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# Russ Friesen

CFEI, CFII, CVFI, IAAI-FIT, AB SCO B2, C2  
Fire and Explosion Investigator

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## OFFICE

Calgary

## EMAIL

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## CONTACT

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Russ is a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, as well as a former Fire Captain, Fire Prevention officer, and member of the Arson Strike Force. He has over 20 years of experience and has performed over 1,200 fire and explosion investigations, including large structural losses, vehicle fires, and wildland fires. Russ also investigates and reports on technical failures, specializing in fire sprinkler systems.

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## CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI)
- Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (CVFI)
- Certified Fire Investigation Instructor (CFII)
- Fire Investigator Technician (IAAI- FIT)
- Licensed British Columbia Private Investigator

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Fire and Explosion Investigator**

OCI Group (Formerly Origin and Cause Incorporated)

Calgary, Alberta

June 2024 – Present

### **Senior Fire Investigator**

Pario Engineering and Environmental

Calgary, Alberta

2023 – 2025

### **Deputy Fire Chief**

Vernon Fire Department

Calgary, Alberta

2021 – 2022

- Administration of Training and Prevention
- Administration of Fire Investigation Program

### **Fire and Explosion Investigator**

Origin and Cause Inc.

Calgary, Alberta

2018 – 2021

- Investigate fire scenes to determine origin and cause

### **Forensic Investigator**

CEP-Sintra

Calgary, Alberta

October 2012 – 2018

- Investigate fires involved in insurance claims and litigation; determine origin and cause for law firms, insurers and insurance adjusters
- Investigate technical failures, particularly fire sprinkler systems

### **Fire Captain/Forensic Investigator**

Foothills Fire Department Station #9

Calgary, Alberta

2012 – 2018

- Firefighting duties included initial attack on structural fires, vehicle fires, and wildland fires, vehicle extrication, medical assists and other roles
- Conducted approximately 100 fire investigations
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### **Instructor and Evaluator**

Manitoba Emergency Services College

Brandon, Manitoba

2004 – 2012

- Taught NFPA 1001, EMR, and Vehicle Extrication courses
- Member of the evaluation team from 2009 – 2012

### **Fire Inspector**

Brandon Fire Department

Brandon, Manitoba

2007 – 2008

- Fire Inspector and Public Fire Education in the prevention branch for the City of Brandon

### **Firefighter/Paramedic**

Thompson Fire and Emergency Services

Thompson, Manitoba

2001 – 2007

- Involved in the joint Arson Strike Force with the RCMP as a Fire Investigator
- Conducted approximately 30 fire investigations

## **Paid On-Call Firefighter**

Killarney Fire Department

Killarney, Manitoba

1995 – 2001

- Responded to all types of fire and rescue calls, eventually working up to lead role within the department
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## **FURTHER TRAINING & EDUCATION**

- IAAI Course “Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigations” (San Diego, CA September 2017)
- University of Calgary Seminar “Failure Analysis” (Calgary, Alberta – 2017)
- IAAI Course “Fuel Air Explosions” (Helena, MT April 2016)
- FIAA Seminar “Hot Wheels” (Rocky Mountain House, Alberta – 2015)
- Report Writing for Fire Investigators (NFPA 1033) (Winnipeg, Manitoba – 2014)
- FIAA Seminar “Calm under the Crossfire in Court” (Edmonton, Alberta – 2013)
- Calgary Fire Department “NFPA 1403 Field Ignition Trainer” (Calgary, Alberta – 2013)
- Justice Institute of British Columbia “Incident Safety Officer NFPA 1521” (Okotoks, Alberta -2013)
- Justice Institute of British Columbia “NFPA 1001 Instructor/Evaluator” (Okotoks, Alberta – 2013)
- Alberta Emergency Management Service “Fire Scene Incident Commander Level 300” (Calgary, Alberta – 2012)
- Dalhousie University “Certificate of Fire Service Leadership” (Completed 2012)
- “Fire Investigator responses to Grow Ops and Meth Labs” Office of the Fire Commissioner (Winnipeg – 2012)
- National Fire Protection Association 1033 (NFPA 1033) “Fire Investigation Level 3” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2011)
- Manitoba Emergency Services College “HAZMAT Lead Instructor” Workshop (Brandon, Manitoba – 2010)
- Manitoba Emergency Service College “Firefighting 1001 Lead Instructor” Workshop (Brandon, Manitoba – 2011)
- National Fire Protection Association 1041 (NFPA 1041) “Emergency Services Instructor Level 2” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2010)
- “Fire Service Hydraulics” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2008)
- “Fire and Life Safety Educator” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2008)

- National Fire Protection Association 1033 (NFPA 1033) “Fire Investigation Level 2” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2007)
- National Fire Protection Association 1031 (NFPA 1031) “Fire Investigation Level 2” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2007)
- National Fire Protection Association 1031 (NFPA 1031) “Fire Investigation Level 1” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2007)
- National Fire Protection Association 1041 (NFPA 1041) “Emergency Services Instructor 1” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2006)
- National Fire Protection Association 472 (NFPA 472) “HAZMAT Technician” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2006)
- National Fire Protection Association 472 (NFPA 472) “HAZMAT Operations” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2006)
- “Vehicle Extrication” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2005)
- National Fire Protection Association 1033 (NFPA 1033) “Fire Investigation Level 1” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2005)
- “Fire Ground Management” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2005)
- National Fire Protection Association 1001 (NFPA 1001) “Fire Fighting Level 2” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2004)
- “Emergency Medical Technician” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2004)
- National Fire Protection Association 1001 (NFPA 1001) “Fire Fighting Level 1” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2004)
- National Fire Protection Association 472 (NFPA 472) “HAZMAT Awareness” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2004)
- “Ground Search and Rescue” (Brandon, Manitoba – 2003)