



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Boston Field Division

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ATF NATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM ACTIVATED TO MAINE FIRE

ARUNDEL, Maine – The National Response Team from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) along with ATF special agents from the Portland office of ATF's Boston Field Division have entered the investigation of a large commercial fire that occurred Feb. 14 at DMR Boat Builders in Arundel.

The NRT was deployed following a request from the State Fire Marshal. David Brown, Resident Agent in Charge of ATF Portland, said that the approximately 8,200 square foot structure, located at 865 Old Post Road, was destroyed and early estimates of damages are in excess of \$2 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 with 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 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. 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 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 scale fire and explosives scenes, the NRT trucks were deployed for the 2001 terrorist attack on the Pentagon, the Olympics and other major sporting events in the United States, presidential inaugurations and the national political conventions, and major international conferences.

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This is the seventh NRT activation in fiscal year 2007 and the 625th since the program began in 1978. Other agencies involved in the investigation are the State Fire Marshal and the Arundel Fire Department.

ATF is the federal agency with jurisdiction for investigating major fires and crimes of arson. More information on ATF and its programs is at www.atf.gov.

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