



Joe Szabo

CFEI, CVFI, C.Tech

Fire and Explosion Investigator, Fuels Specialist

OFFICE

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Joe is a pro board-certified Fire and Explosion Investigator. He has 30 years experience with Brandon Fire and Emergency Services as a Firefighter/PCP, Fire Inspector, Fire Investigator and Fire Prevention Officer. Joe has conducted over 100 fire investigations and 2000 fire life safety inspections. In his role as a Fire prevention Officer, he was the direct liaison with Brandon Police Services Major Crimes Unit dealing with arson related crimes.

CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (NFPA 1033)
 - Certified Fire Inspector 1 (NFPA 1031)
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fire and Explosion Investigator

OCI Group (Formerly Origin and Cause Incorporated)

Brandon, Manitoba

September 2025 – Current

- Conduct fire and explosion origin and cause investigations

Fire Prevention Officer/Fire Inspector/Acting Lieutenant (1)/Firefighter/Paramedic

Brandon Fire and Emergency Services

Brandon, Manitoba

1994 – 2024

- Over 30 years of service in Brandon Fire and Emergency Services
- 22 years in operations, advancing to the position of Acting Lieutenant (1)
- Promoted to Fire Inspector in 2016
- Responsible for fire safety inspections, fire investigations, and addressing public complaints
- Conducted over 100 fire investigations and more than 2,000 fire life safety inspections across various occupancies
- After six years, promoted to Fire Prevention Officer, overseeing all aspects of the Fire Prevention Branch, including inspections, investigations, and public education
- As the lead Fire Investigator, responsible for reviewing all fire investigation reports and conducting refresher courses on fire investigations for shift members
- Also served as the direct liaison with the Brandon Police Services Major Crimes Unit concerning arson-related crimes
- Reviewed and rewrote the city's Fire Prevention Bylaws
- Worked closely with the Office of the Fire Commissioner Fire Investigators, ensuring compliance with fire safety standards and improving fire prevention efforts

- Retired from BFES on January 31, 2024
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FURTHER TRAINING & EDUCATION

Manitoba Emergency Services College

- ATF Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigations (2019)
- Fire Investigator Certification NFPA 1033 (2018)
- Introduction to High Hazard Occupancies
- Fire Officer Level II NFPA 1021 (2017)
- Fire Inspector Level I NFPA 1031 (2016)
- Incident Safety Officer NFPA 1521 (2015)
- Fire Officer Level I NFPA 1021 (2015)
- Fire Investigator Level 1 (2014)
- Fire Ground Management (2009)
- Emergency Services Instructor Level 1, NFPA 1041 (2008)
- Emergency Medical Technician Bridging to Primary Care Paramedic (2005)
- Surface Water Rescue Technician NFPA 1006 (2004)
- Incident Command 100 (2004)
- Incident Command 200 & 300 (2004)
- Rescue Practices (2004)
- Firefighting Level II, NFPA 1001 (1996)
- Hazardous Materials Operations NFPA 472 (1996)
- Hazardous Materials Awareness NFPA 472 (1996)
- Vehicle Extrication (1995)
- Certificate in Public Fire Protection (1993)
- Surface Water Rescue Seminar (1993)
- Elevated Rescue (1993)
- Fire Service Hydraulics (1993)
- Water Supply (1993)
- Fire Life Safety Educator Level 1 (1993)
- Hazardous Materials Awareness (1993)
- Firefighting Practices Level 1 (1993)
- Fire Prevention and Inspection Level 1 (1993)
- Emergency Vehicle Driving Skills (1993)
- Vehicle Extrication (1993)
- Pumper Operations (1993)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) (1993)

Dalhousie University Certificates

- Fire Prevention Management (2017)
 - Emergency Medical Service Management (2015)
 - Fire Service Leadership (2015)
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FURTHER TRAINING & EDUCATION

Manitoba Building Officials

- Mass Timber Construction
- Firestopping
- Restaurant Kitchen Suppression Systems NFPA 96
- Introduction to the 2020 Building Code
- WETT
- Water Supply for Rural Firefighting
- Commercial Fire Alarms and Sprinkler Systems
- Introduction to the 2020 Fire Code
- Liability for the Fire and Building Inspector
- Mezzanines

Presentations

- Fire Safety and Fire Alarms – Presented to multiple seniors housing complexes
- Refresher Fire Investigations – Delivered to Brandon Fire and Emergency Services personnel