

**SERVICES:**

Personal Injury

Electrical

Mechanical

Metallurgical

Civil & Structural

Fire & Explosion

Structural  
Reconstruction

Collision  
Reconstruction

9033 Leslie Street,  
Units 18/19  
Richmond Hill ON  
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888.272.6671

[www.arconforensics.com](http://www.arconforensics.com)

## Michael Potvin, Senior Fire Investigator

416-491-2525 (Ext. 1034)

michael.potvin@arconforensics.com

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mike has over 20 years of experience in the area of fire investigation as an Ontario Fire Marshal fire investigator, completing almost 400 investigations during that time. His work includes large loss fires – both residential & industrial - arson investigations, vehicle fires, explosions and numerous fires where personal injury and death occurred. Through his work at the Office of the Fire Marshal and prior to that as a provincial police constable, Mike has been qualified as an expert witness in Ontario Coroners, Criminal and Civil proceedings. His experience is not limited to investigations. Mike has instructed fire investigation courses and trained fire investigators. He has also been active with the Canadian Association of Fire Investigators (CAFI) and the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) over the course of his career.

### AREAS OF SPECIALIZED EXPERTISE

- Heavy equipment fires (mining, forestry)
- Passenger and transport vehicle fires
- Fire scene control & security
- Marine (boat) fires
- Arson investigations
- Flame spread testing and analysis
- HRV failures and related fires
- Fire suppression system failure analysis
- Appliance failures and associated fires
- Construction related fires (roofing, welding)
- Fire suppression system deployments

### EDUCATION

- OFM Fire Investigator Training Course (1998), Ontario Fire College
- New Recruit Training Course (1988), Ontario Police College
- Law & Security Police Program Diploma (1987), Fanshawe College
- General Arts & Science Diploma (1985), Fanshawe College

### QUALIFICATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified NFPA 1033 Fire Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) (2004)
- Certified Fire Marshal Investigator – CFMI (2002)
- Certified NFPA 921 Fire & Explosion Investigator, National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) (2001)

### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)
- Canadian Association of Fire Investigators (CAFI)
- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)

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### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- *Bi-annual Training*, Ontario Fire College, (1998 – 2016)
- *Safety at Fire Investigations*, Fire Con, (Sept. 2016)
- *Solar Electricity Safety Training*, Fire Con, (Sept. 2016)
- *Ventilation & Post-Flashover Dynamics*, FESTI / TAA, (Apr. 2016)
- *Residential & Commercial Kitchen Fires*, CAFI, (Apr. 2015)
- North-East Fire Fighters Conference (May 2012)
- *Fire Investigations Educational Symposium*, CAFI, (Oct. 2011)
- *Fire Investigation Evidence Collection*, Osgoode Hall Law School, (May 2011)
- North-East Fire Fighters Conference (Apr. 2011)
- *Small Appliance Fires*, CAFI, (May 2010)
- *Fire Scene Safety*, CAFI, (May 2010)
- *Fire Investigation Annual Seminar*, CAFI, (Oct. 2009)
- *Expert Forensic Evidence in Criminal Proceedings*, U. of Toronto, (May 2009)
- *FPO 504 Retrofit*, Ontario Fire College, (Feb. 2008)
- *FPO 501 Advanced Fire Prevention Theory*, Ontario Fire College, (Jan. 2008)
- *FPO 401 Fire Safety Planning*, Ontario Fire College, (Dec. 2007)
- *Investigating Propane & Natural Gas Explosions*, C.A.F.I., (Nov. 2007)
- *Expert Evidence in Criminal Proceedings*, Osgoode Hall Law School, (Nov. 2007)
- *Post-Fire Hazmat Course*, Ontario Fire College, (May 2007)
- *FPO 302 Introductory Fire Prevention Inspections*, Ontario Fire College, (Apr. 2007)
- *FPO 301 Introductory Fire Prevention / Legislation & Orientation*, Ontario Fire College, (July 2006)
- *Post-Blast Course*, Canadian Police College, (Oct. 2005)
- *Oil Burner Furnaces*, Technical Training & Resources, (June 2005)
- *General Investigation Training*, Durham Region Police Service, (Sept. 2004)
- *Post-Fire Investigative Response (Hazmat)*, Ontario Fire College, (June 2004)
- *Engineered Fire Safety Systems*, Carlton University, (May 2004)
- *Advanced Fire Investigation*, Toronto Fire Academy, (Sept. 2001)
- *Electrical Equipment Post Analysis*, C.A.F.I., (Oct. 1999)
- *Fire Cause Determination*, Ontario Fire College, (Oct. 1999)

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### NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Over the past 20 years, Mike has provided seminar presentations and classroom training on a wide variety of fire investigation related topics to front-line fire-fighters, law enforcement personnel as well as other fire investigators throughout Ontario. The topics covered in these sessions range from basic to advanced fire cause determination investigation procedures, to vehicle fire investigations, fire scene safety, evidence collection and documenting a fire scene, as well as explosions originating from a variety of sources. He is active in the Canadian Association of Fire Investigators and the International Association of Arson Investigators.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Senior Fire Investigator**, Arcon Forensic Engineers  
(2021 – Present)

Investigation of the origin & cause of fires in structures, vehicles, marine craft and other apparatus. Investigating explosions including those involving failures in natural gas piping, burners, fuel lines, flammable vapour, and manufacturing processes.

**Fire Investigator / Investigations Supervisor / Operations Manager – Fire Investigations and Field Advisory Services**

Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal  
(1998 – 2021)

Investigation of the origin & cause of fires where arson was suspected, fires where there was a fatality involved, large loss residential & industrial fires and fires where there was a public safety issue. Investigations covered everything from site security, cause investigation and determination, documentation of evidence, preparing reports and briefing Crown Counsel in criminal proceedings. Coordinated the delivery of community fire safety and prevention initiatives. Prepared and delivered fire investigation seminars and training to law enforcement, fire services, fire investigators and insurance industry personnel. Attended court proceedings as required. Trained and coached new OFM investigators. Conducted reviews of OFM fire investigation reports before publication.

**Provincial Constable / Detective Constable**, Ontario Provincial Police  
(1988 – 1998)

General law enforcement and Highway Traffic Act enforcement. Led community policing efforts and coordination of Crime Stoppers program. Involved in investigations related to serious crime including; homicides, arson, assault, insurance fraud, break & enters, theft, possession of stolen property and drug enforcement.