

Cory L. Benge - Curriculum Vitae

General Information

Telephone: 641-777-1285
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Employer: Independent Forensic Investigations Corporation (IFIC)
Address: 3507 99th St.
Urbandale, IA 50323

Work Telephone: 515-278-0771
Mobile: 641-777-1285
Email: cbenge@independentforensics.com

Date of Hire: 5/1/2022
Current Position: Fire Investigator – CFI

Previous Employer: City of Ottumwa Fire Department
Address: 201 N. Wapello
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

Employed: 4/1/2003 – 5/12/2023
Position Held: Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal

Education

Columbia Southern University	BS Degree - Fire Administration/Fire Investigation	Date: 7/2022
Columbia Southern University	AAS Degree - Fire Science	Date: 8/2016
Ottumwa High School	Diploma	Date: 5/1999

Fire Department Assignments

City of Ottumwa Fire Department

Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal, April 1, 2012 – May 12, 2023

- Provide fire investigative duties for all fire related issues in the City of Ottumwa as well as enforce the ordinances and codes pertaining to the International Fire Code as well as the codes and ordinances of the City of Ottumwa.
- Life Safety, Fire Alarm, Fire Suppression Sprinkler and New Construction plans review.
- Deliver public education programs to adults in local businesses and local schools.

City of Ottumwa Fire Department

Firefighter/EMT, April 1, 2003 - March 31, 2012

- Drive and Operate emergency vehicles, respond to fire and emergency medical incidents, deliver public education programs to adults and children.

- Perform daily apparatus checks and preform minor maintenance to emergency apparatus and equipment assigned to the apparatus.

Wapello County Rural Fire Department

Volunteer Firefighter, July 2001 - March 2003

- Responded to emergency situations that involved fire suppression activities and stop the event as quickly as possible.
- Respond to rescue situations such as car crashes and perform rescue techniques.

Certifications & Licenses

- UAS Licensed drone pilot (4979218)
- Licensed Private Investigator – Iowa (155612)
- Licensed Private Investigator – Missouri (2023011875)
- IAAI – Evidence Collection Technician (ECT) 1/2023
- IAAI - Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) 12/2019
- Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Certified Peace Officer (*586 Hours, 2014*)
- Fire Officer II (*1/15/2013*)
- Health and Safety Officer 12/2011
- Fire Inspector 1 (*8/6/2010*)
- Juvenile Fire setter Intervention Specialist I & II (5/2009)
- Fire Officer 1 (12/1/2008)
- Fire Service Instructor 1 (*8/25/2008*)
- Fire Investigator (Iowa Fire Marshal's Office) (*3/2008*)
- Hazardous Materials Technician (*2006*)
- Firefighter 2 (*4/21/2004*)
- Emergency Medical Technician (*2003*)
- Firefighter 1 (*7/18/2003*)

Professional Training

- CFI Trainer.net - Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Fires
 - (3 hours tested – Completed 8/17/2024)
- CFI Trainer.net - Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Design Basics
 - (3 hours tested – Completed 8/12/2024)
- 2024 IAAI International Training Conference
 - (State v. Claude F Garrett and the Application of the Scientific Method - 4 hrs.; Potential of Smart Metering Devices in Fire and Crime Investigation – 4 hrs.; Lightning-Induced CSST Fire Claims & Litigation -2 hrs.; Insurance Claims for Fire & Explosion Investigators – 4 hrs.; Building Confidence in Origin & Cause Determinations – 4 hrs.; all tested)
- CFI Trainer.net - Site Safety Assessment
 - (3 hours tested – Completed 4/2/2024)
- CFI Trainer.net - Lithium-Ion Battery Fires
 - (3 hours tested – Completed 12/17/2023)
- Iowa Chapter of the IAAI annual Training Seminar 9/12-9/14/2023

