sunday

Online Class Testing will be announced at the start of the seminar



Friday April 17, 2026

19:00 - PAAI Board of Directors Meeting

19:00 - Hospitality Room Open

Saturday April 18, 2026

07:30 – 08:00 – Registration

08:00 – 08:15 – Opening Ceremony/President’s Welcome Message/Announcements

08:15 – 12:00 – Class Instruction

12:00 – 13:00 – Lunch (Provided)

13:00 – 17:00 – Class Instruction

18:00 IAAI ECT Practicum Must register and be pre-approved by the IAAI

19:00 - Hospitality Room Open

Sunday April 19, 2026

08:00 – 12:00 – Class Instruction

Cost for the seminar: \$225 for both days

SEND COMPLETED REGISTRATION TO:

Nancy Love: 585 Firethorn Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146

Nancy.Love@AlleghenyCounty.US

NAME: _____ PAAI NO. _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE Number: _____

COMPANY: _____

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER MADE OUT TO: PAAI –TRAINING

Those wishing to pay by Credit Card please see the PAAI website, PAAI.org for details.