

2016 IAAI Health & Safety Benchmark Survey Results

	Electronic Responses	Manual Responses from Comments	Manual French Language Responses	Total	
Q1 Does your agency/company have a written policy regarding conducting fire scene investigation/examination site safety surveys?					
YES	609		11	620	41%
NO	877		28	905	59%
				1525	100%
Q2 If yes, does the policy specifically address biologic and/or chemical hazards?					
YES	366		8	374	34%
NO	719		12	731	66%
				1105	100%
Q3 Does your agency/company have a written policy regarding the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) by fire investigators?					
YES	712		11	723	49%
NO	737		28	765	51%
				1488	100%
Q4 Does your agency/company have a written policy regarding the use of respiratory protection by fire investigators?					
YES	614		10	624	42%
NO	841		29	870	58%
				1494	100%
Q5 Does your agency/company have a written policy regarding the transportation of contaminated fire investigation tools/equipment?					
YES	289		4	293	20%
NO	1169		35	1204	80%
				1497	100%
Q6 Does your agency/company have a written policy regarding the cleaning of contaminated clothing?					
YES	697		16	713	48%
NO	761		22	783	52%
				1496	100%
Q7 Does your agency/company have a written policy for annual medical checkups/physicals?					
YES	710		2	712	47%
NO	768		37	805	53%
				1517	100%

9	policy
10	health-related
6	baseline
13	demographic
16	procedural
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54	

Q8	Does your agency/company have any program for mental health support?				
	YES	976	20	996	66%
	NO	497	19	516	34%
				1512	100%

Q9	If you answered yes to the above question, have you ever used the mental health support?				
	YES	202	4	206	14%
	NO	804	16	820	57%
	N/A	408	17	425	29%
				1451	100%

Q10	How do you usually conduct your scene examinations?				
	By Yourself	762	13	775	51%
	With a partner	440	20	460	30%
	Part of a team	277	9	286	19%
				1521	100%

Q11	If you usually conduct a scene examination by yourself, does your agency/company have a policy or practice to check on you regularly?				
	YES	366	6	372	30%
	NO	836	22	858	70%
	If yes, explain	See 297 survey comments		1230	100%

Q12	What type of vehicle do you use as a fire investigator?				
	Sedan	121	6	127	8%
	SUV	401	13	414	27%
	Pick-up	739	9	748	49%
	Other	220	14	234	15%
				1523	100%

Q13	What gas product metering capabilities do you have for use at a fire scene? (If you use a multi-gas meter or multiple individual meters check all that apply.)				
	CO	903	26	929	
	HCN	528	3	531	
	O2	770	23	793	
	HS	521	24	545	
	LEL	740	23	763	
	Benzene	100	3	103	
	Formaldehyde	64	1	65	
	None	512	11	523	
	Other - see survey comments	99	7	106	

Q14 Do you conduct any type of air quality monitoring before starting your scene examination?				
YES	724	23	747	50%
NO	746	16	762	50%
			1509	100%

Q15 Do you conduct any type of air quality monitoring during your scene examination?				
YES	524	11	535	35%
NO	956	27	983	65%
			1518	100%

Q16 When applicable, do you always check to ensure that the utilities are secured before starting your scene examination?				
YES	1411	29	1440	95%
NO	69	10	79	5%
			1519	100%

Q17 If your agency/company has a PPE policy, does it:				
Require PPE	610	18	628	42%
Suggest PPE	354	5	359	24%
N/A	427	13	440	29%
Other - see survey results	65	2	67	4%
			1494	100%

Q18 How do you obtain your fire investigation equipment?				
Provided	772	32	804	53%
Self purchase	171	5	176	12%
Combination	520	2	522	34%
Other - see survey results	17	0	17	1%
			1519	100%

Q19 Which of the following PPE items do you have readily available for your use? (Select all that apply.)			
Helmet/hard hat	1472	37	1509
Gloves	1483	38	1521
Eye protection	1382	32	1414
Face shield	703	14	717
Half face APR	921	18	939
Full face APR	467	4	471
PAPR	112	1	113
SCBA	810	25	835
Cloth overalls	1014	24	1038
Disposables	626	11	637
Rubber boots	972	30	1002
Leather boots	1142	22	1164

Q20 If you have an air purifying respirator (powered or regular) available for use, what type of filtering does it have?

Dust	108	7	115	10%
N95	418	10	428	39%
P100/OV/AG	347	9	356	32%
CBRNE	123	1	124	11%
Other - see survey results	76	4	80	7%
			1103	100%

Q21 Do you keep a detailed scene examination log that includes every exam?

YES	750	21	771	51%
NO	730	20	750	49%
			1521	100%

Q22 If you answered yes to the above question, do you note any hazardous conditions encountered, injuries or exposures?

