

# HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

## I. MISSION

To promote health and safety knowledge, awareness, discussion, and action among members of the IAAI, its Chapters, and the fire investigation community in general.

## II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- A. To promote health and safety awareness and actions to the fire investigation community.
- B. To provide a repository for information and studies relating to the health and safety of fire investigators.
- C. To collaborate with the Education and Training Committee (T&E) to produce training materials and courses that promote and discuss fire investigator health and safety.
- D. To collaborate with the Advocacy Committee to produce legislative actions relevant to fire investigator health and safety.
- E. In conjunction with the IAAI office, its media partners, and other partners / sponsors, produce educational materials and media that promote and discuss fire investigator health and safety.

## III. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

### A. THE COMMITTEE

1. The Chairperson of the Health and Safety Committee (“Committee”) shall be appointed by the IAAI President.
2. The Committee shall communicate during the year, and shall hold an annual in-person meeting at the International Training Conference for members who are present and available.
3. The composition of the Committee shall be at the discretion of the Chair and the IAAI President, but efforts shall be made to include committee members who represent the various segments of the fire investigation community that perform work on fire scenes; namely: fire service, law enforcement, private / insurance, medical and scientific. The Committee and any sub-committees formed will not have a defined number of members; rather will be staffed by an appropriate number to efficiently accomplish the task based on current needs.

4. The Committee shall include liaisons who are members of the T&E and Advocacy Committees or who are on T&E and Advocacy task groups.
5. The Committee shall produce a report to be submitted to the Executives and Board at both the mid-year and annual Board meetings.

## B. SUBJECT MATTER

The topic of fire investigator health and safety is wide-ranging; thus, the topics and subjects that are within the ambit of the Committee shall include, but are not limited to, the following potential hazards and risks encountered by the fire investigator:

- Respiratory and absorption hazards, both immediate and long-term;
- Falls, collapses, holes, sharp objects, etc. encountered on scenes;
- Fire and water;
- Hazards posed by working at heights and in confined spaces;
- Electrical hazards;
- Exposure to chemicals, biologicals, and other dangerous materials; (CBRNE)
- Exposure to environment: sun, cold, and other environmental elements;
- Threat of attacks by humans and animals;
- Risk of cancer and other chronic diseases; and
- Threats to investigator mental health and emotional well-being.

## C. COMMITTEE TASKS

The Committee will:

1. Identify current safety information, information gaps and current practices.
2. Identify the nature and/or scope of hazards and risks posed to the fire investigator during the course of fire investigation such as the items in “B” above.
3. Identify areas where research is needed to increase industry knowledge of the nature and/or scope of any of the hazards or risks identified above.
4. Discuss and develop ideas and methods to promote investigator health and safety.
5. Develop publicity materials and messages, to the extent finances permit, such as paper materials, social media messages, magazine articles, and web pages, to promote messages of health and safety.
6. Work with the CFITrainer.net Steering Committee to explore the use of CFI Trainer resources to produce modules, and/or podcasts that promote fire investigator health and safety.

7. Discuss and develop a repository, white papers, and/or other methods to assemble and disseminate studies and knowledge about best practices, health and safety threats, and recommended actions to the investigation community.
8. Examine and explore ideas and methods to partner with industry, government, other entities to sponsor and publicize fire investigator safety messages, research, and knowledge. Partners could include other fire service and law enforcement associations; medical and cancer associations; private investigation and insurance groups; physicians and hospitals; universities and colleges; scientific researchers; and manufacturers and vendors of health- and safety-related products and services.
9. In conjunction with T&E, develop (1) International Training Conference (ITC) presentations on health and safety; and (2) a training course to address fire investigator health and safety, including an exploration of whether such a course could be paired with meetings or round table discussions in the investigative community to assemble health and safety information. (3) residential course materials which promote fire investigator health and safety.
10. In conjunction with the Advocacy committee, develop potential legislative actions which (1) promote future fire investigator health and safety, (2) include fire investigators in access to medical treatments and medical assistance for injuries and illnesses borne from fire investigations.

APPROVED BY BOARD: August 13, 2016