



fireforensics
SOLVING THE PUZZLE OF FIRE

Fire Forensics Capability Statement

We are leading experts in fire and explosion investigation in Australia and abroad, and our personnel have offered clients thorough and impartial fire investigation services for over 40 years.

Our team of qualified and experienced specialists solve the puzzle of fire: how it started, how it progressed, the sequence of events and how future fires can be prevented, based on scientific methods and accurately gathering and investigating the evidence. Working thoroughly and professionally, we are committed to solving the puzzle of fire for our clients with the highest levels of personal, legal and corporate integrity.

Our findings cover the origin, cause, development, spread and circumstances of an incident, together with expert opinions on individual or corporate responsibility, legal liability, compliance with legislation and standards, and many other factors required by our clients.

Our professional and prompt system of investigation and reporting sets us apart in the industry, and we take pride in our exemplary standards of client services and scientific techniques.

OUR ISO CERTIFICATIONS

In February 2022 we were certified as complying with two international standards, ISO 9001 (Quality Management System) and ISO 27001 (Information Security Management). These certifications give our clients confidence in the quality of our work whilst protecting their data by adhering to these internationally recognised standards.

ISO 9001 QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Being certified with ISO 9001 means we have taken steps to improve our operations and optimise the way we move into the future by having an internationally recognised quality management system and is found in only highly efficient organisations that make a commitment to continual improvement. We are excited to be moving into the future in a more efficient, professional manner by serving our clients with a product that will contribute to increase in its quality.

ISO 27001 INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGEMENT

Achieving the ISO 27001 means we have now been signed off by an independent authority to a high standard of data protection to assure the integrity of your data when you do business with us. We now have a certified information security management system and processes in place so we can be more protective of your data.



WE ARE SKILLED IN THE EXAMINATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FIRE DAMAGE TO:

- Structures of all kinds, from garden sheds to large industrial and commercial complexes
- Road, rail and marine passenger and commercial transport, from motorcycles to container ships
- Static and mobile plants, including mining and civil engineering and farming equipment and machinery
- Renewable energy installations

Our philosophy is that no job is too big or small for us to handle, and our comprehensive reporting is easy to understand for the ease of our wide range of clients, including major insurers, national and international legal firms, and global companies in mining and other industrial sectors. Our services are globally renowned, and we have investigated incidents and given expert evidence in numerous locations throughout Australasia, South East Asia, Europe and Africa.

All of our investigations, both preliminary and in-depth, are conducted by internationally certified professionals. Where necessary, our team is supported by carefully selected external specialists in fire risk analysis and audits, chemical analysis, including ignitable liquid identification, electrical engineering, metallurgy and wildfire behaviour.

Our teams' expertise is also sought by universities to train the next generation of fire investigators.

Please contact us at office@fireforensics.com.au or go to www.fireforensics.com.au for more information on our services.



Personnel introductions

BELINDA JANE (BJ) JONES | MANAGING DIRECTOR / SENIOR INVESTIGATOR

BA, BSc, MSc, Grad Dip FI, IAAI-CFI

BJ is a triple Graduate in Law & Administration (Canberra), Applied Chemistry with Honours (UTS), and Psychological Science (UNSW). She has a Masters Degree in Forensic Science, with a thesis relating to fire investigation, and a Graduate Diploma of Fire Investigation from Charles Sturt University. She has also studied with Gardiner Associates in the UK, completing the Joint Services foundation and practical courses and the Advanced Fire and Explosion course presented by Dr John DeHaan. She has completed a Certificate III in electronics to assist in the identification of electrical fire causes in ITC equipment. She also has a Post-Graduate Certificate in Antarctic Studies, awarded for a study of forensic science requirements in a polar setting.

BJ worked as a civilian crime scene examiner with the NSW Police Force and is skilled in physical evidence recovery techniques. She then worked as a fire investigator for a major Australian insurance group prior to joining JW Munday & Associates in 2010. She has investigated over 500 fires and explosions in a wide variety of structures, vehicles, machinery and equipment and has given expert evidence in NSW and Tasmanian courts.

BJ is an active member of several professional organisations including the IAAI, where she is a member of the Ethical Practices and Grievances Committee and is the CFI program manager for the NSW Association of Fire Investigators.



JAMES (JIM) MUNDAY | FOUNDER / DIRECTOR / SENIOR INVESTIGATOR

MIFireE, FSSDip, IAAI-CFI, FCSFS

Jim is a forensic chemist, a Member of the Institution of Fire Engineers and holds the Forensic Science Society Diploma in Fire Investigation, accredited as a Post-Graduate Diploma by the University of Strathclyde. He is also a Certified Fire Investigator under the International Association of Arson Investigators scheme and in 2007 was elected a Fellow of the Forensic Science Society, now the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences, in recognition of significant contributions to the field of fire investigation. Jim also holds a UK trade qualification in electrical installations and systems.

Jim began his career in forensic science in 1972 and has specialised in the investigation of fires and explosions since 1979. Formerly a member of the Fire Investigation Unit at the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory ("Scotland Yard") with a background in criminalistics, he has examined more than 4000 fire and explosion scenes including over 350 fatalities, carried out laboratory examinations and analyses on items and materials originating from more than 1000 others, and given evidence as an expert witness on numerous occasions in a wide variety of legal settings.

