

## HANDLER SELECTION POLICY

9443

(February 2002)

The canine program and qualifications are based upon the Accelerant Detection Canine Section. All requirements and standards for canine assignments are described in the Accelerant Detection Canine Section, and will be made initially available to all applicants.

Canine assignments will normally be available to any assigned fire prevention staff who have been assigned to fire prevention for a minimum of two years. After certification, candidates must agree to remain in the handler program a minimum of two (2) years.

Employees wishing to participate in the canine program shall be evaluated using the following criteria:

- The candidate shall certify that they have read the Accelerant Detection Canine Section and are aware of the responsibility and requirements of a canine handler.
- Evaluation of background information received from the [Accelerant Detection Canine Handler Application](#) and the most recent Employee Performance Appraisal with an overall rating of standard or above.
- Successful demonstration of basic capabilities by performing simple obedience exercises with a trained accelerant detection canine under the direction of the Region Senior Arson & Bomb Investigator and a certified California State Fire Marshal detection canine handler.

Candidates will be on training status for six (6) months following selection and must become certified with the canine within that period. An approved training facility will certify teams upon completion of the required training. Any delays on behalf of the Department or the training facility in providing training shall not apply toward the six (6) month training period.

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[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)