



# ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
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## **ATF NATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM ACTIVATED TO YAKIMA**

YAKIMA, Wash. -- The National Response Team from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) along with ATF special agents from Seattle, Wash., have entered the investigation of a large commercial fire that occurred July 5 at the Baron Jacques Von Speyer Condominiums.

ATF deployed the National Response Team (NRT) at the request of the Yakima Fire and Police Departments. Kelvin N. Crenshaw, Special Agent in Charge of ATF in Seattle, said the complex consisted of 18 condominium units within two buildings, and was still under construction. Early damages estimates were put at \$2.6 million.

ATF developed the NRT in 1978 to assist federal, state, and local investigators in meeting the challenges faced at the scenes of significant arson and explosives incidents. The NRT consists of four teams organized geographically to cover the United States. Each team can respond within 24 hours to assist state and local law enforcement /fire service personnel in onsite investigations.

In addition to investigating hundreds of large fire scenes, the NRT has also been activated to scenes such as the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the Oklahoma City Federal Building Bombing, and the Sept. 11, 2001, Pentagon crash site, as well as explosions at explosives and ammunition manufacturing plants, legal fireworks factories, and illegal explosive device manufacturing operations.

Each team is composed of veteran special agents who have post-blast and fire origin-and-cause expertise; forensic chemists; explosives enforcement officers; fire protection engineers; accelerant detection canines; explosives detection canines; and intelligence, computer forensic and audit support. The teams work alongside state and local officers in reconstructing the scene, identifying the seat of the blast or origin of the fire, conducting interviews, and sifting through debris to obtain evidence related to the bombing/arson.

Further complementing the team's efforts are technical, legal, and intelligence advisers. Moreover, a fleet of fully equipped response vehicles strategically located throughout the United States is available to provide logistical support.

This Yakima deployment is the 18th NRT activation in FY 2007 and the 635th since the program began in 1978. More information on ATF is at [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov).

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