



Photo by OP

500 F Street NW - DC Fire Department Engine Company 2

Ashes to Answers

National Fire Dog Monument



Ashes to Answers



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The National Fire Dog Monument is located at 5th and F streets NW, across from the National Building Museum, and behind District of Columbia fire department's Engine Company 2. The memorial honors dogs trained to investigate arson and are handled by law enforcement agents. The plaque under the statue explains that Fire Dogs "search for evidence to reflect the truth" and "reduce the negative impact of arson in their communities." The black lab who modeled for the statue is K-9 agent Sadie, the 2011 Arson Dog of the Year.

Before it was unveiled here, the National Fire Dog Monument went on a cross-country tour, going on display in eight cities over 15 days. The sculpture was created by Austin Weishel, a Colorado artist, and titled "Ashes to Answers".

Fire dogs are useful for ruling out arson as the cause of a fire. A canine has 300,000,000 scent receptors, while a human has around 400. Because of this incredible sensory capability, trained arson dogs can discover mere drops of accelerant at the scene of a fire. Since 1993, 435 teams of fire dogs have been trained nationwide. DC fire department has two fire dog teams.

Arson dogs are trained to work with a human handler and find evidence at fire scenes. The dogs are searching for accelerants such as gas, oil or fuel used to start fires. All fire dogs in the United States are trained by State Farm, the only insurance company in North America that provides funding for the training of arson dog teams. The State Farm Arson Dog Program is available to fire departments and law enforcement agencies across the United States.