



# Investigating Solid Fuel-Burning Appliance Fires

Back for a 9th time: An in-lab program exploring heating with solid fuels and the fires that can result.

Sign up now – Class size is limited to 45 participants.

**May 16-17, 2019**

Optional testing toward CFI certification available (16 hours) and continuing education credits (1.2 CEUs) available.

In difficult times, burning wood and other solid fuels make for less expensive forms of heat for many homeowners, even though burning solid fuels may be a lost “art.” People accustomed to the minimal maintenance of gas or electric heat have forgotten (or have never known) that solid-fuel heating requires maintenance and correctly installed appliances. If not, fires are likely and investigators will be called upon to make sense of the remains. To assist investigators, enter this popular *Fire Findings’* in-lab class.

## Topics include:

- ✓ Fireplace component names and functions. Site-built vs. manufactured fireplaces.
- ✓ Temperatures generated in operating solid fuel-burning appliances.
- ✓ Understanding the various types of chimneys for solid fuel-burning appliances, how they work and the importance of using the correct parts in the proper places. Also, the cleaning and inspection of chimneys.
- ✓ Obtaining information about manufactured-fireplace installation requirements.
- ✓ Direct vent fireplaces: They’re gas, not solid fuel, but we’ll share new information about why these popular appliances can cause unexpected fires.
- ✓ Fire causes involving:
  - Installation issues – what the installer might have done to cause a fire, whether after a first use or many years later;
  - Flaming brands and flying embers;

- Clearance to combustibles;
- Insulation and chimney fires – a prevalent cause of fireplace and woodstove fires. (*Many investigators say the cellulose insulation discussion and demonstration alone is worth the price of admission.*)

## In addition, you’ll:

- ✓ Observe fireplaces, wood-burning and pellet stoves in operation. Check the temperatures in hidden areas using our cutaway exemplar demonstrations.
- ✓ Learn more about the nature and possibilities of smoldering combustion and pyrolysis.
- ✓ Dissect interesting case studies that illustrate numerous fire-causing failures.
- ✓ Discover why pellet stoves are more likely to smoke up a home than burn it down. Plus, learn to understand why it happened.
- ✓ And, if all goes as planned, observe an insulation fire live in our laboratory classroom.



Most investigators have never seen a chimney fire. A live demo outside our lab is an eye opener when fire shoots from the chimney top.

“Investigating Solid Fuel-Burning Appliance Fires” will be held on-site at Fire Findings’ laboratory testing facility, 2026 Plaza Drive, Benton Harbor, Michigan, 49022.

*Just 40 minutes from South Bend (Indiana) or Kalamazoo (Michigan) airports and 2 hours from Chicago airports. St. Joseph/Benton Harbor is located along the southern shores of Lake Michigan – a gorgeous area to visit – and home of the 2018 and 2020 Senior PGA Championships!*

Tuition is **\$595** per person for the two-day session.

### **Who should attend 'Solid Fuel-Burning Appliance Fires?'**

- ✓ In-the-field fire investigators and chimney sweeps.
- ✓ Fire and police department investigators.
- ✓ Those in the industry who need to expand their working knowledge.

### **Why attend?**

"Investigating Solid Fuel-Burning Appliance Fires" is designed to further your ability to interpret evidence of poor installation practices or hazardous use.

In addition, you'll return to the field with more information about determining if a fireplace or wood-burning or pellet stove can be ruled in or out as the cause of a fire.

The many practical demonstrations will enhance your knowledge about how solid fuel-burning appliances work and can cause fires.

## **Course background**

The home-building boom of the past few decades brought about the installation of fireplaces in thousands and thousands of homes across North America. These days, homeowners pinching every penny are pressing those appliances into service as auxiliary heat in their homes. Others have turned to pellet or wood-burning stoves to supplement central heat or replace it altogether. It's no surprise to experts in the field that a lot of fires involving the installation and/or use of these devices has resulted.

