

THOMAS J. LEPPER

SUMMARY:

Over sixteen years experience as a consultant, inspector and tester within the automotive industry. More than ten years experience as a forensic automotive consultant for nationally known insurance companies and law firms. Qualified to testify in the Superior Court for the State of California.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

Specialist in automotive component analysis in the areas of:

- **Tire Separations and Failures**
- **Brake Systems and Failures**
- **Theft and Forced Entry Issues**
- **Fire Cause and Origin**
- **Transmissions**
- **SDM interrogation with CDR Tool**
- **Steering and Suspension Systems**
- **Seat Belt and Air Bag Issues**
- **Mechanical Defects**
- **Throttle/Unwanted Acceleration Issues**
- **Wiring and Electrical Issues**
- **Racetrack / Racecar Incidents**

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND LICENSES

- Southern Association of Technical Accident Investigators
- California Conference of Arson Investigators (CCAI)
- Sports Car Club of America (S.C.C.A.) National Competition License
- Sports Car Club of America (S.C.C.A.) Pro Competition License
- National Auto Sports Association (N.A.S.A.) Pro Racing License
- Completed over 800 hours towards California Private Investigator's License

EDUCATION:

Automotive and Aviation Safety, Systems and Design

Education

University of California, Irvine, California

Completed double major course work

Additional Accredited Training: (Partial List)

- **ARC – CSI Crash Conference – Las Vegas, NV June, 2004**
- **Institute of Police Technology and Management – University of North Florida**
 - CDR Tool – User Certification Course – February 11-14, 2004
- **California Conference of Arson Investigators** *Most recent: 20 hours training in Advanced Fire/Arson Investigation*
- **Lee S. Cole Automotive Fire School**

Additional Accredited Training: (Partial List) – Con't

- **National Police Training Institute:** Tire Failure and Analysis
- **Southern Association of Technical Accident Investigations**
 - Mechanics of Low Speed Impact (Actual Demonstrations)
 - Accident Reconstruction

- **National Institute of Forensics Studies:** Traffic Accident Scene Documentation and
- Damaged Vehicle Inspection Methodologies

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY:

1993 – Present, FORENSIC, AUTOMOTIVE FIRE, BRAKE AND TIRE EXPERT

Automotive consultation has been preformed for are major nationwide insurance companies, nationally known rental car companies, and law firms. Consultations have included but not limited to:

- Investigation of vehicle failures and defects: including brakes, transmission, fuel, and suspension systems, tires - including tread separations and other manufacturing defects, air bag and seat belt issues, fire cause and origin, wiring issues, and theft
- Qualified witness in Superior Court, State of California
- Conducted and participated in over 5,000 investigations consisting of field inspection and scene measurement
- Report and correspondence generation
- Documentation review and analysis
- Extensive photograph and video experience

1987 – Present, CONSULTANT, VEHICLE/TIRE SPECIALIST

- Independent tire testing and design consultant for Toyo Tires, Goodyear Tires, Tokico Shocks, and B.F. Goodrich Tires

1986 – 1988, OWNER, TOAD HOLLOW AUTO REPAIR

- Full service car auto repair facility located in Martinez, California
- Race car design and preparation

1978 – 1982, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

- Race car driver, race car technical inspections, technical race car performance, repair and development work

1975 – 1985, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

- 1983 – 1985, **UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**, Instructor
- 1980 – 1981, **FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**
Air Traffic Control, Oakland Center/Ocean Ocean
- 1975 – 1978, **UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**
Fully licensed and certified tower and RADAR control; officer/foreign instructor