

From past participants

“The demonstrations are the key to learning and made the class even more enjoyable. They’re extremely effective for seeing results.”

“It’s one of the best seminars I’ve attended — and I’ve been in the business since 1972!”

“The new lab setting is very conducive for learning.”

“The best part of the seminar? For me, all of it!”

“Jack and Jim were born to instruct as a team with just the right amount of information coupled with comedy.”

“Great explanations for what to look for during failures.”

“I especially liked the staff’s ability to demonstrate actual failures.”

“The instructors were very open to questions.”

“Very enlightening, both from basic education and from the discussion of ways people cause accidental and intentional damage.”



Investigation of Gas and Electric Appliance Fires

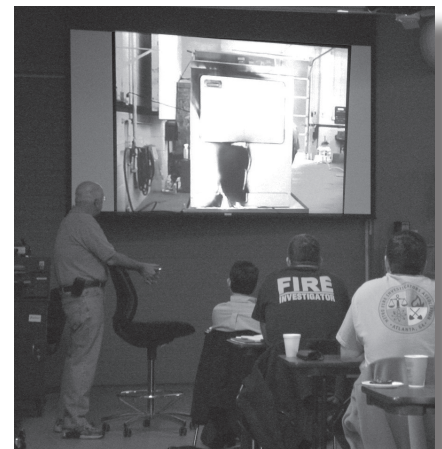
An intensive in-lab program for fire investigators.

Now in its 19th year with lots of new discussions!

November 2-5, 2010

Optional CFI testing (30 hours) and continuing education credits (2.5 CEUs) available.

- ✓ Learn how appliances and electrical components work, fail and cause fires.
- ✓ Spend four days with experts on-site at Fire Findings Laboratories.
- ✓ Examine actual appliances and appliance components that have failed, causing fires.
- ✓ Witness fire-causing demonstrations involving:
 - Gas furnaces
 - Gas water heaters
 - Gas and electric clothes dryers
 - **New!** Dishwashers
 - **New!** Ranges and microwave ovens
 - **New!** Refrigerators
 - **New!** Toasters, coffeemakers and other small appliances



Video projection of artifacts allows everyone in the class to see exactly what instructors are discussing.

(Note: We have refocused the appliance fires class to concentrate only on appliances, how they work and how they fail. For discussions about high resistance connections, floating neutrals, causes of electrical failures, etc., call us at (269) 925-2200 about the two-day session, “Residential Electricity for Fire Investigators.”)

Held on-site at Fire Findings Laboratories testing facility, 2026 Plaza Drive, Benton Harbor, Michigan, 49022.

Just 40 minutes from South Bend (Indiana) or Kalamazoo (Michigan) airports and 2 hours from Chicago airports.

St. Joseph/Benton Harbor is located along the southern shores of Lake Michigan — a gorgeous area to visit.

Tuition is **\$850** per person for the four-day session.

Sign up now for Nov. 2010!
Class size is limited.

Who should attend?

- ✓ In-the-field fire investigators.
- ✓ Fire and police department investigators.
- ✓ Insurance investigators and attorneys responsible for origin and cause determinations.

This course is practical, hands-on learning for fire investigators.

Why attend?

“Investigation of Gas and Electric Appliance Fires” is different from traditional fire schools because you see dozens of actual demonstrations of fire-causing failures in a laboratory setting.

Then, you apply your new-found knowledge by examining items from fires, photos and background histories to test your ability to reason out the cause of each fire.

Course background

“Investigation of Gas and Electric Appliance Fires” is a hands-on learning experience conducted in the Fire Findings laboratory. You’ll learn how appliances work, fail and cause fires, as well as how to examine them.

Jim Finneran and Jack Sanderson, your instructors and experts in fire origin and cause, created this investigation course 19 years ago to satisfy the need for hands-on technical experience that can’t be achieved in a traditional classroom setting. They developed the curriculum, wrote and illustrated the course notebook and designed and built more than 25 product-failure demonstrations.

During the 4-day course, you’ll test yourself by examining normal, failed and tampered-with components and appliances to gain practical experience for field examinations. You’ll analyze actual case studies from your instructors’ files and see how X-ray examinations provide an introduction to nondestructive testing.

Your \$850 tuition also includes a notebook loaded with more than 125 pages of original material, including failure discussions, component drawings and diagrams. Your notebook is written especially for this seminar by Fire Findings Laboratories experts.

Optional testing toward CFI certification is also available, along with continuing education credits.

About your instructors

Jack L. Sanderson, *Fire Findings*’ newsletter editor, is an independent fire investigator specializing in appliance failures. He’s also completed Honeywell, Whirlpool, Maycor and National Propane Association factory training. Sanderson, with more than 30 years of in-the-field experience, is a nationally recognized speaker, expert and author on appliance fires.

James M. Finneran, who specializes in electrical failures and fires, has been involved in several of the largest product recalls by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. He has testified in major product failure fire cases throughout the United States and also serves as a representative on the NFPA 921 Technical Committee on Fire Investigations.

Finneran and Sanderson have instructed thousands of independent and public investigators, attorneys and insurance representatives in the area of fire origin and cause investigation. In addition, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF), the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and numerous state chapters of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) have called on them to present training sessions.



