

# ISFI 2020

## ABSTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### International Symposium on Fire Investigation Science and Technology

### September 21-23, 2020

#### Abstract Submission Terms & Conditions

Abstracts must be submitted by April 1, 2020 although early submission is encouraged. By submitting an abstract, you agree to the following:

- Abstract should not exceed 750 words.
- The abstract submitted must be original work.
- The author is responsible for the accuracy of the abstract.
- The acceptance of an abstract for the Symposium does not imply provision of travel, accommodation or registration for the Symposium, nor any other costs associated with preparation or presentation of the abstract, or any costs associated with attendance at the Symposium.
- All authors presenting at the Symposium must register and pay to attend.
- You give us permission to publish your abstract (and subsequent paper, if accepted) on the NAFI website and in the 2020 ISFI Proceedings.
- You give us permission to film or photograph your presentation and participation at the Symposium.
- You confirm that the submission has been approved by all authors.
- All abstracts must be submitted in English and via email.
- The abstract will be evaluated by ISFI's published peer review standards. The Board's decision is final. • At least one author will be available to present the abstract if selected for the program. The authors will immediately notify ISFI 2020 if they are unable to present an abstract or if the presenting author is changed.
- If accepted, your final paper & program registration will be submitted in the proper format and by the August 1, 2020 deadline.
- Papers will not be published without a speaker registration.

Submit by email, or mail to:

ISFI 2020  
c/o National Association of Fire Investigators  
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Bradenton, Florida 34209  
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## PEER REVIEW POLICY

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### PEER REVIEW POLICY

Since 2004, ISFI brings together a cadre of internationally known and respected fire analysis professionals to present and discuss the cutting edge of the profession's knowledge base in fire investigation science, research, technology, and methodology.

ISFI's peer reviewed selection of topics for presentation is rooted in the issues of the presentation, lively discussion, free exchange of ideas, and professional debate of important innovative or controversial ideas and concepts in fire investigation.

Abstracts submitted for presentations at ISFI are peer reviewed by one or more members of the ISFI Board and staff, selected by ISFI's Executive Director. All of the abstract reviewers are professional fire analysts, engineers, fire scientists, and/or educators with decades of experience. Each has long experience as an active participant in the NFPA 921, NFPA 1033 committees' work. In keeping with the NFPA 921 prescriptions, peer reviewers' anonymity is strictly maintained.

Whether an abstract is selected for presentation at an ISFI conference is dependent upon the abstract's discussion of subjects that are (1) topical; (2) of interest to ISFI's delegate base; (3) well written in proper English syntax; (4) logically constructed, discussed, and argued; (5) meet an adequate modicum technical accuracy; and (6) are in the proper ISFI Format.

Successful peer review of a submitted ISFI abstract is not a "Technical Review" as discussed in Sections 4.6.2 and 4.6.2.1 of NFPA 921-2017, but the selection is fully compliant with the concepts expressed in NFPA 921 sections 4.6.3 - 4.6.3.2. It is not an affirmation of the conclusions or opinions presented in the work, but rather a confirmation of the quality of the work for further argument and technical peer review by the ISFI delegates themselves.

#### NFPA 921 - 2017

"4.6.3 Peer Review. Peer review is a formal procedure generally employed in prepublication review of scientific or technical documents and screening of grant applications by research-sponsoring agencies. Peer review carries with it connotations of both independence and objectivity. Peer reviewers should not have any interest in the outcome of the review. The author does not select the reviewers, and reviews are often conducted anonymously.

"4.6.3.1 The methodologies used and the fire science relied on by an investigator are subject to peer review. For example, NFPA 921 is a peer-reviewed document describing the methodologies and science associated with proper fire and explosion investigations.

"4.6.3.2 Limitations of Peer Reviews. Peer reviewers should have the expertise to detect logic flaws and inappropriate applications of methodology or scientific principles, but because they generally have no basis to question an investigator's data, they are unlikely to be able to detect factual errors or incorrectly reported data. Conclusions based on incorrect data are likely to be incorrect themselves. Because of these limitations, a proper technical review will provide the best means to adequately assess the validity of the investigation's results."