

## Curriculum Vitae

**Ronald R. Ablott**

### OCCUPATION:

Fire Investigator

### EDUCATION:

High School Diploma, College Preparatory, Baldwin Park High School (1960)  
Associate of Arts Degree, Police Science, Mt. San Antonio Jr. College (1967)  
Bachelor of Science Degree, Public Management, University of Pepperdine (1976)  
F.B.I. Hazardous Devices School, Redstone Army Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama (1983)  
National Fire Academy Fire/Arson Investigation, Emmitsburg, Maryland (1985)  
Certificate Fire Protection Engineering, U.C.L.A., Graduate School of Engineering (1985)  
Behavior Analysis Institute Interview and Interrogations, Santa Rosa, California (1990)  
BATF Advanced Arson for Profit, FLETC, Glynco, Georgia (1991)  
BATF Advanced Explosive Investigator, FLETC, Glynco, Georgia (1993)  
California State ICI Teachers Training for post certified ICI Training classes and post tele-courses (1995)  
California State Fire Marshal, Fire Investigation I-A (1995)  
California State Fire Marshal, Fire Investigation I-B (1996)  
California Criminalist Institute Analysis and Behavior of Fire Patterns (1996)  
California State Fire Marshal, Fire Investigation 2A and 2B (1997)  
California State Fire Marshal, Certified Fire Investigator Level I and II (1998)  
National Association of Fire Investigators, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (1999)  
California Conference of Arson Investigators – Certified Fire Investigator, Certificate Number 586 (2005)  
International Association of Arson Investigators – Certified Fire Investigator, Certificate Number 22-050723 (2010)

### EXPERIENCE:

34 years as deputy Sheriff, various custody patrol detective assignments.

1964 Sheriff Academy

1964 – 1966 Military leave

1966 – 1968 East Los Angeles patrol station

**Duties:** General law enforcement patrol car and desk operations.

- 1968 – 1970 Special Enforcement Bureau  
**Duties:** Specialized unit assigned saturation patrol, VIP security, swat duties, and Emergency Rescue Teams.
- 1970 – 1972 Assigned to the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department Vice/License Detail.  
**Duties:** To enforce vice laws dealing with prostitution and gambling. Investigating organized crime in businesses used as cover operations for laundering money gained from gambling and prostitution.
- 1972 – 1982 Assigned as a Detective to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau.  
**Duties:** To investigate all deaths reported to the Sheriff's Department including accidental deaths (except traffic), suicides, officer involved shootings, kidnap for ransom and extortion.  
I have investigated over 1,500 cases, which included 255 homicides, approximately 150 Officer involved shootings.
- 1982 – 1998 Assigned as Detective in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Arson/Explosive Detail. Retired 3/22/98.  
**Duties:** To investigate all fires and explosive related cases reported to the Sheriff's Department. Also, to conduct render-safe procedures on suspected explosive devices reported in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, and in 86 of the 88 incorporated cities within Los Angeles County.

Duties of my fire investigation required I establish the origin and cause of each fire, interview witnesses, conduct a thorough investigation, arrest the suspect, prepare the case for court. I had to qualify and testify as an expert in court on the origin and cause of fires.

My duties in the explosive field consisted of render-safe procedures, post blast investigation, and clandestine "bomb factories". The post blast investigation aspect required that I conduct a complete blast scene investigation including the collection and preservation of evidence.

I was also required to conduct a thorough follow-up investigation, interview witnesses, prepare the case for court, including any exhibits requiring the reconstruction of the device, qualify and testify as an expert on destructive devices.

I have investigated approximately 5,000 fires. I have qualified and testified in the Courts of California as an expert on determining the origin and cause of fires over 200 times, and two times in the U.S. District court.

I have investigated over 1,000 cases involving explosives, destructive devices and bombings. I have qualified and testified as an expert in explosives, destructive devices,

and bombings over 100 times in the California courts, and three times in the U.S. District Court.

I was assigned as an acting sergeant from 1990 to 1993, I was responsible for over seeing the units training. My duties included the supervision of the training of newly assigned investigators, researching case law, developing new render-safe procedures, conduct research on new explosives. Prepare written examines, practical problems and supervise these examinations in their departmental bi-annual bomb technician recertification.

I was assigned as a field training officer and I was also responsible in over seeing the training of newly assigned investigators to the unit and documenting their training and progress.

1998 – 2002 Travelers Property Casualty Company.

Assigned as Fire Investigator to the Special Investigation Unit to investigate all fires and explosive related claims submitted to Travelers Property Casualty.

Duties include the establishment of the origin and cause of each fire, interview witnesses, conduct a thorough investigation, coordinate with local authorities and to supervise fire investigations assigned to private investigators or companies as vendors for losses in the Western Region.

I was assigned 502 fires while working for Travelers Property Casualty Company. I have investigated, established the origin and cause and interviewed witnesses on 188 large loss fires with a minimum loss of 50,000.00.

I have supervised and approved the investigation of an additional 314 large loss fires investigated by vendors at my direction. This duty involved the reviewing of their reports, photographs, attachments and their billing to the Claims Representative on each of these files.

2002-Present Pacific Rim Investigative Services Group, Inc.

