

# THE ROLE OF THE FORENSIC LABORATORY IN FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

Virginia Department of Forensic Science

Norfolk, VA

October 9, 2014

*Summary:* This is a one-day course designed to provide an understanding of the types of examinations the forensic laboratory can perform to assist fire investigations. This course will cover the recognition, collection and preservation of fire debris, explosives, trace evidence, latent prints, clandestine methamphetamine laboratories and biological fluids. The analysis of each of these types of materials will be presented to provide the investigator with an understanding of the corresponding potential value in an investigation. This course is designed for fire investigators, police officers, detectives and Commonwealth Attorneys who are involved with the investigation of arson and explosives offenses as well as additional offenses involving ignitable liquids. There will be practical exercises involving the collection, packaging and evaluation of items for ignitable liquid and explosives analysis.

This course will be limited to 50 students and is restricted to personnel from Virginia law enforcement and fire agencies (including Commonwealth's Attorney's Offices).

The course will be taught at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science's Eastern Laboratory located at 830 Southampton Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. **Use the Norfolk Public Health entrance to the building, sign in at the security console and proceed to the third floor.**