As a participant in "Investigating Solid Fuel-Burning Appliance Fires," you'll see how these appliances are intended to be used and installed. We've installed chimneys in our lab that allow us to connect to a fireplace, pellet stove and wood-burning stove to operate them in our lab classroom. Check out our displays close up and see if you can find the numerous potentially fire-causing installation issues.

You'll also learn how manufactured chimney systems, both active and passive, function.

Optional test credits toward CFI certification are available, along with continuing education credits.



A fireplace and wood-burning stove operate with real-time temperature recording so you can see how varying conditions can affect temperatures inside the appliances and on the exteriors of their chimneys or chimney connectors. Mockups of roof structures illustrate how and why chimneys are installed improperly and cause fires.

## **About your instructors**

**Jack L. Sanderson**, *Fire Findings'* founder and Certified Fire Investigator (CFI), is a nationally known speaker on a wide variety of fire investigation topics. He investigated his first solid fuel-burning appliance fire more than 30 years ago and, in recent years, has conducted considerable laboratory testing of solid fuel-burning appliances. He's also a former building inspector and a "burner of wood for heat."

**Nathan P. Dwyer**, *Fire Findings'* electrical expert and CFI, has a unique perspective on solid-fuel appliance investigations. Since fireplaces can have nearby, or include, electrical supplies, he is often called on to rule in (or out) nearby electrical devices, appliances or branch circuits.

## **Settle in and make yourself at home**

Both days start with a deluxe continental breakfast at 8 a.m. and include snacks and sodas anytime. Lunch provided the second day. Schedule for both days is 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Testing and presentation of certificates end the session.

**More photos and on-line registration available at [www.firefindings.com](http://www.firefindings.com).**

# Easy registration for 'Investigating Solid Fuel-Burning Appliance Fires'



**Fax**

your completed enrollment and credit card or government voucher number to 269-925-2204.



**Phone**

for information and openings, 269-925-2200.



**Mail**

this completed enrollment to:  
Fire Findings LLC  
2026 Plaza Drive  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022-2212.

On-line registration available at [www.firefindings.com](http://www.firefindings.com).

## Who will attend?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Ph \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Years of experience in fire investigation \_\_\_\_\_

Number of hours of origin/cause investigation classes \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of your present career responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

**Only one session for 2019. It's not too early to sign up!**

May 16-17, 2019

### How do you prefer to pay your tuition?

Check enclosed  Government voucher or purchase order enclosed

*Please make payable to Fire Findings, LLC (Fed ID # is 38-3282454)*

Bill my credit card (check one)  MasterCard  Visa  Discover  AmEx

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

(3 digits back of MC/Visa/Discover; 4 digits front of AmEx)

Cardholder name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Hurry! The solid fuel-burning appliance fires class is limited to 45 registrants.

For more information and seminar openings, call us at (269) 925-2200, e-mail [info@](mailto:info@firefindings.com)

[firefindings.com](http://firefindings.com) or fax (269) 925-2204. **\*\*Note:** Please check seminar availability before

making hotel, auto or flight arrangements.

### Special lodging rates are available.

Call Fairfield Inn & Suites, Stevensville, Michigan, (269) 429-1111, for a special rate of \$89 per night for double-queen or king rooms. All rooms have microwave ovens and refrigerators. Enjoy hot breakfast buffet, also fitness center and indoor pool. This is a "first-come, first-serve" special rate, so make your reservations early. To get this rate, mention Fire Findings when making a reservation.

For a free visitor information packet and area maps, call the Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council at (269) 925-6301.

## What you get

Your \$595 tuition to the *Fire Findings'* seminar, "Investigating Solid Fuel-Burning Appliance Fires," includes:

- ✓ 2 days of intensive, in-lab, hands-on instruction.
- ✓ Live demonstrations.
- ✓ Hands-on experience finding the many defects in our lab-built models.
- ✓ Practice with case studies interpreting the implications of fire damage.
- ✓ Deluxe continental breakfasts both days; snacks and sodas anytime.
- ✓ Lunch the second day.
- ✓ Answers to your questions about solid fuel-burning appliances and potential failures.
- ✓ A certificate recognizing your participation.
- ✓ Optional CFI testing and CEUs available.