



News Release



Kansas City Field Division

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ATF NATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM ACTIVATED TO HEREFORD HOUSE FIRE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The National Response Team from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) along with ATF special agents from its Kansas City offices have entered into the investigation of a large commercial fire that occurred this morning at the Hereford House Restaurant located at 2 East 20th Street, Kansas City, Mo., at the request of the Kansas City Fire Department.

ATF Assistant Special Agent in Charge Tom Atteberry said that the structure was severely damaged and early estimates of damages are in excess of \$1 million.

ATF's National Response Team (NRT) has brought definitive expertise and an array of state-of-the-art equipment to the investigation of major fire and explosives incidents since 1978. Four regional components, organized geographically to cover the United States, comprise the NRT. The team can respond within 24 hours to assist state and local law enforcement or fire service personnel in onsite investigations.

The responding NRT component normally has 13-18 members, including veteran special agents who have fire origin-and-cause and post-blast expertise; forensic chemists; explosives enforcement officers; fire protection engineers; accelerant detection canines; explosives detection canines; and intelligence, computer forensic and audit support. A fleet of fully equipped response vehicles strategically located throughout the United States provides logistical support.

ATF's partnership with federal, state and local officers is vital to the most effective processing efforts at an explosives or fire scene. The NRT capitalizes on that by working alongside its partners in reconstructing the scene, identifying the seat of the blast or the origin of the fire, conducting interviews and sifting through debris to obtain evidence related to the explosion or fire.

In addition to investigating hundreds of large fire and explosives scenes, the NRT trucks were deployed for the 2001 terrorist attack on the Pentagon, the Olympics and

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other major sporting events in the United States, presidential inaugurations and the national political conventions, and major international conferences.

This is the first NRT activation in fiscal year 2009 and the 659th since the program began in 1978. Other agencies involved in the investigation are the Kansas City Fire Department and the Kansas City Police Department.

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