- (Wood Construction and the Fire Investigator – 3 hours, Motor Vehicle Fires – 4 hours, Challenges to Expert Qualifications Methodology & Opinions – 3 hours, Violent Crime Arson Case Studies – 3 hours; all tested)
- Management of Complex Fire Investigations and Fire Investigation Fundamentals of Vehicle Systems. 1/30/2023
 - Illinois Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators (8 Hours – Tested)
- Fire Investigation: Forensic Interviewing and Evidence Collection
 - National Fire Academy (45 Hours – Tested)
- Iowa Chapter of the IAAI annual Training Seminar 9/13-9/15/2022
 - (Construction Site Fire Case Study – 2.5 hrs., Post Scene Inspection Consideration – 1.25 hrs., NFPA 1033/921/1321 – 3 hrs., Live Burn Cells – 4 hrs., Electrical/Arc Mapping – 3 hrs., LP/Natural Gas Investigations – 3 hrs.)
- Burn Cell Construction and Live Fire Training to Flashover
 - (2 Hours -5/2/2022)
- CFI Trainer.net - Emerging Technologies in Fire Investigation
 - (3 Hours Tested – Completed 3/7/2022)
- CFI Trainer.Net - The Potential Value of Electronic Evidence in Fire Investigations
 - (4 Hours Tested – Completed 3/7/2022)
- CFI Trainer.Net - Was the Fire Accidental?
 - (2 Hours Tested – Completed 12/9/2021)
- CFI Trainer.Net - Introduction to Appliances
 - (3 Hours Tested – Completed 11/22/21)
- CFI Trainer.Net Fire Investigation for First Responders – Multi – Program
 - (25 hours Tested Training Program – Completed 9/20/21)
- Iowa Chapter of the IAAI annual Training Seminar 9/7-9/9/2021
 - (Evidence Documentation, Collection, and Preservation 1.75 hours, Documenting the Scene 1.75 hours, Interviewing 3 hours, Presentations 4 hours, Fire Protection Systems 5.5 hours)
- Iowa IAAI Lunch & Learn 8/10/2021
 - (Fire Investigation Technology – 2 hours tested, Evidence Documentation, Collection and Preservation – 2 hours tested)
- CFI Trainer.Net Ethical Duties Beyond the Fire Scene
 - (3 Hours Tested, 6/9/2020)
- ATF – Advanced Origin and Cause – Courtroom Testimony (AOCCT)
 - (88 Hours Tested, 1/6-1/17/2020)
- CFI Trainer.Net How First Responders Impact The Fire Investigation
 - (2 hours Tested, 1/3/2020)
- CFI Trainer.Net Principles of Fire Investigation – Multi-Program
 - (67 Hours Tested Training Program – Completed 12/1/2019)
- CFI Trainer.Net Insurance and the Fire Investigation
 - (4 Hours Tested, 12/01/2019)
- CFI Trainer.Net Charting Your Career Path In Fire Investigation
 - (3 Hours Tested, 11/29/2019)
- CFI Trainer.Net Fire Flow Analysis
 - (3 Hours Tested, 11/29/2019)
- CFI Trainer.Net Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Causes
 - (3 Hours Tested, 11/30/2019)
- Testimony Reference NFPA 921 & 1033

