



News Release

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Public Safety Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arson Dogs Going “Back to School” This Week

State Fire Marshal’s Office Hosting Event

Baton Rouge, LA - Furry, four-legged fire investigators from throughout North America and as far away as Hawaii are in Baton Rouge this week for training and recertification.

At least 40 arson dog teams, which are specially trained to detect trace amounts of ignitable liquids at fire scenes to help solve arson crimes, are in town conducting their annual recertification. This event is being hosted by the State Fire Marshal’s Office, which currently has four (4) accelerant detection canine teams, three (3) of which were provided through the State Farm® Arson Dog Program.

In the United States, arson and arson-related fraud constitute two of the most expensive property claims for insurers, with billions of dollars in damage being inflicted each year. Even worse, arson kills hundreds of people annually—forever changing the lives of many families and friends, which is why State Farm® partners with law enforcement agencies across the United States to provide this very valuable crime-fighting asset.

Beginning Tuesday, October 13, 2015, arson dog teams and their handlers from at least 17 states, the District of Columbia, and 2 Canadian provinces, will perform live demonstrations to detect ignitable liquid substances such as gasoline, kerosene, and lighter fluid at a simulated fire scene.

Insurance fraud costs the property/casualty insurance industry—and its customers—about 30 billion dollars a year, the National Insurance Crime Bureau estimates. On average, these losses add 200 – 300 dollars annually to insurance premiums paid by homeowners.

Since starting the Arson Dog Program in 1993, State Farm® has provided funding to train more than 350 dog and handler teams in 44 states, the District of Columbia, and 3 Canadian provinces.

The media is invited to meet the arson dog teams at the St. George Fire Training Facility, located at 14100 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, on Wednesday, October 14 at 10:30 a.m.

For more information about the Arson Dog Program visit the Web site at: www.arsondog.org