

## ***William T. Cosgrove, CFI***

### ***Curriculum Vitae***

#### **Professional Experience**

Certified Fire Investigator with over 32 years of experience in fire fighting and fire investigation. Served as a member of the Chicago Fire Department with special expertise in fire investigation. Additional education in insurance and zoning law, building and Structural codes, social systems, explosions, and criminal justice.

**1995 to Present**      **Richard M. Hansen & Associates, Inc., Lombard, Illinois**  
**Certified Fire Investigator**

Responsible for investigation of the origin, cause and circumstances of fire and explosion incidents. Assist in criminal and civil investigations. Testify as required in courts of appropriate jurisdiction.

**Bill Cosgrove Fire Investigation, Inc., Chicago, Illinois**  
**Licensed Class "A" Private Detective**

Responsible for investigation of the origin, cause and circumstances of fire and explosion incidents within the State of Illinois. Assist in criminal and civil investigations. Testify as required in courts of appropriate jurisdiction.

**1987 - 1996**      **Chicago Fire Department, Chicago, Illinois**  
**Senior Fire Marshal - Office of Fire Investigation**

Responsible for investigation and determination of the cause of fire incidents throughout Chicago. Assigned to the Major Case Unit where all complex and sensitive investigations are conducted. Qualified as an expert witness in the state and federal courts on the cause and origin of fire incidents.

**1981 - 1987**      **Firefighter - Snorkel 5 & Truck Company #40 , Chicago, IL**

Served as a Firefighter in high fire incident area. Responded to an average of 8 calls per day and 3 working fires per 24-hour shift on Snorkel #5.

**1969 - 1981**      **Firefighter - Truck Company #15, Chicago, IL**

Responsible for ventilation and rescue work as well as extraction of accident victims. Averaged 18 calls per 24-hour shift.

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#### **Certifications and Licenses**

Licensed Class "A" Private Detective Certified Fire Investigator  
Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal

Fire Cause and Origin

Hazardous Material School

Basic EMS Training Program

In-Service Firefighter Training

Candidate Firefighter Training

Chicago Fire Academy

#### **Valor Awards**

City of Chicago Fire Department for fire rescues in 1970, 1974, 1978, 1983,  
and 1988

#### **Educational Background**

Illinois Institute of Technology Illinois Institute of Technology  
Advanced Origin and Cause Seminar

National Association of Fire Investigators  
Cause and Origin Seminar

International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.  
Fire/Arson Seminar

Department of the Treasury, A.T.F.  
Bombing Investigation Course

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#### **Educational Background** (cont.)

Chicago Police Bomb & Arson  
Fire/Explosion Phenomena Program

National Association of Fire Investigators  
Certified Fire/Explosion Seminar

Fire Investigators Strike Force  
Course work in interviewing, social systems and Political Science

State of Illinois, Department of Registration and Education  
Course work in criminal law and procedure, criminal Investigation,  
Illinois Government, Federal Government

University of Illinois  
Completed State of Illinois Fire Investigation  
Modules I, II and III

#### **Author of Published Books**

**“Accident or Arson”** published November 2001

Highly trained in the most up-to-date investigative technologies, the fire marshals of the Office of Fire Investigation analyze every incident in the city to determine whether the cause of a conflagration is accidental or an intentional act of arson.

**“The Noble Breed”** published October 1999

An insightful history of the Chicago Fire Department, and an accurate account of the training that each firefighter endures and the stamina which it requires.

**“Robert DeNiro and the Fireman”** published 1997

Hired as technical advisor to Robert DeNiro for the movie “Backdraft”, this book portrays how the experience as a Chicago Fireman and fire investigations provided invaluable insight, realism and detail to the Actor, director and the film itself.

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**Professional Affiliations**

National Fire Protection Association

Illinois Advisory Committee on Arson Prevention

National Association of Fire Investigators

International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.

Illinois Chapter Association of Fire Investigators

Chicago, Firefighters Union Local #2

Gaelic Fire Brigade

Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1975

Project Coordinator for the Chicago Stockyards Memorial Fund

Technical Advisor on fire/arson investigations to Robert DeNiro for the movie  
“Backdraft” which was filmed Chicago