- (6 Tested Hours, October 24, 2019, FSTB)
- Iowa Chapter of the IAAI annual Training Seminar 9/10-9/12/2019
 - (Fire Investigation Technology 3.5 hours, Evidence Documentation, Collection, and Preservation 3 hours, Fire Investigation 4 hours, Fire Investigation Methodology 3 hours, Fire Analysis 3 hours)
- CFI Trainer.Net Understanding Undetermined
 - (3 Hours Tested 1/9/2019)
- CFI Trainer.Net The HAZWOPER Standard
 - (4 Hours Tested 1/9/2019)
- IAAI Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigation 2018
 - (24 Tested Contact Hours 11/6 – 11/8, 2018)
- CFI Trainer.Net Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction
 - (3 Hours Tested 11/1/2018)
- CFI Trainer.Net Fire Chemistry
 - (3 Hours Tested 11/1/2018)
- CFI Trainer.Net Search and Seizure
 - (4 Hours Tested 11/1/2018)
- Iowa IAAI Annual Conference - 9/11-9/14, 2018
 - (18.5 Hours Tested, Fire Investigation – 5 hrs. Evidence Documentation, Collection, and Preservation – 3 hrs. Fire Investigation Methodology – 4.5 hrs. Hazardous Materials – 2 hrs. Fire Science – 1 hr., Fire Investigation Technology – 3 hrs.)
- CFI Trainer.Net Arc Mapping Basics
 - (4 Hours Tested 7/5/2018)
- CFI Trainer.Net Thermometry, Heat, and Heat Transfer
 - (3 Hours Tested 6/26/2018)
- CFI Trainer.Net The Deposition Part 2: Questioning Tactics and Effective Responses
 - (3 Hours Tested 6/21/2018)
- CFI Trainer.Net The Deposition Part 1: Format, Content, and Preparation
 - (3 Hours Tested 5/15/2018)
- CFI Trainer.Net NFPA 921 and 1033 2014 Editions: Important Revisions
 - (3 Hours 4/18/2018)
- CFI Trainer.Net Residential Natural Gas Systems
 - (3 Hours 4/18/2018)
- CFI Trainer.Net The Impact of Ventilation in Building Structures on Fire Development
 - (4 Hours 4/18/2018)
- CFI Trainer.Net Managing Complex Fire Scene Investigations
 - (4 Hours 4/11/18)
- CFI Trainer.Net Investigating Natural Gas Systems
 - (3 Hours 3/28/18)
- CFI Trainer.net Fire Protection Systems
 - (3 Hours 3/5/2018)
- CFI Trainer.net Explosion Dynamics
 - (4 Hours 3/1/2018)
- Iowa IAAI Conference 9/12-9/14, 2017
 - (Failure Analysis and Analytical Tools – 1 hour, Fire Investigation Technology – 5 hours, Fire Investigation - 13.5 hours)
- CFI Trainer.net Discovery in Criminal Cases
 - (3 Hours 8/4/2017)
- CFI Trainer.net Using Resources to Validate your Hypothesis

- (2 Hours 8/4/2017)
- Executive Skills Series: Exercising Leadership to Facilitate Adaptive Change
 - (16 Hours 5/11-12, 2017)
- Iowa and Nebraska Chapter IAAI Joint Fire Investigation Seminar 9/20-9/23, 2016
 - (Fire Analysis - 7 hours, Fire Science – 9 hours, Fire Investigation – 3.5 hours)
- Attended Origin and Cause – Subrogation and the burn cell demonstration
 - (7 hours 6/8/2016)
- CFI Trainer.net Evidence Examination: What Happens at the Lab
 - (4 Hours 1/27/2016)
- CFI Trainer.net Electrical Safety
 - (3 Hours 10/21/2015)
- Iowa IAAI Conference 9/15-18, 2015
 - (19.25 Hours, Fire Investigation 2 hours, Fire Investigation Technology 5.75 hours, Fire Investigation Methodology 4, Fire Analysis 4 hours, Hazardous Materials 3.5 hours)
- Arson Investigation and Prosecution Fundamentals
 - (6 Hours 5/12/15)
- CFI Trainer.Net, DNA
 - (3 Hours 2/3/15)
- CFI Trainer.Net, Process of Elimination
 - (3 Hours 1/30/15)
- National Fire Academy, Interviewing, Interrogation and Courtroom Testimony
 - (72 Hours 9/2014)
- CFI Trainer.Net The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921
 - (2 Hours 09/30/2014)
- Iowa Law Enforcement Academy – Basic Academy
 - (586 Hours 1/13/2014 – 4/18/2014)
- CFI Trainer.Net, Effective Investigation and Testimony
 - (3 Hours 11/12/2013)
- CFI Trainer.Net, Fundamentals of Interviewing
 - (4 Hours Tested 11/07/2013)
- CFI Trainer.Net, Critical Thinking Solves Cases
 - (4 Hours Tested 11/06/2013)
- CFI Trainer.Net, MagneTek: A Case Study In The Daubert Challenge
 - (2 Hours Tested 10/31/2013)
- CFI Trainer.Net, Ethics and the Fire Investigator
 - (3 Hours 06/20/2013)
- CFI Trainer.Net, NFPA1033 and Your Career
 - (2 Hours 05/17/2013)
- CFI Trainer.Net, Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report
 - (3 Hours 03/22/2012)
- National Fire Academy, Principals of Fire Protection Structures and Systems
 - (72 Hours 2/2012)
- National Fire Academy, Fire/Arson Origin and Cause (R206)
 - (72 Hours 11/2009)
- National Fire Academy, Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Specialists 1 and 2
 - (32 Hours 2009)
- CFI Trainer.Net, Understanding Fire Through the Candle Experiments
 - (4 Hours 11/26/2009)