YES	581	5	586	44%
NO	234	18	252	19%
N/A	483	14	497	37%
			1335	100%

Q23 To what extent do you wear full PPE (defined as boots, gloves, coveralls or similar including bunker pants and turnout coat, respiratory protection, eye protection, hard hat/helmet) while conducting a fire scene investigation/examination?

Never	61	2	63	4%
Rarely	196	6	202	13%
Sometimes	393	7	400	26%
Most of the time	612	9	621	41%
Always	221	15	236	16%
			1522	100%

Q24 To what extent do you use respiratory protection while conducting a fire scene investigation/examination?

Never	119	7	126	8%
Rarely	413	8	421	28%
Sometimes	514	13	527	35%
Most of the time	322	5	327	22%
Always	111	6	117	8%
			1518	100%

Q25 How do you clean your clothing worn while conducting scene examinations?

Personal machine	612	8	620	41%
Commercial cleaner	241	6	247	16%
Extractor	424	21	445	29%
N/A	10	2	12	1%
Other - see survey results	197	0	197	13%
			1521	100%

Q26 How often do you take breaks while working a scene?

Every half hour	9	0	9	1%
Every hour	32	2	34	2%
As needed	1365	31	1396	92%
Don't	71	5	76	5%
Other - see survey results	5	1	6	0%
			1521	100%

Q27 If you stop to eat during a scene investigation/examination, what level of decontamination do you do? (check all that apply)

Wash hands only	517	30	547
Wash hands and face	760	14	774
Remove outer clothing	471	26	497
Full decon	91	3	94
None	60	3	63
Other - see survey results	139	0	139

Q28 Fire investigators have a high exposure risk to toxic gases and particulates at fire scenes.

TRUE	1466	38	1504	99%
FALSE	21	0	21	1%
			1525	100%

Q29 Time since extinguishment is a reliable hazard predictor.

TRUE	276	4	280	18%
FALSE	1207	34	1241	82%
			1521	100%

Q30 There is a direct correlation between the size of a fire and the exposure risk present.

TRUE	280	7	287	19%
FALSE	1203	32	1235	81%
			1522	100%

Q31 Ventilation is good but not a cure-all.

TRUE	1471	36	1507	99%
FALSE	15	3	18	1%
			1525	100%

Q32 There is no correlation between CO and/or HCN readings and the presence of toxic levels of other gases at a fire scene.

TRUE	436	23	459	30%
FALSE	1036	16	1052	70%
			1511	100%

Q33 The non-alert state of a gas monitor that is turned on and working properly means that there are no toxic gases (that it is capable of detecting) present.

TRUE	305	7	312	21%
FALSE	1156	32	1188	79%
			1500	100%

Q34 What is your primary fire investigation function

Public	1118	20	31	1169	77%
Private	318	15	6	339	22%
Other	15		3	18	1%
				1526	100%

Q35 Are you a full-time fire investigator?

YES	853	9	862	57%
NO	625	30	655	43%
			1517	100%

Q36 Do you have any other related concurrent roles to fire investigation, such as firefighter, fire officer, etc.

YES	977	24	1001	67%
NO	497	7	504	33%
Explain if yes	See 738 survey results		1505	100%

Q37 How many years of fire investigation experience do you have?

<1	19	0	19	1%
1 to 3	148	1	149	10%
4 to 7	252	5	257	17%
8 to 12	276	17	293	19%
12 to 19	343	8	351	23%
20 to 29	283	5	288	19%
30 or >	162	2	164	11%
			1521	100%

Q38 On average, how many fire scene investigations/examinations do you participate in monthly?

1 to 3	831	31	862	57%
4 to 7	350	4	354	23%
8 to 12	177	1	178	12%
> 12	118	1	119	8%
			1513	100%

Q39 Have you ever had a reportable workplace injury related to a fire scene investigation/examination?

YES	317	5	322	21%
NO	1152	34	1186	79%
			1508	100%

Q40	Have you ever had a reportable workplace illness related to a fire scene investigation/examination?				
	YES	94	0	94	6%
	NO	1387	39	1426	94%
				1520	100%

Q41	If you answered yes to either of the two above questions, did the injury/illness result in lost work time?				
	YES	156	0	156	
	NO	204	5	209	
	N/A	948	26	974	

Q42	Do you get an annual physical examination, either provided by your employer or self-provided?				
	YES	1184	19	1203	79%
	NO	298	21	319	21%
				1522	100%

Q43	If you answered yes to the question above, does it include (select all that apply)?				
	MD exam	1158	19	1177	98% as compared to 1203 above
	Bloodwork	1108	18	1126	94%
	Chest x-ray	436	4	440	37%
	PFT	724	4	728	61%
	Cancer screening	413	4	417	35%
	Cardiovascular screening	566	2	568	47%
	Stress test	340	0	340	28%

Q44	What country do you work in?				
	USA	1367		1367	92%
	Canada	71	39?	71	
	UK	23		23	
	New Zealand	8		8	
	Australia	4		4	
	France	3		3	
	Brazil	1		1	
	Costa Rica	1		1	
	Italy	1		1	
	Korea	1		1	
	Phillipines	1		1	
	Switzerland	1		1	
				1482	

Notes: Some respondents read this as county and not country. Some respondents listed multiple countries.

