

**Richard Besse, CFEI, CVFI, CFII, IAAI-CFI**

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**Professional Experience**

July 2008 to  
Present

**Envista Forensics**  
*Chicago, Illinois*  
*Technical Field Supervisor / Senior Consultant*

October 2007 to  
June 2008

**TRC Solutions, Inc.**  
*Bloomington, Illinois*  
*Branch Manager / Fire Investigator*

January 2006 to  
October 2007

**EFI Global**  
*Carol Stream, Illinois*  
*Branch Manager / Fire Investigator*

May 1998 to  
January 2006

**Travelers Property & Casualty**  
*Naperville, Illinois*  
*Fire Investigator / Lead Investigator*

May 1993 to  
May 1998

**INS Investigations Bureau, Inc.**  
*Lombard, Illinois*  
*Fire Investigator*

May 1982 to  
May 1994

**City of Harvey**  
*Fire Lieutenant*  
*Police Commander Bomb & Arson Unit*

November 1976 to  
May 1982

**Hazel Crest Fire Department**  
*Firefighter / Paramedic*

**Fire Scene Experience**

**Mr. Besse has personally worked or supervised more than 2,000 fire and explosion investigations nationwide.**

## Education

1978 **University of Illinois Fire Service Institute**

## Training

**Management II, III, IV**

**Tactics and Strategy I, II**

**Fire Arson Investigation I, II, III**

**Fire Instructor I, II**

1978 **University of Illinois 54 Annual Fire College**

1980 **University of Illinois 56 Annual Fire College**

1982 **Thornton Community College**

*Basic Photography*

1983 **Northern Illinois Gas Company**

*Natural Gas Fire Training*

1984 **City of Harvey – Fire Department**

*Fire Service / Civil Evidence Photography from Evidence*

1985 **Thornton Community College**

*Arson Investigations*

1986 **Cook County Sheriff's Police Academy**

*Cook County, Illinois  
Police Recruit Training*

1987 **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms**

*Advanced Arson for Profit Seminar*

1978 to 1988 **Thornton Community College**

*Fire Science Program*

February 1988 **International Association of Arson Investigators**

*Third District Annual Arson Seminar*

February 1989 **International Association of Arson Investigators**

*Third District Annual Arson Seminar*

October 1989	<b>John Reed</b> <i>Interviewing and Interrogation</i>	
1989	<b>Illinois Hazardous Materials Advisory Board</b> <i>Hazardous Materials Basic Awareness</i>	
1989	<b>FBI / North East Multi-Regional Training</b> <i>Post Blast Crime Scene School</i>	40 Hours
February 1990	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators</b> <i>Third District Annual Arson Seminar</i>	
January 1991	<b>University of Illinois at Chicago</b> <i>Fire &amp; Explosion Phenomena Program</i>	
March 1991	<b>IACAP / FBI</b> <i>Bombing Investigations Seminar</i>	
February 1992	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators</b> <i>Third District Annual Arson Seminar</i>	
August 1994	<b>INS Investigations Bureau, Inc.</b> <i>Hazardous Materials Control and Emergency Response "Hazardous Materials Technician Course"</i>	40 Hours
August 1995	<b>INS Investigations Bureau, Inc.</b> <i>Hazardous Materials Recertification</i>	8 Hours
November 1995	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators</b> <i>Northern Illinois 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Arson Seminar</i>	
February 1996	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators</b> <i>Third District 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Arson Seminar</i>	
March 1996	<b>CH&amp;A</b> <i>Hazardous Materials Recertification</i>	8 Hours
April 1996	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators</b> <i>Fire Investigation Techniques</i>	
November 1996	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators</b> <i>Northern Illinois 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Arson Seminar</i>	
April 1997	<b>M.A.B.A.S. 10</b> <i>Advanced Arson Investigation</i>	
January 1998	<b>ICAP</b> <i>Winter Seminar on Field Investigations</i>	

