

## ***MEDIA ALERT***

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### **NEWS CONFERENCE WITH DEMONSTRATION**

#### **RITZEY joins force to help sniff out the cause of fires *Arson Dog to be introduced as the newest member of the KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT***

**WHAT:** Deputy Dale DeKorte and his new partner K-9 Ritzey will be introduced as the newest members of the Arson Investigation Team for the Kent County Sheriff Department at the Sheriff's Office on Tuesday, October 29, 2013. K-9 Ritzey is a certified Arson Dog trained to sniff out accelerants used to start fires. Ritzey will showcase her abilities by doing a demonstration at the event.

State Farm® has been a sponsor of the Arson Dog Program since 1993. Ritzey is one of more than 300 arson dog teams in the United States and Canada sponsored by State Farm and trained by Maine Specialty Dogs. These arson investigation teams assist local and state law enforcement officers investigate fires.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), there were over 41,500 intentionally set fires in 2009 causing over \$792 million in damage. Arson dogs played a key role in determining the cause of many of those fires.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013, @ 10:00 AM,

**WHERE:** Kent County Sheriff's Office, EOC Conference Room  
701 Ball Avenue, NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
MAP - <http://accesskent.com/Sheriff/maps.htm>

**WHY:** Every third fire reported in Michigan is arson/suspicious costing Michigan residents over \$166 million last year alone.



*Kent County Sheriff  
Deputy Dale DeKorte  
and new K-9 Arson  
Dog Ritzey*