Fire Investigator

As fire investigator for Pacific Rim ISG, I have investigated and determined the origin and cause of 350 fires to date. My responsibilities include origin and cause fire investigations and explosions, interviewing witnesses, the collection and securing evidence, qualifying and testifying as an expert witness, the coordination of forensic engineering services if applicable, and compilation of reports including photographs and applicable documentation to complete the client file.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

California State Teaching Credential (1976)

Teaching Staff, Citrus Community College (1990-1992)

Adjunct Staff, University of Notre Dame School of Law, Lecturing on expert witness testimony to the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Loyola School of Law (1989-2003)

California State Peace Officers Standard of Training, certified instructor on arson investigation and post blast investigation.

Numerous guest lectures on various aspects of fire investigation, crime scene investigation, explosive investigation.

BATF West Coast Fire Investigation, fire death investigation (1989)

Los Angeles Sheriff Department Post Blast Training and crime scene investigation for new F.B.I. agents (1997-1998)

Cerritos Community College, Instructor Administration of Justice Program, Crime Scene Investigation (1998)

### **OTHER SCHOOLS:**

F.B.I. Hazardous Device School, Recertification (1985)

F.B.I Post Blast Seminars, Orange County and Los Angeles County, California (1986, 1988-92, 1994-97)

### **Training**

January 13, 14, 15, 2003      20 hrs. tested      **California Conference of Arson Investigators**  
Courses:  
Fireplace Fire Cause Issues  
Fire Scene Photography  
Issues Relating to Insurance Code Section 1875 and 1875.3

January 26, 27, 28, 2004      20 hrs. tested      **California Conference of Arson Investigators**  
Courses:  
Fire Pattern Analysis & Documentation  
Candles as Fire Causes  
Officer Safety Course for the fire investigator  
Fire Causes Involving Horizontal Heaters  
Expert Witnesses  
Back to Basics

April 30, May 1-5, 2005      36 hrs. tested      **International Association of Arson Investigators**  
In-service Training

2004 & 2005		Fraud Investigation Seminar
July 13, 2005		Subrogation: Legal & Liability Considerations
July 18, 19, 20, 2005	22 hrs. tested	<b><u>California Conference of Arson Investigators</u></b> Gas Vapor, Explosion Investigation and Training
January 30, 31, February 1, 2006	22 hrs. tested	<b><u>California Conference of Arson Investigators</u></b> Certificate of Training – Advanced Fire/Arson Investigation
March 26, 27, 28, 2007	20 hrs. tested	<b><u>California Conference of Arson Investigators</u></b> Certificate of Training NFPA 921 and Advance Fire Investigation Techniques
August 14, 2007		<b><u>California Conference of Arson Investigators</u></b> In-service Training 4 hours Fire Codes and Building Design
November 3, 4, 5, 2008	22 hrs. tested	<b><u>California Conference of Arson Investigators</u></b> Certificate of Training NFPA 921, Overview/Changes On Documentation, Investigation, Problem Solving
March 30-31, April 1, 2009	22 hrs. tested	<b><u>California Conference of Arson Investigators</u></b> Certificate of Training – Fire/Arson Investigation “Hands-on” Fire Scene Investigation, Legal Up-Dates, Fire Patterns, Ignition Matrix

**Court Testimony**

Expert Witness Deposition and Testimony  
National Surety vs. All Phase (2004)  
Depo 2004 Jury Trial (2004)  
Marin County Case No. Civ 01575

Expert Witness Deposition  
Travelers vs. City of Anaheim (2004)  
Depo Reference No. 2003064

Expert Witness and Testimony  
Carla Roberson vs. James Lofton (2005)  
Depo and Jury Trial  
Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. EC25616

Expert Witness Deposition  
State Farm vs. Robert Mathison (2006)  
Depo San Diego County Case Gino 49468

Expert Witness Deposition  
Heller vs. Davie (2006)  
Depo Los Angeles County Superior Court Case SC083682

Expert Witness Deposition and Testimony  
LAXT vs. Harbor Industrial Services (2005/2006)  
Depo 2005 Jury Trial 2006  
Los Angeles County Superior Court Case BC284285

Expert Witness Deposition  
Sequoia Insurance Company vs. International Recording  
Corporation (2008)  
Trial Los Angeles County Superior Court Case EC040537

Expert Witness Deposition and Testimony  
Wawanesa General Insurance Co. vs. Applica Consumer  
Products (2008)  
U. S. District Court, San Diego  
Case No. 06 CV1781 WQH (NLS)

Expert Witness Deposition  
Cynlyn Corporation dba Creative Cakery vs. Canon U.S.A. Inc.  
Canon Business Solutions-West, Inc. (2009)  
Orange County Superior Court 07CC10692

Expert Witness Deposition  
Steckelman vs. Tipton  
San Bernardino Superior Court  
Case CIVSS815976 (2010)

Expert Witness Deposition  
Kravet vs. Lasko  
Los Angeles County Superior Court  
BC 419 419 (2010)

**AFFILIATIONS:**

Masonic Lodge  
International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators  
International Association of Arson Investigations  
California Conference of Arson Investigators  
International Police Association

National Association of Fire Investigators

**MILITARY:**

U.S. Army – Military Police, Provost Marshal Investigator, heavy weapon specialist (1965-1966)  
Vietnam Veteran, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne (1965-1966)

**HOBBIES:**

Hunting, fishing, camping, and clay target shooting. I am currently involved in the National Hot Rod Association Sportsman Drag Racing.

**PERSONAL:**

Date of Birth: November 4, 1942  
Marital Status: Married, 2 children

**REFERENCES:**

Professional and personal references available upon request.