Death Investigation Seminar

April 17-21, 2017, 8 am-5pm

Location: WITC-Rice Lake Conference Center
Course fee: $325

Description: This is a 40 hour seminar on the topic of Death Investigation. It is designed to enhance the skills of any officer whose responsibilities include responding to death scenes and investigating homicides. The lead instructors are retired WI DCI Agents John Christophersen and Tom Fassbender. They will be joined by other experienced investigators in presenting instruction in the following topics: Interview and Interrogation, Managing Death Scenes, Time of Death – changes after death, Fire Deaths, Exhumations, Asphyxia Deaths, Sharp and Blunt Trauma Deaths, Suicide, Child Fatalities, Identification and collection of evidence in firearms deaths, Formal Investigative Techniques, Autopsies, Legal Updates/Miranda, Defense Attorney Perspectives, Tech. Services. The training will include lecture and practical exercises.

Primary Instructors

John Christophersen
John Christophersen retired from Law Enforcement in May of 2011 after serving for 31 years. John is a certified instructor with the Wisconsin Training and Standards Board. Since retirement, John has instructed at several law enforcement in-services, conducted training as part of continuing education for County Coroners, EMS, and Fire Departments and provided Investigator training for Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College.

Prior to retirement John worked for the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation (DOJ/DCI) for 22 years in Narcotics and Violent Crimes. John assisted in developing the curriculum for the DOJ’s annual Death Investigation School, was the academy coordinator for DCI’s newly hired agents and instructed at area Technical Colleges for law enforcement recruits.

Tom Fassbender
Tom Fassbender is a 30 year veteran of law enforcement in Wisconsin, 25 of which he spent as a Special Agent with the Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI). The last 10 years with DCI Tom was assigned to the Special Assignments Bureau, where he was primarily responsible for death investigations. Tom worked as co-lead investigator on several high profile homicide investigations, to include the Teresa Halbach homicide (Avery) and the Crandon shootings perpetrated by police officer Tyler Peterson.

In addition to his career as a law enforcement officer, Tom trained many law enforcement officers. Within DCI, he co-directed and taught at DCI’s Death Investigation School. He was also an adjunct instructor at Fox Valley Technical College in Wisconsin.
Death Investigation Assisting Instructors

Mike Rindt is in charge of the Special Investigations Unit for Acuity Insurance. Prior to joining Acuity, Mike spent 20 years in law enforcement with the Washington County Sheriff’s Department and Wisconsin Department of Justice—Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI). He held the positions of deputy sheriff and detective with the sheriff’s department. While with the DCI, Mike was a Special Agent/Deputy State Fire Marshal assigned to the arson bureau. He finished his career with the DCI as Director.

Dennis Miller is a retired Special Agent Senior, Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI). Investigated complex state and national crimes. His work assignments include 7¼ years as a Narcotics and Vice Agent and 20 years in the DCI Special Assignments Bureau, primarily handling homicide investigations. He was an instructor and class coordinator at the DCI Death Investigation School.

Kim Skorlinski began his law enforcement career as a deputy sheriff with the La Crosse County sheriff’s Office. In 1983 he was hired as a special agent with the Division of Criminal Investigation’s, Appleton Office. He served 27 years with DCI with assignments as Narcotics Investigator, White Collar Crime Investigator, and 13 years in the Special Assignments Bureau, primarily investigating homicides.

In addition to instructing at DCI’s Death Investigation School, Kim has taught death investigation classes at several Technical Colleges and to the Department of Corrections. He also taught interviewing techniques to the Wisconsin State Patrol. He remains active with the Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators; as a member of their Cold Case Review Team and is a Police Commissioner for the City of Neenah.

Ron Ebben served as a Special Agent for the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation from September, 1982 until February, 2011. During that time he served in a number of bureaus, units and areas of focus. Mr. Ebben was assigned to the Arson Bureau from May, 1987 to June, 1995. During that time he served as a lead or support agent in the investigation of suspicious fires, bombings and explosions. He also conducted investigations into the cause and manner of death of explosion or fire related victims.

