



## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGER

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## News Release

### County to Apply for Accelerant Detection Canine

**January 4, 2016, Monroe, NC** – Union County Emergency Services will apply for an accelerant detection canine from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). If the application is approved by ATF, one employee of the Fire Marshal's division will undergo training and serve as the dog's handler.

Currently, there are only three accelerant canines in North Carolina, two NC-SBI canines in the Asheville and Raleigh areas and one ATF canine in Wilmington.

An accelerant canine will enhance the Fire Marshal's ability to more rapidly determine the presence of flammable or combustible liquids at fire scenes, reducing the hours investigators spend on scene. The canine will help fire investigators conduct more thorough inspections of "black hole" fires and assist in the detection of ignitable liquids, which makes fire scenes safer for investigators who won't need to remove respirators to detect ignitable liquids. Fire samples will also be processed quicker by state laboratories since ATF and SBI canines receive the highest priority.

The Union County Sheriff's Office will provide general veterinarian services, except injury or sickness, for the canine, and the City of Charlotte Arson Task Force will provide up to \$2,000 annually for five years to assist in offsetting costs, such as food. Emergency Services will provide the funds needed to purchase a dog carrier to transport the canine.

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