

Memorandum



DATE: November 7, 2014

TO: Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee:
Sheffie Kadane (Chair), Adam Medrano (Vice Chair), Dwaine Caraway, Jennifer S. Gates,
Sandy Greyson, Scott Griggs

SUBJECT: **Accelerant Detection K9 Program**

On Monday, November 10, 2014, you will be briefed on the Accelerant Detection K9 Program. The briefing materials are attached for your review.



Eric D. Campbell
Assistant City Manager

Attachment

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council



Accelerant Detection K9 Program

Public Safety Committee
November 10, 2014



Canines (K9) in the Fire Service

1700's: Dalmatians for the horses

Mechanized Age:
Dalmatians as station mascots

Dallas' best known mascot: "*Maynard*" at Fire Station # 23



K9 Mattie



1980: First Accelerant K9 Study

“Accelerant” - ignitable liquids that hasten the development of fire to commit arson.

Mechanical Detectors



Portable Devices

- Used by DFR
- Detects hydrocarbons in parts per million (PPM)
- Discriminates Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

Advanced Devices

- Used by DFR & State Fire Marshals Office
- Detects chemicals in parts per billion (PPB)
- Analyzes chemical compositions

K9's as Detectors



- Used by DFR
- Detect ignitable liquids in parts per quadrillion (PPQ)
- Scent discrimination of ignitable liquids from fire products
- Pin point location
- Cost \$6 - \$10,000 for trained accelerant K9

