





*Our newest two-day seminar*

## **Investigating Solid Fuel-Burning Appliance Fires**

*An in-lab program exploring heating with solid fuels and the fires that can result.*

**Sign up now – Class size is limited to 45 participants.**

**October 6-7, 2010**

Optional testing toward CFI certification available (13 hours)  
along with continuing education credits (1.2 CEUs).

As the saying goes, heating with wood warms you twice: First when you cut it and then when you burn it. In a down economy, burning wood – and other solid fuels like corn, wheat and even saw grass – make less expensive alternative forms of heat for many homeowners, though burning solid fuels may be a lost “art.” People accustomed to the minimal maintenance of gas or electric heat have forgotten (or have never known) that solid fuel heating requires maintenance and correctly installed appliances. If not, fires are likely and investigators will be called upon to make sense of the remains. To assist investigators, enter *Fire Findings’* newest in-lab class.

### **Topics include:**

- ✓ Fireplace component names and functions.  
Site-built vs. manufactured fireplaces.
- ✓ Temperatures generated in operating solid fuel-burning appliances.
- ✓ Understanding the various types of chimneys for solid fuel-burning appliances, how they work and the importance of using the correct parts in the proper places. Also, the cleaning and inspection of chimneys.
- ✓ Obtaining information about manufactured fireplace installation requirements.
- ✓ Some little known facts about solid fuels.
- ✓ Fire causes involving:
  - Clearance to combustibles;
  - Installation issues – what the installer might have done to cause a fire, whether after a first use or many years later;
  - Insulation and chimney fires – a prevalent cause of fireplace and woodstove fires;
  - Flaming brands and flying embers.

### **In addition, you’ll:**

- ✓ Become more familiar with the various types of woodstoves.
- ✓ Observe fireplaces, wood-burning and pellet stoves in operation. Check the temperatures in hidden areas using our cutaway exemplar demonstrations.
- ✓ Learn more about the nature and possibilities of smoldering combustion and pyrolysis.
- ✓ Study masonry chimneys and the unique problems they present.
- ✓ Dissect interesting case studies that illustrate numerous fire-causing failures.
- ✓ Walk through the complex operation of today’s pellet stoves.
- ✓ Discover why pellet stoves are more likely to smoke up a home than burn it down. Plus, learn to understand why it happened.
- ✓ And, if all goes as planned, observe an insulation fire live in our laboratory classroom.

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“Investigating Solid Fuel-Burning Appliance Fires” will be 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 **\$595** per person for the two-day session.

## Course Background

The home building boom of the past few decades has brought about the installation of fireplaces in thousands and thousands of homes across North America. Now, homeowners pinching every penny are pressing those appliances into service as auxiliary heat in their homes. Others have turned to pellet or wood-burning stoves to either supplement more traditional central heat or replace it altogether. It's no surprise to experts in the field that a lot of fires involving the installation and/or use of these devices has resulted.

As a participant in "Investigating Solid Fuel-Burning Appliance Fires," you'll see and learn how these appliances are intended to be used and installed. We've installed chimneys in our laboratory that allow us to connect to a fireplace, pellet stove and wood-burning stove to operate them in our laboratory classroom. Check out our displays close up and see if you can find the numerous potentially fire-causing installation issues.

You'll also gain knowledge about how manufactured chimney systems, both active and passive, function.

Your \$595 tuition also includes a comprehensive notebook with failure discussions, worksheets, handouts and more. Optional CFI certification testing is also available, along with continuing education credits.

## About your instructors

**Jack Sanderson**, *Fire Findings'* newsletter editor, is a nationally known speaker on a wide variety of fire investigation topics. He investigated his first solid fuel-burning appliance fire nearly three decades ago and is a much-sought-after expert in cases involving potential litigation. He has written numerous articles on the topic and has been an instructor for our long-running, "Investigation of Gas and Electric Appliance Fires" course.

Sanderson has more than 30 years of in-the-field experience and brings his working knowledge as a former building inspector and burner-of-wood-for-heat to this session.

**John Machnicki**, head of Travelers Laboratories, is equally well known as an accomplished speaker with vast knowledge in numerous areas of fire investigation. He'll join us to share what his laboratory has learned about solid fuel-burning appliance fires.

## Settle in and make yourself at home

Both days start with a deluxe continental breakfast at 8 a.m. and include snacks and sodas anytime. Lunch provided the second day. The seminar starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. both days. Testing and presentation of certificates conclude the session.

### **Who should attend 'Solid Fuel-Burning Appliance Fires?'**

- ✓ In-the-field fire investigators.
- ✓ Fire and police department investigators.
- ✓ Those in the industry who need to expand their working knowledge.

### **Why attend?**

"Investigating Solid Fuel-Burning Appliance Fires" is designed to further your ability to interpret evidence of poor installation practices or hazardous use.

In addition, you'll return to the field with more information about determining if a fireplace or wood-burning or pellet stove can be ruled in or out as the cause of a fire.

You'll also see many practical demonstrations designed to enhance your knowledge about how solid fuel-burning appliances work and can cause fires.

### What you get

Your \$595 tuition to the *Fire Findings'* seminar, "Investigating Solid Fuel-Burning Appliance Fires," includes:

- ✓ 2 full days of intensive, in-lab, hands-on instruction.
- ✓ Live demonstrations.
- ✓ Hands-on experience finding the many defects in our lab-built models.
- ✓ Practice with case studies interpreting the implications of fire damage.
- ✓ Comprehensive notebook with failure discussions and more.
- ✓ Deluxe continental breakfasts both days; snacks and sodas anytime.
- ✓ Lunch the second day.
- ✓ Answers to your questions about solid fuel-burning appliances and potential failures.
- ✓ A framed certificate recognizing your participation.
- ✓ Optional CFI testing and CEUs available.

## Easy Registration for 'Investigating Solid Fuel-Burning Appliance Fires'



Fax

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



Phone

for information and openings, 269-925-2200.



Mail

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

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Only one session for Fall 2010. It's not too early to sign up!**

October 6-7, 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! The solid fuel-burning appliance fires class is limited to 45 registrants.**

For more information and seminar openings, call us at (269) 925-2200, e-mail [info@firefindings.com](mailto:info@firefindings.com) or fax (269) 925-2204. **\*\*Note:** Please check seminar availability before making hotel, auto or flight arrangements.

### 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.