Q45 What state/province (if applicable)?

Alabama	13
Alaska	3
Arizona	25
Arkansas	9
California	56
Colorado	65
Connecticut	20
Deleware	2
Florida	31
Georgia	14
Hawaii	1
Idaho	17
Illinois	81
Indiana	39
Iowa	32
Kansas	66
Kentucky	7
Louisiana	6
Maine	5
Maryland	21
Massachusetts	18
Michigan	64
Minnesota	27
Mississippi	4
Missouri	15
Montana	2
Nebraska	1
Nevada	11
New Hampshire	4
New Jersey	60
New Mexico	4
New York	54
North Carolina	87
North Dakota	16
Ohio	54
Oklahoma	6
Oregon	25
Pennsylvania	59
Rhode Island	18
South Carolina	20
South Dakota	5
Tennessee	17
Texas	56

Utah	7		
Vermont	6		
Virginia	36		
Washington	29		
West Virginia	9		
Wisconsin	31		
Wyoming	7		
Washington, DC	3		
Alberta	18		
British Columbia	35		
New Brunswick	4		
Newfoundland	1		
NWT	2		
Ontario	9		
PEI	1		
Quebec	2	39	
Saskatchewan	1		
Victoria	1		
Other*	59		

*includes multiple states listed, nationwide, etc.

Q46 What is your age?			
18 to 24	4	0	4
25 to 34	101	7	108
35 to 44	351	7	358
45 to 54	544	17	561
55 to 64	387	9	396
65 to 74	87	0	87
75 and over	8	0	8
			1522

Q47 What is your gender?			
Male	1406	36	1442
Female	73	3	76
			1518

Q48 What is your race/ethnic origin? (select up to two)			
White	1397	38	1435
Hispanic, etc.	42	0	
Black	15	0	
Indigenous	18	0	
Asian, etc	4	0	
Chinese	4	0	
Korean	1	0	
Japanese	2	0	
Other	24	0	
	1507	38	1545

Q49 What is the highest degree or level of school that you have completed? If currently enrolled, your highest degree received.

Some HS	0	0	0	0%
HS grad	52	2	54	3%
trade school	75	8	83	5%
some college	357	20	377	24%
Assoc degree - FI	149	13	162	10%
Assoc degree - other	177	5	182	12%
BS - FI	136	1	137	9%
BS - other	332	4	336	22%
GC - FI	22	4	26	2%
GC - other	13	14	27	2%
Master's - FI	27	1	28	2%
Master's - Other	111	4	115	7%
Doctorate	26	0	26	2%
			1553	100%

Q50 Do you have any of these fire investigator certifications? (check all that apply)

IAAI-FIT	353	1	354
IAAI-CFI	487	3	490
IAAI-ECT	102	0	102
IAAI-CI	50	0	50
NAFI-CFEI	454	2	456
NAFI-CVFI	182	0	182
NAFI-CFII	83	1	84
Other	237	11	248

Note: the vast majority of the other responses were for state certifications

Q51 Do you smoke?

No	1394	37	1431	94%
< 1 pack/week	22	1	23	2%
< 1 pack/day	51	1	52	3%
1-2 packs/day	18	0	18	1%
> 2 packs/day	0	0	0	0%
			1524	100%

Q52 During the last 12 months, how often did you usually have any kind of drink containing alcohol? By a drink we mean half an ounce of absolute alcohol (e.g. a 12 ounce can or glass of beer or cooler, a 5 ounce glass of wine, or a drink containing 1 shot of liquor). Choose only one.

Never	211	0	211	14%
< 1/week	703	20	723	48%
1 - 3 days/week	446	17	463	30%
>3 several days/week	76	1	77	5%
1 - 3 daily	39	2	41	3%
> 3 daily	6	0	6	0%
			1521	100%

Q53 How concerned are you that your work as a fire investigator has or will put you at health risk?

Not at all	58	11	69	5%
A little	274	7	281	19%
Some	666	16	682	45%
Very	349	4	353	23%
Highly	131	1	132	9%
			1517	100%

Q54 How much has your awareness of fire investigator health and safety issues increased in the last five years?

Not at all	36	3	39	3%
A little	217	3	220	14%
Some	530	14	544	36%
A lot	702	19	721	47%
			1524	100%

83%

Q55 Additional Comments