2002: K9 Ashly joins DFR

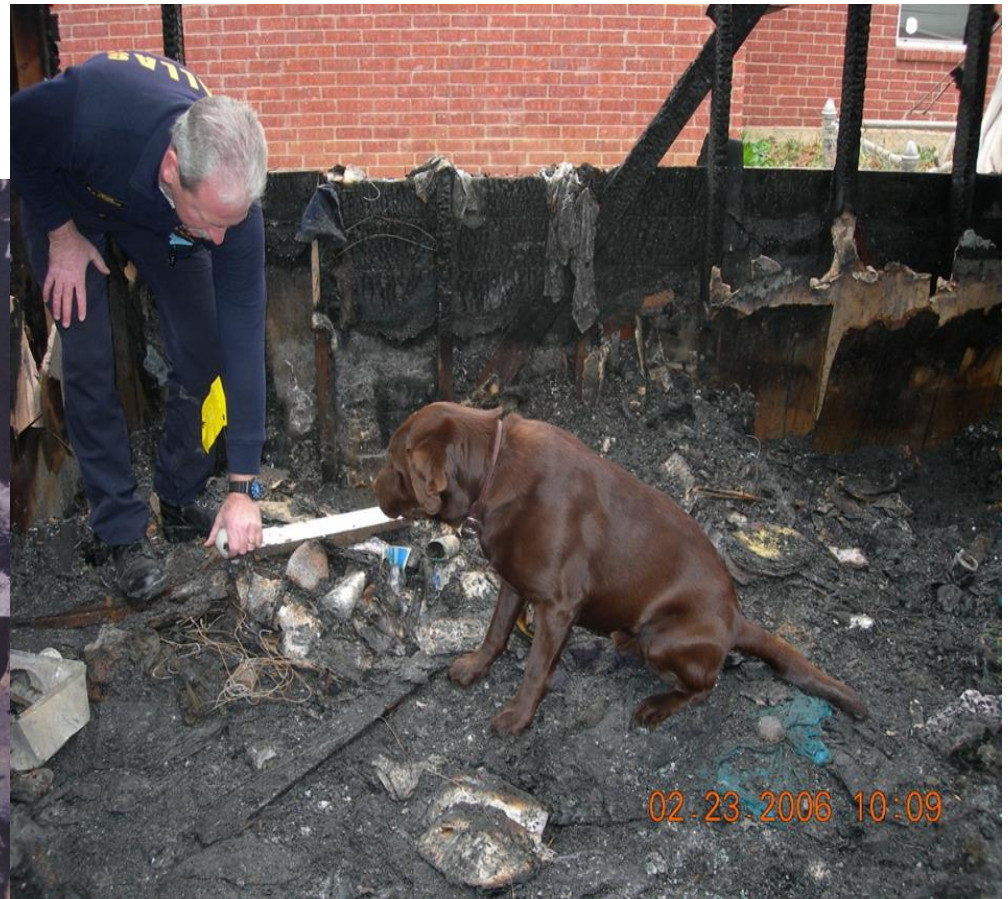


2004: K9 Gunnar joins DFR



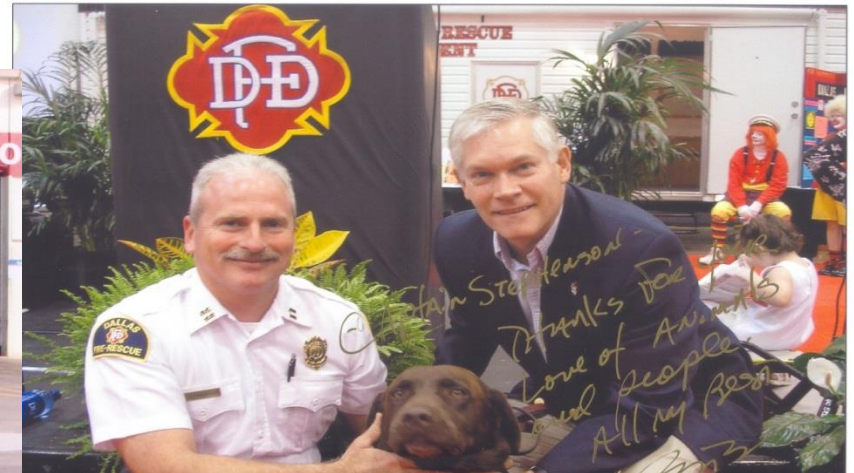
2002 to 2013

- 1300+ fires



- 97% positives

Community



Ambassadors



Media

Always a hard day's work for just a pat on the head



DAMON WINTER/Staff Photographer

Ashly, an accelerant-detection dog with Dallas Fire-Rescue's arson squad, was a friendly neighborhood stray until Section Chief Debra Mullins offered to be her handler. "She has a maturity that goes far beyond her years," Ms. Mullins said.

Sniffing out causes for Dallas' worst blazes

Fire department finds asset in smart stray with gift for smelling trouble

By FRANK TREJO
Staff Writer

One valuable member of the Dallas Fire-Rescue department doesn't get paid, at least not in dollars.

Her reward for a hard day's work

is usually a handful of doggie treats and a pat on the head.

Ashly, a 2-year-old Labrador-collie mix, is a frequent fixture at fire scenes throughout Dallas. That's because Ashly, in fire department lingo, is an accelerant-detection canine, a dog capable of sniffing out almost two dozen materials that can be used to set fires.

That's not bad for a pup who was homeless for the first six months of

her life.

This week, Ashly celebrates one year of sniffing for the department. And her success has surprised even Ashly's most ardent supporter, Fire-Rescue Section Chief Debra Mullins, who is the dog's handler.

"When we first got her, I thought she would help out a little, but we didn't count on the fact that she was

See FIRED-UP Page 2B

FIRE DOGS

The Canine Accelerant Detection Program of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is based on findings that a canine can:

- Be trained to respond to accelerant odors.
- Be more sensitive to accelerant odors than field detection devices.
- Tell the difference between accelerants and similar chemicals that occur normally during a fire.

