



HOWARD D. ESKRIDGE, M.P.A.

***MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Fire Origin and Cause Investigator***

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Ruhl Forensic, Inc., since 1996.

Fire origin and cause, fire behavior analyst. Retained consultant.

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

University of Illinois, Illinois Fire Service Institute, 1970-1981, 1986 to 2000 (retired)

Program director for industrial fire training. Lead instructor for flammable liquid and gas fire control and pressure-fed fires. Assigned to state crisis intervention response team for flammable liquid and gas incidents. Instructor and course coordinator for hazardous materials, industrial fire training, certified fire fighter academy, fire apparatus engineer, management, arson. Designed and developed mobile and fixed training props for flammable gas training and fixed props for flammable liquid training. Developed, delivered and evaluated fire service training programs for on and off campus delivery. Consulted with private and municipal organizations for improved fire protection.

Arcola Volunteer Fire Department, Arcola, IL, 1987-1990

Firefighter
Engineer

U.S. Industrial Chemicals Company, Tuscola, IL, 1981-1986

Directed operations of industrial fire department and emergency medical service. Responded on 24-hour basis to fire, medical, and product release emergencies. Conducted weekly training for fire department personnel and annual corporate fire school. Conducted training for supervisory and operating personnel for 49CFR compliance. Supervised hazardous waste storage facility and shipments under RCRA regulations. Issued permits for hot work, confined space entry and excavation operations. Supervised high hazard maintenance activities in operating on-line units.

University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL, 1981-1986

Fire Service Institute
Field Staff Instructor

Herrin Fire Department, Herrin, IL, 1970-1978

Firefighter
Engineer

Hammond Fire Protection District, Hammond, IL 1962-1970

Firefighter

Engineer
Training Officer
Chief

EDUCATION

M.P.A., 1993: Governors State University, University Park, IL

B.S., 1967 Millikin University, Decatur, IL
Major Field: Business Administration

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

State Certification - Office of the State Fire Marshal:
Master Instructor
Advanced Firefighter III
Fire Apparatus Engineer
Fire Apparatus Engineer Instructor
Hazardous Materials I & II

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

International Fire Service Training Association
Special Task Force, IL Office of the State Fire Marshal, Div. Of Personnel
Hazardous Materials Committee, IL Office of the State Fire Marshal
Governor's Arson Advisory Task Force
Hazardous Materials Advisory Board, State of Illinois
American Society of Safety Engineers
National Safety Council (Firm Membership)

SPECIAL TRAINING

2007 Use of robotic, pulsed laser total station and data recorder for forensic mapping, TOPCON, Champaign, IL
2001 OSHA 10-Hour Construction Safety and Health course, Champaign, IL
1994 Propane Fire Safety School - Ranger Insurance Company, Various IL sites (Also 1973, 1972, 1971)
1988 Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations/CAMEO - National Fire Academy, Indianapolis, IN
1986 Tank Car Safety Program - Association of American Railroads, Pueblo, CO
1985 Leaking Underground Storage Tanks - IL State Fire Marshal, Springfield, IL
1983 Electrical Classifications for Hazardous Atmospheres - Crouse-Hinds, Tuscola, IL
1981 Safety Supervisor Training - USI Chemicals, Tuscola, IL
1978 Fire/Arson Investigation - National Fire Academy, Champaign, IL
1978 Fire Arson Detection - National Fire Academy, Grand Rapids, MI
1975 Air-Pak Repair and Maintenance - Scott/ATO, Champaign, IL
1973 Automotive Arson - NADA, Edwardsville, IL

PUBLICATIONS

Co-author of Unit Training Packages for Certified Firefighter II Course, first, second and third editions, Illinois Fire Service Institute, University of Illinois

Procedures for Flammable Liquid and Gas Fire Control

Propane Fire Control

Guidelines for Invasive Search of LP Gas Containers

Summary of Events: Derailment and Fire on B&O Railroad East of Murdock, Illinois on September 2, 1983

Logistical Requirements for Murdock Incident of September 2, 1983

The Planning and Methodology of Preventing or Mitigating Losses Involving the Unplanned Release of Liquefied Petroleum Gases in Fixed and Transportation Facilities

PRESENTATIONS

December 1997 IL Coroners' Association, Chicago, IL. "Analyzing Injuries in Propane Fatalities."

June 1984 IL Fire College. "The Murdock Incident and Multiple BLEVEs."

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Numerous Propane Live Fire Control Classes, IL and WI.

Assisted in Ranger Fire School instruction.

"Essentials of Firefighting." Multiple sites throughout IL.

"Pump Operators." Multiple sites throughout IL.

"Defensive v. Offensive Tactics." Multiple sites throughout IL.

"Railroad Tank Cars - What a Firefighter Should Know." Multiple sites throughout IL.

"Fire Behavior Characteristics for Investigators and Prosecutors." Multiple sites throughout IL.

OTHER RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consultant to the History Channel for *Shockwave* program; featured in two segments.

Technical witness for legal services

Loss prevention, risk analysis for industrial and transportation facilities

Post-incident analysis and investigation for legal, industrial, and transportation organizations

Active in municipal fire service organizations for twenty-eight years

OTHER TRAINING

CDL with PTX endorsements

Amateur Radio Operator, Extra Class License. 20+ wpm Morse code capable