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**JAMES KOTRBA**  
**P. O. Box 2868**  
**East Peoria, IL 61611**

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**EDUCATION**

2019	Associate of Applied Science, Fire Science Technology, Harper Community College, Palatine, IL
1993	General Motors Vocational Training Center, Hinsdale, IL
1991	Graduate, Lane Technical High School, Chicago, IL

**SEMINARS AND ADVANCED TRAINING**

2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Advanced Forensic Photography, IAAI, Waukesha, WI (16 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* Comprehensive Vehicle Fire Investigation, IAAI, Bloomington, IL (24 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* MagneTek: A Case Study In The Daubert Challenge, CFITrainer.net (2 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report, CFITrainer.net (3 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* Residential Electrical Systems, CFITrainer.net (4 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* Residential Natural Gas Systems, CFITrainer.net (3 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* Investigating Natural Gas Systems, CFITrainer.net (3 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* Electrical Safety, CFITrainer.net (3 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* Effective Investigation and Testimony, CFITrainer.net (3 Hrs. – Tested)</li></ul>
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Fire Investigations: Essentials, National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, MD</li><li>* Arc Mapping Basics, CFITrainer.net (4 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* Thermometry, Heat and Heat Transfer, CFITrainer.net (3 Hrs. – Tested)</li></ul>
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Introduction to Evidence, CFITrainer.net (4 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* Motor Vehicles: Transmission, Exhaust, Brake, and Accessory Systems, CFITrainer.net (3 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene, CFITrainer.net (4 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* Documenting the Event, CFITrainer.net (4 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* Basic Electricity, CFITrainer.net (4 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921, CFITrainer.net (2 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* NFPA 1033 and Your Career, CFITrainer.net (2 Hrs. – Tested)</li><li>* Ethics and the Fire Investigator, CFITrainer.net (3 Hrs. – Tested)</li></ul>

- \* The Scientific Method for Fire & Explosion Investigation, CFITrainer.net (3 Hrs. – Tested)
- \* Accreditation, Certification & Certificates, CFITrainer.net (3 Hrs. – Tested)
- \* Alternative Fuel Vehicles, CFITrainer.net (3 Hrs. – Tested)
- \* Motor Vehicles: The Engine and the Ignition, Electrical and Fuel Systems, CFITrainer.net (3 Hrs. – Tested)
- \* Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, CFITrainer.net (4 Hrs. – Tested)
- \* Search and Seizure, CFITrainer.net (4 Hrs. – Tested)
- \* Investigating Fatal Fires, CFITrainer.net (4 Hrs. – Tested)
- \* Fire Protection Systems, CFITrainer.net (3 Hrs. – Tested)
- \* Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling, CFITrainer.net (4 Hrs. – Tested)
- \* Fire Investigator Scene Safety, CFITrainer.net (3 Hrs. – Tested)
- \* Fundamentals of Building Construction, CFITrainer.net (3 Hrs. – Tested)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

International Association of Arson Investigators  
 Illinois Chapter, International Association of Arson Investigators  
 National Association of Fire Investigators  
 International Association of Fire Fighters  
 Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois  
 Automotive Society of Excellence

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

<u>International Association of Arson Investigators</u>		
Fire Investigator Technician		2024
<u>National Association of Fire Investigators</u>		
Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator		2025
<u>Automotive Society of Excellence</u>		
Master Auto Repair Technician		1993 – Current
<u>Federal Aviation Administration</u>		
Certified Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operator (FAA 107)		2025
<u>Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal</u>		
Fire Officer I		2020
Advanced Fire Officer		2020
Instructor I		2019
Hazardous Materials Incident Command		2007
Hazardous Materials Technician B		2006
Hazardous Materials Technician A		2005
Firefighter III		2005
Fire Apparatus Engineer		2003
Roadway Extrication Technician		2003

Hazardous Materials Operations	2001
Hazardous Materials Awareness	2001
Firefighter II	2001
Technical Rescue Awareness	2001

### **FIRE SERVICE/INVESTIGATION EXPERIENCE**

6/2025 – Present	Fire Investigator Apprentice, FireTech, Inc., East Peoria, IL
10/2001 – Present	Village of Hoffman Estates Fire Department, Hoffman Estates, IL Lieutenant (2019 – Present) Hazardous Materials Team Coordinator (2018 – Present) Hazardous Materials Technician (2005 – Present) Apparatus Engineer (2003 – Present)