- CFI Trainer.Net, Post flashover Fires
 - *(4 Hours 11/26/2009)*
- CFI Trainer.Net, Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling
 - *(4 Hours 06/24/2009)*
- CFI Trainer.Net, Investigating Fatal Fires
 - *(4 Hours 06/24/2009)*
- CFI Trainer.Net, Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires
 - *(4 Hours 06/22/2009)*
- CFI Trainer.Net, Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene
 - *(4 Hours 06/17/2009)*
- CFI Trainer.Net, Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator
 - *(4 Hours 06/13/2009)*
- CFI Trainer.Net, Documenting the Event
 - *(4 Hours 06/13/2009)*
- CFI Trainer.Net, Introduction to Evidence
 - *(4 Hours 06/13/2009)*
- CFI Trainer.Net, The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation
 - *(3 Hours 06/08/2009)*
- CFI Trainer.Net, Fire Investigator Scene Safety
 - *(3 Hours 06/06/2009)*
- Iowa Fire Marshal's Office Fire/Arson Investigator
 - *(72 Hours 3/2008)*

Courses Instructed

- Basic Fire Origin and Cause FFII course – WCRFD 10/3/23 3.5 hours
- Fire Investigation for the First Responder IHCC Fire School 3/20/21, 3/19-20/22
- Fire Service Features (Fire Alarm and Suppression Systems)
- Basic Fire Inspection Techniques
- Low/High Angle Rope Rescue
- Basic Fire Attack
- Fire Scene Preservation for the First Responder
- 3/17/18 – Fire Crime Scene Management 8 hours Indian Hills Fire School
- 11/13/18 – Basic Origin and Cause Firefighter II Students 4 Hours

Professional Affiliations

- National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)
- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
- Iowa Chapter - International Association of Arson Investigators
 - Past Board Member as Director at Large East
- Iowa Fire Marshal's Association

Testimony:

- FECR005103 State of Iowa vs. Lucas Anthony McCoy – residential fire – Testified as Fact Witness 10/22

- FECR005103 State of Iowa vs. Lucas Anthony McCoy – residential fire – deposition 10/22
- JVJV006266 State of Iowa vs. Nolan Ryan Rork -2019 fire in a school – Testified as a fact witness
- FECR011408 State of Iowa vs. Roger Macias-Haharik Residence Fire, Deposition – 2018
- 1/31/2018 Testified as a fact witness in State of Iowa vs. Ryan, Shane Brandon
(08901 FECR011055 (WAPELLO))
- FECR010187 State of Iowa vs. Bruce Arnot Residence Fire, Deposition - 2017
- FECR010331 State of Iowa vs. Zachariah Dickinson Residence Fire, Deposition - 2017
- FECR010930 State of Iowa vs. Alexander Wynn Residence Fire, Deposition – 2017
- State of Iowa vs. Christopher Jordan; Residence Fire, Deposition - August 28, 2014

Number of Fires Investigated: Approximately 457 as of 11/18/2024