



# Canine Accelerant Detection Association

## CADA'S position on "Testifying to Negative Samples"

The Canine Accelerant Detection Association (CADA) does not support, nor do we recommend, Accelerant Detection Canine Handlers testifying in criminal or civil court to the presence of an ignitable liquid without having received confirmation through laboratory analysis.

CADA is the oldest national organization dedicated solely to the use of accelerant detection canines, and we encourage all ADC Handlers (public and private), and all Prosecutors and Attorneys to follow the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 921, Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations which states - "Any canine alert not confirmed by laboratory analysis should not be considered validated."<sup>1</sup>

NFPA 921 also states - "Research reveals that most classes of compounds contained in ignitable liquids may be produced from the burning of common synthetic materials."<sup>2</sup> This being the case, our position is that no Prosecutor, Attorney or ADC Handler should ever testify or encourage testimony that an ignitable liquid is present without confirmation through laboratory analysis.

Accelerant Detection Canines (ADCs) are a valuable tool for fire investigators to call upon during fire scene examinations. ADCs should be utilized on a regular basis, as they serve at least two very important functions:

1. To help locate trace evidence of ignitable liquids and thus, secure samples with a higher probability of laboratory confirmation than samples collected without the canine's assistance.
2. To help eliminate the presence of ignitable liquids as a potential fuel source in the area of origin.

CANINE ACCELERANT DETECTION ASSOCIATION  
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS  
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<sup>1</sup> NFPA 921 2011 Edition – Chapter 16: Sec. 16.5.4.7.1

<sup>2</sup> NFPA 921 2011 Edition – Chapter 16: Sec. 16.5.4.7.4