

NH State Fire Marshal's Office



K9 Pal

K9 Molly

Safety Educator

Meet the FMO K9's!



Interviewer: Tell us about your job.

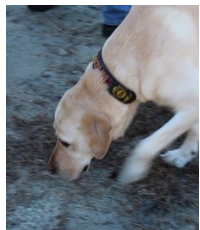
K9 PAL: We work for the NH State Fire Marshal's Office. We are accelerant-detection canines, but you can call us arson dogs or K9s. We even get to wear a badge!

What is an accelerant?

K9 MOLLY: An accelerant is a fancy word for a liquid used to start a fire and make it burn quicker. This is unsafe and can cause injuries and damage to property.

How do you detect arson?

K9 PAL: Arsonists are people who set fires. After the fire burns out, my handler (or human partner) and I go to the fire scene. If there is even a trace of accelerant, we can sniff it out. Trust me, our noses know arson.



K9 MOLLY: When we alert at a fire, this is where my handler comes in. My handler will collect a sample, put it into a sealed container and send it to the crime lab for analysis. There the science guys will test it and confirm (or deny) the use of an accelerant.

What kind of dog can be an arson dog?

K9 PAL: Most, if not all, arson dogs are Labrador Retrievers. We make excellent arson dogs because we have a super ability to discriminate among smells at a fire scene. PLUS we have a strong desire to work and please our handlers and we get along well with people.

Do you go through special training to become an arson dog?

K9 MOLLY: We do! We have to go through 200hrs of training with our handlers to become certified to earn our badge. Then, every year we must be tested and recertified. That is important because it helps establish my credibility should evidence I find be submitted in court.

K9 PAL: When we go through arson school we are trained to recognize the odor of accelerants and associate it with food. We are what they call a food-reward dog. The ONLY time we eat is when we are working.

K9 MOLLY: What that means is, even on days when we are not going to a fire scene, several times a day our handlers train with us and say, "Let's go to work." As soon as they strap on the food pouch and I hear those words, I'm ready. Whenever I sniff out an accelerant, I sit and point to it with my nose. My handler rewards me with a handful of dog food.

K9 PAL: We do this every day and I always get enough food. I just never know when I'm going to get it. That helps keep me motivated to work. But don't worry! My vet says I'm in great shape and it is actually healthier for me to eat several small meals a day instead of one or two large ones like most nonworking dogs.


[LEARN MORE](#)


Molly's Minute Reminders



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF K9 MOLLY...

My handler and me!



Posing for the media. I like talking about my job.



Working public outreach event. I love educating kids.



Off duty, relaxing at home.

PAL'S POINTS

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF K9 PAL...



K9 Pal



My handler and me!



Sniffing my way through the day is my job!



Public Outreach Events are fun!



Off duty, relaxing at home.





**New Hampshire State
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Message from Fire Marshal Degnan:

Arson is not only a violent threat towards individuals but towards personal property as well. The New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office has effectively used accelerant detection canines (K9s) since the mid 1990's to combat the violent crime of arson throughout New Hampshire. These K9s provide assistance to investigations in all seven regions throughout the state. Currently, the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office has two K9s canines and Manchester Fire Department has one. K9s assist in closing arson cases and can cover an entire fire scene in 30 minutes, which could take an investigator an entire day. K9s locate more accurate evidence samples by reducing the amount of costly analysis by the laboratory. Therefore, the dogs save the department and community both time and money. We are extremely fortunate to have k9s on our team. Should you see suspicious behavior K9 MOLLY and K9 PAL want to encourage you to please contact your local police department, fire department or the NH State Fire Marshal's Office.



J. William Degnan
J. William Degnan
NH State Fire Marshal



STUDENT & PARENT Approved Websites

K9 MOLLY and K9 PAL encourage students to disconnect and enjoy safe outdoor play, however we dogs understand that sometimes the weather just doesn't cooperate. So, when it comes to computer time, try one of these family fun fire and life safety websites. Just click a picture below to open the links and play. Have fun and be safe!



Find Us on the Web:

www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/



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Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter please feel free to contact:

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