Jim is one of only a few specialists in the interpretation of thermal damage and injury distribution to injured and deceased victims of fire, helping to explain the person's orientation and movements while the burning was taking place. He has devised and delivered fire investigation education and training in several countries and is widely sought after as a writer and speaker internationally. Jim is a former office holder of the NSW Association of Fire Investigators, where he remains an active member.



VITHYAA (VICKY) THAVAPALAN | SENIOR INVESTIGATOR

BSc, MSc, Grad Dip FI, IAAI-FIT

Vicky holds a Bachelor of Science and Technology degree from University of Sydney, a Master of Forensic Science from University of Technology Sydney and a Graduate Diploma in Fire Investigation from Charles Sturt University.

During her ongoing training she has also studied with the world-renowned Gardiner Associates Training and Research in the UK during 2016 by completing their Advanced Fire & Explosion Course and Practical Course. In 2019 she had attended the Advanced Principles of Fire Dynamics prepared by Dr. James Quintiere and Gulf Coast Fire US which was host by Fire Investigations UK.

In 2017 she had achieved her Fire Investigation Technician (FIT) accreditation and is working towards her CFI qualification with hopes to achieve it by the end of 2019 through the IAAI. In late 2018, Vicky had completed an intensive program in Electricity and Electronics with the University of South Australia, gaining a Distinction in her final examination. She is studying to further her skills in the feild of electrical engineering, and is also developing her bushfire expertise.

In 2019 she attended her first international job for a heavy machinery fire. Recently she has also become actively involved in the NSW Association of Fire Investigators as a committee member.



KEITH MURRAY

Senior Investigator | GiFireE, (IAAI-FIT CFI) (NAFI-CEFI) APAEWE

Keith's professional career includes 30 years within the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Staffordshire Fire Service. He has been involved in many different emergency service positions including Fire Fighter, Crew and Watch Manager and Station Commander, Fire Investigation Officer, National Project Manager, Operational Intelligence Officer, Operational Assurance Officer, Assistant Area Commander, Lead Training Instructor and certified Fire Safety Inspecting Officer. Keith has investigated the cause and origin at incidents of fire and explosions within the Fire and Rescue Service for 14 years.

Keith joined the private sector in 2018 and has conducted investigations in USA, Poland, France and the UK. Keith has also conducted international training webinars both in the UK and in Africa.

Keith has been responsible for writing National Policy and Procedures for operational intelligence and operational assurance. His previous role as Resilience Manager was to ensure that the Regional Delivery Plan on Pandemic Flu, Flooding, Terrorism, natural disasters etc, and successfully implemented on behalf of the Regional Resilience Partnership and Scottish Government Departments. Within this role Keith has National Security Clearance (SC), due to the sensitive and secretive details and information which he was exposed to a daily basis.

Keith has been recognised for his achievements throughout his career, he is in receipt of awards that include; Government Commendation for the Lockerbie Air Disaster, Chief Officer Health and Safety Award, Prime Minister Commendation for Services to the Fire and Rescue Service.



ELLIE JOHNSTON | INVESTIGATOR

BSC, MSC, GRAD CERT FI, IAAI-FIT

Ellie graduated from Victoria University with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science, she went on to complete a Master of Science in Forensic Science at the University of Technology Sydney, then followed on with Charles Sturt University for her Graduate Certificate in Fire Investigation. She also holds a Forensic Medicine and Crime Scene Investigation Certificate from Victoria University, and she became a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator with the National Association of Fire Investigators.

Ellie joined us as an intern in 2017 during her Master's course and showed a natural aptitude and enthusiasm for fire and explosion investigation. On finishing her MSc, in July 2018 she took up a full time position with us and completed our in-house training program, augmented by studies in the UK at the world-renowned Gardiner Associates Training and Research facilities. There she reached the level required for UK Skills for Justice Level 5 Certification. In April 2019 she attended the International Association of Arson Investigators annual International Training Conference in Jacksonville, USA to increase their knowledge and skills with some of the world's best investigators and instructors.

In the relatively short time Ellie has been with us, she has already been involved in investigating over 100 fire and explosion incidents in structures, vehicles and mining machinery.



JOHN LORDING | INVESTIGATOR

GradCertFI, AdvDip FI

John's law enforcement career began with the Australian Customs Service and later moved into the Victoria Police Force, where he had a varied career as a uniform officer and a detective. His duties included arson and explosives investigation and his training involved a placement with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Fire Investigation and Analysis Unit. Later he worked in the insurance industry, investigating and managing large fire claims, before setting up his own consultancy in 2010.

John holds a Graduate Certificate in Fire Investigation from Charles Sturt University and an Advanced Diploma in Public Safety (Fire Investigation) from the Canberra Institute of Technology. The latter is an approved qualification by AFAC for Police and Fire Service investigators. Since 2014 John worked as an Associate with JW Munday & Associates on a contract basis and continues to do so for Fire Forensics Pty Ltd. He has particular expertise in vehicle and machinery fires.

