



NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release

JD Chism, Denver FD - PIO
24 Hour Press Information: 720-913-3522
Email: john.chism@denvergov.org

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Denver Fire Department (DFD) Badges its Second Accelerant Detecting K9

DENVER- Today, Deputy Chief Kathleen Vredenburg, presented Peaches, the newest accelerant detecting K9, with her DFD Badge.

The use of canines in the fire service dates back to the eighteenth century when horses were used to pull steam pumpers. Dalmatians were used to keep horses company in their stables and to calm them at fire scenes. As time progressed and the fire service evolved into motorized apparatus, the role of the Dalmatian soon diminished into that of a fire department mascot.

Today, as in history, man's best friend is playing an important role in the fire service to assist fire/arson investigators in locating evidence in the form of trace amounts of ignitable liquids. Termed Accelerant Detection Canines, these animals have provided substantial assistance to agencies around the world.

Peaches is the second accelerant detecting K9 in recent history for the DFD. She is replacing Cora who served in the role from 2017-2021.

In October of 2022, Peaches and her handler attended an intensive training with The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Canine Program. ATF trains both explosives and accelerant detection canines. The dogs are trained for a variety of federal law enforcement agencies, as well as state and local law enforcement agencies. Peaches recently completed a rigorous 16-week training program at ATF's National Canine Academy in Front Royal, Va. The National Canine Academy's trainers worked with Peaches for the first six weeks of her training, teaching her to detect trace amounts of all types of low explosives, such as smokeless and black powders, and high explosives, such as dynamite and TNT. Peaches' handler, Don, joined her for the last ten weeks where they trained as a team.

Peaches and Don have been working together since completing their training at the end of 2022, and today we were able to officially welcome Peaches to the Denver Fire Family as she received her official Denver Fire Department Badge.

For additional information you may email Denver Fire Department PIO, Captain JD Chism, at john.chism@denvergov.org or by phone on the new 24/7 media line at 720-913-3522.
