

Forensic Engineering Credentials – Why NAFE Membership is Important

In my 20+ year forensic engineering career, numerous insurance adjusters and attorneys have honored me by asking for a referral. While I am a civil/structural engineer in Georgia, they may have a need for another type of engineer (electrical, mechanical, etc...), or an engineer in a far-away state. The one thing they always emphasize is that they need an engineer with experience in the legal world; someone who is not right out of college; and someone that has been tested by adverse council. For every referral, I start by recommending someone who is a Member with the National Academy of Forensic Engineers (NAFE).

Members of NAFE are Board Certified by the Council of Engineering & Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB) as Diplomates in Forensic Engineering. At a minimum the NAFE - Member forensic engineer you are hiring is a thoroughly vetted licensed Professional Engineer (PE), has five years of PE experience, two years of forensic engineering experience, has prepared at least two cases, and has provided courtroom testimony at least twice. Senior Members and Fellows are more experienced. Just like other professions, to be Board Certified means that your work is peer reviewed, and you exchange knowledge with other experienced forensic engineers.

Just like doctors, accountants, and other licensed professionals, forensic engineers do not need to be Board Certified to offer their services. There are many forensic engineering firms with forensic engineers you could hire that are not Board Certified. But then, why would you with so much at risk?

When nothing can be left to chance; when your file demands an expert forensic engineer that has proven they can work through the legal system, consider a NAFE Member.

www.nafe.org

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