



International Association of Marine Investigators



Certified Marine Fire Investigator Certification

For Immediate Release



Since the beginning of the International Association of Marine Investigators in 1986, IAMI has worked to be the leading organization representing marine investigations of theft, fraud, and related investigative activities in both the public and private sectors.

After decades of partnership across the continents a marine investigator training and testing program was created in 2004. This program recognized those members that excelled internationally with expertise, experience, training, and proficiency in marine crimes, accident reconstruction, fire investigation, and insurance adjusting. Through this process, those first applicants became Certified Marine Investigators (IAMI-CMI). Since those early days many applicants have challenged the training regimen and exam but only a select few succeed annually.

Throughout the years IAMI held Regional Training and Annual Training Seminars with increasing emphasis and classes related to maritime fire investigation. This started in 1997 when IAMI partnered with State Farm Insurance to provide training on "Watercraft Fire Investigation", and fire investigation has received more attention every year since. In 2018 IAMI hosted live burn investigation scenarios at the Annual Training Seminar, and it set in motion a new era for international standards in marine fire investigation.

Recognizing the need for a new specialized maritime fire investigation training program, work on the first draft of a training syllabus was started in 2019. This new training program was founded in the requirements of NFPA 921 and 1033 as well as ABYC, NMMA, and EU guidelines and directives. This would help to incorporate vessels not included in investigation guides currently in use. Shortly thereafter the "Certified Marine Fire Investigator" (IAMI-CMFI) program was introduced.

After two years of work by the board and committee members, on October 15, 2022, the initial candidates of the "Certified Marine Fire Investigator" program were tested by their peers and the first CMFI's successfully passed the examination. The exam consisted of a bank of over 300 questions that were reviewed independently by experts in the field of study for each domain, then reviewed by the exam proctors for consistency and clarity. After the questions had passed review, they were entered into a computerized testing system where applicants had a three-hour evaluation period to answer 150 randomly selected questions. The exam had a 75% pass rate for the initial round of testing.

IAMI has members across the country and the world that must follow many different regulations and standards. Therefore, it was reasonable to expect that candidates for this new program would already have significant experience in fire and arson investigations and be certified or recognized in their own jurisdiction as a fire investigator. Combining a candidate's existing fire investigation credentials with the preexisting Certified Marine Investigator (IAMI-CMI) certification provides for the foundation of this new program.

This certification is the first of its kind in the world, and it is IAMI's way of promoting the best of the best in marine investigations required by current trends in law enforcement and marine underwriting needs. CMFI investigator applicants will receive training above and beyond what these international guides require at IAMI Annual Training Seminars and Regional Trainings. For example, classes will be in greater depth on the construction methods of recreational, yacht, and commercial vessels. They will also learn about the complex nature of marine fire investigation on water, hard deck, marinas, and any other environment in which a vessel may suffer a loss by fire. This will give them the ability to incorporate the intricacies of marine

insurance adjusting, admiralty law, marine surveying, vessel, and marina operations into their future cases, as they relate to origin and cause of fire and explosion investigations.

As vessels commonly cross international borders, so does the need for a recognized, validated certification. IAMI is the first to meet the needs of insurance companies, law enforcement, and other marine professionals to assure there are well-trained and knowledgeable marine fire investigators that can follow these vessels across the seas to wherever the investigation may be.

Again, this is not a beginner fire investigation program and is not meant to replace any internationally recognized fire investigation certification. The CMFI candidate must be an active fire investigator recognized by their country and jurisdiction with significant fire investigation experience. They must have been certified by an accredited fire investigator course that meets the NFPA 1033 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator or international equivalent and they will have assisted in fire investigations on marine vessels, marinas, and other marine operations. Our training program will ensure an IAMI-CMI meeting these prerequisites will be able to successfully challenge the exam upon completion of the required IAMI-CMFI core courses.

The CMFI Study Guide and curriculum have been written by some of the best fire investigators, marine surveyors, marine insurance professionals, and other marine professionals who work daily in the marine investigation industry. The instructors have conducted some of the larger, more complex fire investigations throughout the US, Caribbean Islands, South America, Europe, and other countries. This educational and testing process will not be easy, but for those who choose to dedicate the time and effort it will be attainable, and they will be recognized as the best of the best in marine fire investigations.