Displayed artifacts recovered from actual fire scenes or preserved from testing illustrate instructors’ lessons.

Course outline

Gas Appliance Topics

- High- and low-order explosion demonstrations
 - Natural vs. LP gases
 - Potential gas piping failures
 - Gas regulator functions with demonstration of cut-a-way regulators
 - Excessive and inadequate pressure demonstration
 - Operation of gas valves
 - Safety shutoff demonstration
 - Ignition of gas leaking through shutoffs
 - Operation of water heaters
 - Demonstrations of water heater failure modes
 - How to examine failed water heaters
 - Investigation of possible water heater fires
 - Operation of standard and high-efficiency furnaces
 - How to examine components (high limits, fan switches, thermostats)
 - Circuit tracings
 - Demonstrations of furnace failure modes
 - How to examine failed furnaces
 - What to look for in suspected furnace fires
 - Water heaters and furnaces as incendiary devices
 - Operation of dryers
 - Examination of components (high limits, heating elements, timers)
 - Role of lint
 - Failure modes
 - Examination of failed dryers – what to look for
 - Investigation of suspected dryer fires
 - How to identify a dryer's manufacturer
- ... and more!

Electric Appliance Topics

- Operation of ranges
 - Did the range come on by itself? Or did someone leave it operating? How infinite controls work, their positions post-fire and what that tells you
 - Examination of other components and how they work (heating element and self-cleaning mechanism)
 - Operation of microwave ovens, their components and fire-causing potential
 - Operation of refrigerators and automatic ice makers
 - What does physics have to do with this?
 - Appreciation for the fuel in a refrigerator
 - How to examine components (compressor, condenser, evaporator coils and fans, thermostats and others)
 - Fire-causing failure modes
 - Operation of small appliances, including toasters and coffeemakers
 - Evolution of toaster designs
 - Component comparison of older vs. newer toasters
 - Toaster pastries
 - Examination of coffeemaker components and how they work
 - Evolution of coffeemaker designs
 - Operation of dishwashers
 - Examination of components and how they work (heating element, timer, limit switches and float switches)
 - The hazards of combining electricity and water
 - Power strips vs. surge protectors: What are the differences? What are the hazards?
 - Applying electrical appliance exam techniques to other products
 - Spoilation and nondestructive testing issues
- ... and more!



**Lots of
new material!**

*Hot coffee or tea, juice and continental breakfast at 8 a.m. daily.
Snacks and sodas throughout the day. Friday lunch included.*

*Classes start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. daily,
except the last day
when the seminar ends promptly at 2 p.m. with the presentation of certificates.*

Visit the Fire Findings Web site for photos and more seminar details.
<http://www.firefindings.com>

What you get

Your \$850 tuition to "Investigation of Gas and Electric Appliance Fires" includes:

- ✓ 4 full days of intensive, in-lab, hands-on instruction, case histories and live demonstrations.
- ✓ Comprehensive 125-page notebook with material found nowhere else, failure discussions, and component drawings and diagrams. (*Many say the notebook alone is worth the tuition.*)
- ✓ Deluxe continental breakfasts and snack breaks all days; snacks and sodas anytime.
- ✓ Lunch on the last day.
- ✓ Answers to your questions about appliance failures and investigating appliance fires.
- ✓ A framed certificate recognizing your participation.
- ✓ Optional CFI testing and CEUs available.

Fast, easy registration



Fax

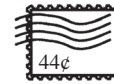
*your completed enrollment and credit card or government voucher number to 269-925-2204.***



Phone

*for information and openings, 269-925-2200.***

With just one session in 2010 and class size limited, it's not too early to enroll now.



Mail

this completed enrollment to: Fire Findings Laboratories P.O. Box 8637 Benton Harbor, MI 49023.

Who will attend?

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Street _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Ph _____ FAX _____ E-mail _____

Years of experience in fire investigation _____

Number of hours of origin/cause investigation classes _____

Brief description of your present career responsibilities _____

Just one session this year!

November 2-5, 2010

How do you prefer to pay your tuition?

Check enclosed Government voucher or purchase order enclosed

Please make payable to Fire Findings, L.L.C. (Fed ID # is 38-328-2454)

Bill my credit card (*check one*) MasterCard Visa Discover

Card # _____ Code _____ Exp. date _____
(3-digit security code on the back of your card)

Cardholder name (*please print*) _____

Cardholder signature _____

Hurry! November's session is limited to the first 48 registrants.

For more information and seminar openings, call (269) 925-2200 or fax (269) 925-2204. Check seminar availability before making any hotel, auto or flight reservations.

****Note:** If you dial our area code (269) and can't get connected to us, e-mail info@firefindings.com or fax (269) 925-2204.

Special lodging rates are available.

Call the *Holiday Inn Express - Benton Harbor* at (269) 927-4599 for a special rate of \$74 per night for double or king rooms. King leisure suites with pull-out sofa bed, microwave and refrigerator are \$94 per night. Add 8% tax. Free expanded continental breakfast and indoor pool and spa on site. This is a "first-come, first-serve" special rate, so make your reservations early. To get this rate, mention Fire Findings when making a reservation.

For a free visitor information packet and area maps, call the Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council at (269) 925-6301.