July 1998	<b>National Association of Fire Investigators</b> <i>Computer Fire Modeling Training Seminar</i>	
July 1998	<b>National Association of Fire Investigators</b> <i>Determining the Cause and Origin of Fires &amp; Explosions Training Seminar</i>	
July 1998	<b>National Association of Fire Investigators</b> <i>Fire &amp; Explosion Investigator Instructor Seminar</i>	
August 1998	<b>Bobby J. Gunter, PhD, CIN</b> <i>Hazardous Materials Recertification</i>	
December 1999	<b>Bobby J. Gunter, PhD, CIN</b> <i>Hazardous Materials Recertification</i>	
October 2000	<b>Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco &amp; Firearms</b> <i>Advanced Arson Investigation Techniques</i>	
January 2001	<b>Bobby J. Gunter, PhD, CIN</b> <i>Hazardous Materials Recertification</i>	8 Hours
June 2002	<b>Bobby J. Gunter, PhD, CIN</b> <i>Hazardous Materials Recertification</i>	8 Hours
1999 through 2003	<b>Travelers Engineering Laboratory</b> <i>Fire Investigation Seminar</i>	
May 2005	<b>EFI Global</b> <i>Advanced Structure Fire Investigation Seminar</i>	
June 2005	<b>EFI Global</b> <i>Vehicle Fire Investigation Seminar</i>	
September 2005	<b>National Association of Fire Investigators</b> <i>Vehicle Fire, Arson &amp; Explosion Investigation Science &amp; Technology Seminar</i>	
April 2006	<b>EFI Global</b> <i>Vehicle Fire Investigation Seminar</i>	
November 2006	<b>National Forensic Training Institute</b> <i>Fire Investigation Seminar</i>	
April 2010	<b>Fire Findings Laboratories</b> <i>Residential Electricity for Fire Investigators</i>	16 Hours

July 2010	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>Arc Mapping Basics</i>	4 Hours
July 2010	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>Effective Investigation and Testimony</i>	3 Hours
July 2010	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction</i>	3 Hours
March 2012	<b>South Suburban Fire Investigation Task Force</b> <i>Advanced Cause &amp; Origin Training</i>	40 Hours
March 2013	<b>Will Cook Grundy County Fire Investigation Task Force</b> <i>Fire and Arson Investigation Training</i>	40 Hours
June 2014	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>A Ventilation-Focused Approach to the Impact of Building Structures and Systems on Fire</i>	4 Hours
June 2014	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>Post flashover Fires</i>	4 Hours
June 2014	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>An Analysis of The Station Nightclub Fire</i>	4 Hours
June 2014	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>MagneTek: A Case Study In The Daubert Challenge</i>	2 Hours
June 2014	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>Charleston Sofa Super Store Fire</i>	4 Hours
September 2014	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>Fire Investigator Scene Safety</i>	3 Hours
October 2015	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>Explosion Dynamics</i>	4 Hours
November 2015	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>Accreditation, Certification, and Certificates</i>	3 Hours

April 2016	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>NFPA 921 and 1033 2014 Editions: Important Revisions</i>	3 Hours
August 2016	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>Insurance and the Fire Investigation</i>	4 Hours
October 2016	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling</i>	4 Hours
August 2017	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>Investigating Fatal Fires</i>	4 Hours
January 2018	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>CFITrainer.net</i> <i>NFPA1033 and Your Career</i>	2 Hours
June 2018	<b>International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.</b> <i>2018 ITC General Session Exam</i> <i>Tested contact hours</i>	32 Hours
December 2018	<b>Safety Unlimited, Inc.</b> <i>Asbestos Awareness Training</i>	1 Hour

### Certifications

**Office of State Fire Marshal**

*Fire Investigator*  
*Arson Investigator*  
*Firefighter 1, 2, and 3*  
*Fire Instructor I*  
*Fire Instructor II*

**INS Investigation Bureau, Inc.**

*Hazardous Materials Technician*

**Office of State Fire Marshal**

*Apparatus Engineer*

**National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)**

*Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator Instructor*  
*Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator*  
*Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator*

**International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)**

*Certified Fire Investigator*

## **Professional Organizations**

**International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)**

**International Fire Photographers Association (Past)**

**National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)**

## **Licenses (Private Investigator)**

**Illinois**

**Indiana**

**Iowa**

**Michigan**

**Missouri**

**Ohio**

**Wisconsin**

## **Guest Lecturer / Instructor**

**Hazel Crest Fire Department**

*Fire Origin & Cause*

**Dolton Fire Department**

*Fire Origin & Cause*

**Harvey Fire Department**

*Fire Origin & Cause*

**Travelers Insurance Company Fire Investigation Unit**

**EFI Global**

*Structure & Vehicle Fire Investigations*

**TRC Solutions**

*Structure & Vehicle Fire Investigations*

**PT&C Forensic Consulting Services, P.A.**

*Structure Fire Investigations*