



## 2026 Forensic Fire Death Course

Dear Students,

Welcome to the **2026 SLO FIST, Inc. Forensic Fire Death Investigation Course!** We're excited to have you join us for this immersive, scenario-based training designed to strengthen your skills in fire-related fatality investigations. Your participation contributes to advancing best practices in interdisciplinary fire and death scene analysis.

This year's course will take place in **San Luis Obispo County from Monday, June 29th, through Friday, July 3rd, 2026.** Throughout the week, you'll work as part of a team to investigate a realistic fire death scenario, culminating in a brief PowerPoint presentation to be delivered in class on **Friday, July 3rd.**

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### **Location**

#### **Classroom Location (Hotel Lectures):**

The first day of class and all in-hotel lecture sessions will take place at:

*Embassy Suites by Hilton*  
333 Madonna Rd  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405  
United States

#### **Burn Site Location (Field Exercises):**

Your scenario-based fire investigation will take place at the following location:

*1666 Tehama Ave.*  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405  
United States

Please ensure you have appropriate transportation to and from both locations as needed.

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## **Registration in the Embassy Suites Lobby**

- **Early registration:** Sunday, June 22nd, from **4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**
- **Regular registration:** Monday, June 23rd, from **7:00 AM – 8:00 AM**

Please arrive early to check in, receive your materials, and prepare for the day.

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## **Classroom Dress Code**

Please wear comfortable clothes for the classroom portion of the course. Business casual is recommended but not required. Department uniforms are optional and not required.

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## **Items to Consider Bringing to Class**

To participate safely and effectively in field operations, we recommend bringing the following:

- Brush jacket or long-sleeve shirt (to protect your arms)
- Quality leather gloves
- Clear eye protection glasses
- Quality leather shoes/boots (for protection against fire debris, mud, nails, etc.)
- N95 mask or equivalent
- A hard hat or fire helmet typically used in your investigations
- Laptop computer
- Sun and weather protection (hats, sunglasses, etc.)- The weather can vary greatly between cool (lows of 40°F) and foggy in the mornings and **very hot** (highs of 100°F+), and dry in the afternoons. You will be in the sun for most of the field work- a pop-up tent for shade is provided.

### *Optional Equipment*

You are welcome to bring any professional tools and gear you typically use in fire and death investigations, including:

- Biohazard suits (you will come into contact with human remains)
- Long-handled tools
- Evidence markers
- Evidence cans- (All evidence collection will be simulated)
- Scene documentation equipment
- Ignitable liquid detection equipment (including dogs), X-ray, etc.

A stocked tool cache will be available at the site, including **some evidence packaging and many biohazard handling supplies** needed for your scenario.

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## **Student Handouts**

Student handouts, course materials, and scenario instructions will be provided electronically during registration and on the first day of class. These include:

- Daily schedule
- Lecture outlines
- Supplemental reference materials

You must bring your **laptop computer (or equivalent)** to access and complete these materials as part of your investigative assignment, team presentation, and final exam.

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## **Digital Cameras and Video Policy**

To maintain the integrity of the training environment and ensure respect for MERI and the body donors involved, please follow the policy below:

*Department-issued cameras are allowed for photography. Department-issued cameras will be inspected at the end of each day. Media cards will be distributed by the Assistant Proctor and must be returned to them at the end of the day. Basic digital cameras can be provided for your scenario if necessary.*

***NO** photographs/videos may leave the SLO Training Grounds without prior approval. Personal phone, cameras, or videos are **not** permitted in the field/hot zone to protect MERI and body donors.*

## **Food Provided**

Breakfast will be provided daily by the hotel for those staying at the Embassy Suites.

SLOFIST will provide lunch each day of the course and will host a Meet and Greet event on Tuesday, 5:30 pm-7:30 pm.

If you have dietary restrictions or food allergies, please include this information in your registration form. We will make every attempt to accommodate your needs, but please note that we **cannot guarantee** that all requests will be met. We encourage you to plan accordingly.

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We will be providing additional course details, including daily schedules and contacts. If you have any questions in the meantime, please refer to the [FAQ section of the SLOFIST.org](#) website and do not hesitate to reach out.

We look forward to working with you during this dynamic and rewarding training experience!

Best regards,

**SLO FIST, Inc.**

Forensic Fire Death Investigation Course Team

[info@slofist.org](mailto:info@slofist.org)