

# State Farm® Arson Dog Program Key Messages

State Farm Insurance Companies®  
Corporate Headquarters  
One State Farm Plaza  
Bloomington, Illinois 61710

## Key Messages

- The Arson Dog Program has a direct impact on deterring arson related crimes.
- Public education on arson, arson investigation and fire prevention through community outreach programs is essential to providing safer communities.
- State Farm's sponsorship of this program parallels with the values and characteristics it strives for as a good corporate citizen and is a perfect complement to State Farm's good neighbor values.
- More information can be found by visiting [www.arsondog.org](http://www.arsondog.org).

## Arson Dog Program Facts

- Program established in conjunction with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in 1993 through the sponsorship of State Farm.
- Arson is a very serious problem as each year hundreds of lives are lost and millions of dollars in property damage occurs as a result of arson. It is important that law enforcement officials have every tool possible to combat this costly and sometimes deadly crime.
- It's important to educate the public on the problem of arson. Through community outreach programs it is possible to generate awareness of this program.
- The K-9s are all Labrador Retrievers because:
  - Labrador Retrievers have a superior ability to discriminate scents at a fire scene.
  - The nose of a lab can smell in parts per quintillion.
  - Labs generally have a good disposition and an outgoing personality.
  - Labs are very active and have a "love to work" type attitude.
- K-9s are chosen through a cooperative program with "seeing eye dog" organizations for the blind, as well as through local animal shelters, humane societies, and private individuals.
- K-9s are trained using the food reward method.
- K-9s are trained and certified through the Maine State Criminal Justice Academy. The K-9s and handlers are required to complete a five-week training course. Upon graduation of the course the handler and K-9 become a certified hydrocarbon arson dog team.
- The Maine State Criminal Justice Academy is renowned for its training of K-9s and its national reputation in law enforcement investigation.
- Nearly 350 teams have been placed in 44 states, District of Columbia and Canada.
- Teams (K-9s and handlers) are required to be recertified every year to remain a certified Arson Dog Team.

## Definition of Arson (NFPA)

- There are three definitional elements:
  - Intention to start a hostile fire, which is a fire that threatens harm and has no socially condoned purpose;
  - What (or who) is harmed; and
  - Strength of proof

