



The Fire Investigators Association of Ireland (FIAI) is dedicated to working with all professional bodies and stakeholders within the fire industry and relevant public and statutory services to determine accurately the origin, cause and development of fires and/or explosions.

Accurate determination facilitates the evaluation, effect, and impact of fire and/or explosions. This will provide better fire protection and educational messages to all interested parties.

The FIAI aims to improve the professional standing of fire investigation and lobby Governments to strengthen the role of fire investigation in legislation and provide appropriate funding.

The FIAI is seeking to expand its membership and would welcome application from all involved in the discipline.

**Peter Craig**  
**MI Fire E, MICG, MSc Fire Engineering**  
**President**  
**Fire Investigators Association of Ireland**



*Providing the Skills  
for Fire Investigation*

## BACKGROUND

The Fire Investigators Association of Ireland (FIAI) began in March 2005 with the fire investigation seminar held in Dublin Fire Brigade Training Centre. In April, FIAI prepared the required chapter application to the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) to become a chapter within the association. In May 2005, the FIAI received its charter at the Annual Training Conference, Washington DC and it became the 68 chapter of the IAAI.

The FIAI is registered as IAAI Ireland – Éire with the IAAI. As with other IAAI chapters, we have chosen to use our FIAI name in our dealings in Ireland. FIAI is a unique chapter within the IAAI family because of our 'cross border' policy and the support of the UK chapter has been significant in recognising the importance of allowing the FIAI to grow throughout Ireland. No other chapter has embraced a similar concept.

The importance of achieving an all-Ireland approach means the membership potential is drawn from the primary agencies (Fire, Forensics, Police) in both jurisdictions and the networking potential amongst public service practitioners is greatly enhanced. FIAI has at present 40 members, representing Police, Forensics, Science, Education and the majority of the Fire Services on the island of Ireland.

For further information contact us on our web site :

[www.fireinvestigation.ie](http://www.fireinvestigation.ie)

## Fire Investigators Association of Ireland



Annual General Meeting  
&  
Training Conference  
2010 Report

[www.fireinvestigation.ie](http://www.fireinvestigation.ie)

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### Annual General Meeting

Peter Craig the President welcomed Colin Lammey Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive of Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) who opened the event. Mr Lammey welcomed the cross border co-operation and commended the conference on the high quality of speakers, the range topics and diversity of the delegates from a range of disciplines involved in Fire Investigation.

The President conducted the AGM and noted the attendance of members and the fact that in total over 100 people would be involved in attending the conference, which was delivered in association with the Institute of Fire Engineers. He trusted that all would enjoy the day and find it interesting and relevant.

#### **Presentation 1: Róisín Cullinan Fire Researcher BRE**

The presentation discussed the Communities & Local Government and Building Research Establishment research on fire spread in car parks.

In a series of PowerPoint slides, supported by research, data and conclusions, Róisín explained the detail of the research, published report, its results and recommendations. She highlighted pertinent issues and findings, going on to discuss the impacts that these may have on operational crews responding to such incidents, the implication that this type of event could have on building design in relation to building construction and means of escape for occupants in these incidents.

#### **Presentation 2: Michael McAteer Assistant Group Commander NIFRS**

Michael gave delegates an overview of NIFRS and the history of fire investigation in the Service. He indicating the valuable role that fire investigation can bring in relation to supporting community safety work, as a tool to improve building design and finally how it will be used to support NIFRS when new Fire Safety Legislation is enacted.

Michael also discussed the impact of the pending legislative change, how it would be delivered in Northern Ireland and what impact this would have on Fire Investigation and how the two disciplines would be linked.

#### **Presentation 3: Photographic Expert & Investigator Police Service of Northern Ireland**

The PSNI delivered a fascinating presentation on the use of modern photographic technology and how this can be used to record, detail and explain fire scenes either in the operational context, as part an ongoing investigation to determine cause, origin and development, or during any subsequent enquiries or trials.

Delegates were then given the opportunity to get up close and personal with the equipment when they were invited to watch the technology in use and see the opportunities and limitations of the equipment during a practical demonstration.

**Important Note:** The 100 plus attendees throughout the event were exposed to a comprehensive range of expertise in the subject matter and the speakers' vast array of knowledge on the subjects. Many commented on the enthusiasm with which the presentations were delivered and the quality of all of the speakers, furthermore welcoming the IFE accreditation being offered.

#### **Presentation 4: Deon Webber Station Commander Greater Manchester County Fire & Rescue Service (GMC).**

This presentation dealt with the training DVD available to fire investigation professionals developed by Deon and his colleagues in GMC.

The training package provides a sound basis for those new to the discipline while reinforcing and emphasising key areas which will serve as a reminder to those in the field for longer. The presentation was thought provoking and allowed attendees from outside the fire service to get an understanding of the methodologies used and how they could introduce such techniques into their particular discipline or sector.

Copies are available for purchase through FIAI Members Committee Chair (see website for details).

#### **Presentation 5: Jack Deans Gardiner & Associates**

The final presenter of the event challenged the delegates in relation to what evidence can or cannot be recovered from a fire scene. Jack placed on record the incidents and experiments that he had conducted that conclusively established that finger prints and DNA can be recovered from fire scenes even when the fire has been ferocious.

The presentation again utilised a vast array of photographic evidence and PowerPoint demonstrated the detail that can be recovered and highlighted the different methodologies and chemicals used to achieved a positive outcome and secure vital evidence.



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