

## **Collision Repairers Provide Vehicles For First Responders and K9 Partners**

*Vehicle unveiling and arson dog demos scheduled during Arson Awareness Week May 1-7 by National Auto Body Council Recycled Rides™ and State Farm® Arson Dog Programs.*

OAK CREEK, WI ([PRWEB](#)) May 03, 2016 -- With wildfire season approaching, collision repairers in several states are teaming up through the National Auto Body Council's Recycled Rides™ and the State Farm® Arson Dog Program to provide critical and reliable transportation for first responders and their K9 partners as part of 2016 Arson Awareness Week, May 1-7.

Vehicle donations and Arson Dog demo events will be held this week at:

- Raleigh, NC – on the Capitol grounds Wednesday, May 4, at 2:30 pm
- Fresno, CA – at Caliber Collision, 125 E. Auto Center Drive Friday, May 6 at 11:00 am

Accelerant detection canines – known as arson dogs – are trained to sniff out minute traces of accelerates (gasoline, lighter fluid, etc.) that may have been used to start a fire. With limited resources, most fire departments, especially those in rural areas, do not have a dedicated vehicle for the arson dog team that would allow them to more effectively and efficiently respond to the scene of a fire.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, 86% of the 10 million acres of wildfires last year were caused by people, whether intentional or as a result of human negligence. To raise awareness about the impact of arson and to improve the ability of police and fire departments to investigate fires, State Farm and National Auto Body Council members have already or will be donating Recycled Rides vehicles to the following fire departments:

- New Bern Fire and Rescue in North Carolina for use by Fire Marshal Danny Hill and K9 Darby. Vehicle repairs and modifications were made by Caliber Collision in Raleigh, NC.
- Eastern Sierra Arson Task Force for use by Fire Investigator Jeff Schwing and K9 Remington throughout southeast California. Vehicle repairs and modifications were made by Caliber Collision in Fresno, CA.
- Ocala Fire Department in Florida for use by Roseanne Moreland and K9 Gracie. Vehicle repairs and modifications were made by Jenkins Collision Center in Ocala, FL.
- Maine Specialty Dogs for use by trainer Nicole Dyer to transport arson dogs to training. Vehicle repairs and modifications were made by Gerber Collision & Glass in Elkhart, IN.
- Beaver Falls Fire Department in Pennsylvania will receive a vehicle later this summer for use by Fire Investigator David Seidl and K9 Patty. Vehicle repairs and modifications are being made by Scotsman's Collision in Mt. Sinai, NY.

The vehicles were donated by State Farm and repaired and modified by technicians at the participating collision repair centers who volunteered their personal time as a community service. Parts, materials and services to refurbish the vehicles were donated by numerous other collision industry businesses. Since the inception of Recycled Rides in 2007, the collision industry has collaborated to donate over 1,000 vehicles valued at more than \$12 million to individuals and service organizations in need.

“Lack of reliable transportation can be challenging, whether you are a first responder investigating a possible crime scene or an individual struggling daily to take care of your family,” said Chuck Sulkala, Executive



Director of the National Auto Body Council. “We are proud to team up with State Farm, Caliber Collision, Gerber Collision, Jenkins Collision and Scotsman’s Collision through Recycled Rides to help make a difference in local communities and to showcase the professionalism and integrity of the collision industry.”

Each year billions of dollars in property and hundreds of lives are lost as a result of intentionally set fires, according to Heather Paul, Public Affairs Specialist for State Farm® Safety & Innovation.

“State Farm is committed to helping to provide the necessary resources to combat the severity and impact of arson on businesses and public safety,” said Paul.

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#### About the National Auto Body Council:

The National Auto Body Council (NABC) develops, implements and promotes community-based initiatives that exemplify the professionalism and integrity of the collision repair industry. Members of the National Auto Body Council are recognized and acknowledged as responsible businesses that give back to the communities they serve. NABC community service programs include its signature Recycled Rides™, First Responder Emergency Extrication (FREE™) and the Distracted Driving Initiative.

For more information, contact the National Auto Body Council at 1-888-667-7433 or at [www.NationalAutoBodyCouncil.org](http://www.NationalAutoBodyCouncil.org). Visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NationalAutoBodyCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/NationalAutoBodyCouncil). The NABC’s Twitter feed is @AutoBodyCouncil.

#### About State Farm

The mission of State Farm is to help people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected, and realize their dreams. State Farm and its affiliates are the largest providers of auto, home and individual life insurance in the United States. Its 18,000 agents and more than 65,000 employees serve more than 82 million policies and accounts – nearly 80 million auto, home, life, health and commercial policies, and nearly 2 million bank accounts. Commercial auto insurance, along with coverage for renters, business owners, boats and motorcycles, is available. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company is the parent of the State Farm family of companies. State Farm is ranked No. 41 on the 2015 Fortune 500 list of largest companies. For more information, please visit <http://www.statefarm.com>.



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