



Canine Accelerant Detection Association

CADA'S position on the use of the term "Arson Dog"

The Canine Accelerant Detection Association (CADA) does not support, nor do we recommend, the use of the terms "Arson Dog", "Arson Canine", or any other terms using the word "arson" to describe canine teams utilized in the fire investigation process. Canine teams certified by CADA are trained to locate Ignitable Liquids, often referred to as "accelerants." Canines cannot determine whether a fire is arson or accidental, and cannot determine the point of origin.

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.

CADA is the oldest national organization dedicated solely to the use of accelerant detection canines, and we encourage all ADC Handlers (public and private), Administrators, and Insurance Companies and their Representatives, to discontinue the use of the terms, Arson Dog, or Arson Canine, when referring to Accelerant Detection Canines. ADCs being referred to as Arson Dogs, or Arson Canines, is misleading and continues to perpetuate the myth that Canines are capable of locating a fire's origin or determining a fire's cause. It also leads some to believe a fire is arson if the Canine is present on a fire scene.

CANINE ACCELERANT DETECTION ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JULY, 2012