SOURCE: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

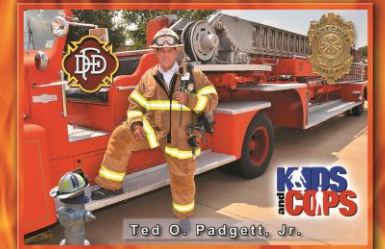
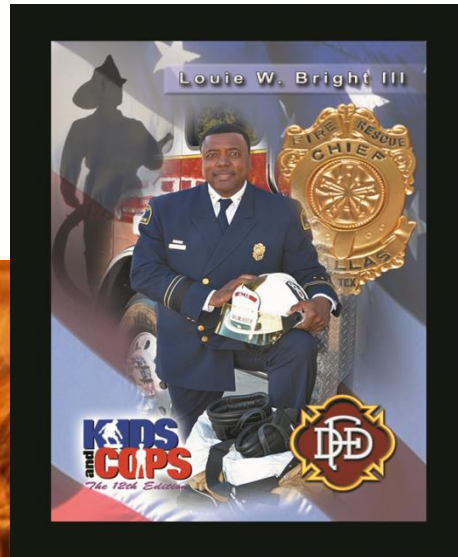
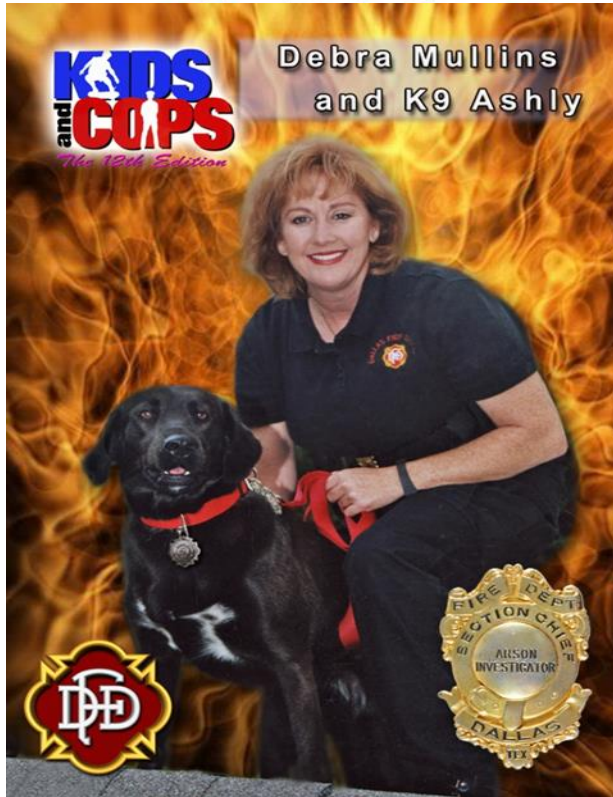


FIRE DOG HEROES

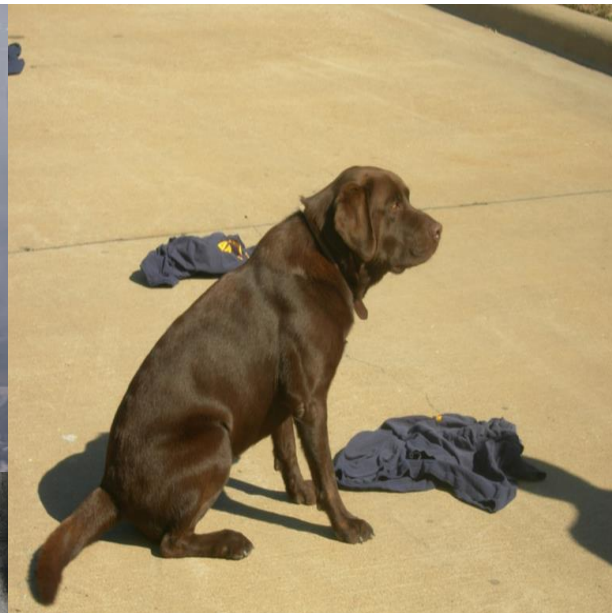


Linda Bozzo

KIDS and COPS



Cost & Savings



August 2012

- Ashly & Gunner set to retire
- Public Safety Committee recommends the following:
 1. Fund K9 program
 2. Purchase new Accelerant K9
- DFR obtains forfeiture funds
- Specifications developed with the help of:
 1. Department of Homeland Security
 2. National K9 Program
 3. State Fire Marshal Office K9 Program
- City bid process initiated



DFR on the Hunt

- January 2013: K9 selected for DFR for \$8500
(Price includes K9, K9 training and handler training)

Kasseburg Canine Training Center

- 27 years experience
- All staff members - law enforcement and canine trainers
- K9s must pass difficult selection criteria testing
Only 10% of dogs tested meet requirements
- 98% of selected K9s pass prescribed course of training
eliminating loss of training time/manpower associated with
other training programs



Belgian Malinois or Belgian Shepherd

- Active, friendly, protective and hard-working
- Energy levels that are among the highest of all dog breeds
- Excessively high prey drive
- Enjoy being challenged with new tasks
- Working dog for tasks including detection of odors such as explosives, accelerants, and narcotics
- Known as being very easy to obedience train due to high drive for rewards.





*Please welcome DFR's
newest Arson employee:*

Kenna

- Dutch for **“Born of Fire”**
- DOB: January 2012 in Holland
- Trained for accelerant detection
- Handler – Capt. Stephenson
- Obtained certification May 2013 and placed into service

Training Session Video with Captain Stephenson and Kenna



Questions?