Mr. Ebben was assigned to the Violent Crimes Unit from December, 2003 until his retirement from the Division of Criminal Investigation in 2011. He served as a lead or support agent while assisting local law enforcement agencies and District Attorneys’ in the investigation of homicides or violent crimes.

AAG David Perlman – Assistant Attorney General David Perlman’s primary duties include training police and prosecutors on constitutional issues as well as litigating appellate cases dealing with search and seizure and confessions. He will use his humorous but information rich presentation to address constitutional issues commonly encountered in homicide investigations.

Dan Feucht retired from a combination of Law Enforcement and a Teaching Instructor career in June of 2011 after serving for 35 years. Dan is a certified adjunct law enforcement/forensic science instructor with Wisconsin Training and Standards Board. Since retirement, Dan is a consultant/instructor for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, the American Prosecutors Research Institute, the Wisconsin State Patrol, and the US Attorney’s Office – Northern District of Indiana Project SAFE Neighborhood Program Initiative. He is currently coordinating, developing, and implementing several forensic science programs state and nationwide. Dan is a part-time evidence custodian with a local police department and a certified part-time police officer with another local police department. He continues to attend specialized training courses annually to improve his teaching methods/major crime scene field applications and keep up to date on the latest forensic science technology techniques and guidelines.

Prior to retirement, Dan has developed/implemented/coordinated and instructed numerous Law Enforcement, EMS, Corrections, Fire Departments, In-Services, and Federal Grant major crime scene management/evidence technician trainings locally, statewide and nationally. Dan has co-researched/developed, implemented and coordinated the only state of Wisconsin online two-year Forensic Science Associate Degree program for Fox Valley Technical College.

Brad Ruff - DCI Special Agent, Technical Services Unit is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville where he received his degree in Criminal Justice. After graduation he was appointed as a Special Agent with the Division of Criminal Investigation in 1987 where he has been employed for the last 29 years.

Brad worked for 8 years conducting narcotics investigations before moving to the Technical Services Unit. He is one of the special agents trained on the operation of the cellular geolocation equipment and IP based camera systems along with other specialized electronic surveillance equipment for DCI. He is a member of the National Technical Investigators Association and teaches covert surveillance applications across the state to law enforcement and prosecutorial personnel.

Harry Hertel is an attorney with Hertel Law, S.C., of Eau Claire. His practice focuses on criminal defense and plaintiff’s personal injury, and he has appeared in court in 48 of Wisconsin’s 72 counties. He has represented the defendants in several high profile homicide cases. Mr. Hertel will provide insight as to how to prepare a case to withstand the scrutiny that will come with defense theories and cross examination.

Watch for more information on these and other new classes, including Patrol and Jail Continuing Education.

911 Homicide: Analyzing Calls

This 16 hour seminar will train the investigator to recognize cues in the words and demeanor of the person calling 911, in determining if the caller is the perpetrator of the crime being reported.

May 1 – May 2 M Tu 8a-5p $95
WITC-New Richmond Dep. Chief Tracy Harpster
To pre-register, complete the form and (pick one method):

- fax this form to WITC: 715-234-5172
- mail this form to: Jamie Warnberg, WITC, 1900 College Drive, Rice Lake, WI 54868
- email this form: Fill in information, save file, attach to email and send to: jamie.warnberg@witc.edu
- Register online at: https://access.witc.edu/forms/lawEnforcement.php

**Important:** By enrolling in classes, you agree to be responsible for the payment of related tuition and fees according to the college payment policy. Should you choose not to attend a class, you will need to drop it prior to the day it begins to avoid any charges. Any drops that occur on or after the first day of class will result in tuition charges to your account. Failure to pay your tuition bill can result is suspension of registration and records access, collection agency action and additional collection fees added to your balance.