



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Los Angeles Field Division

Contact: Elaine Kwong, PIO
Office: (818) 265-2507
Cell: (213) 925-4547

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ATF NATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM ACTIVATED TO INVESTIGATE SAMMY'S WOODFIRED PIZZA

SAN DIEGO – The National Response Team (NRT) from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) along with ATF special agents from the Los Angeles Field Division have entered the investigation of an explosion and fire that occurred July 29 at Sammy's Woodfired Pizza, located in Carlsbad, Calif.

John A. Torres, special agent in charge of ATF's Los Angeles Field Division, said, "ATF's National Response Team was just here three months ago working side by side with members of the Los Angeles City Fire Department on the Basque Night Club fire investigation. They are here again because our local counterparts, the Carlsbad Fire Department, know that we have a lot of unique tools we can bring to the investigation. ATF values the cooperation we have with the Carlsbad Fire Department in this joint investigation."

ATF's NRT, which arrived on the scene today, has brought definitive expertise and an array of state-of-the-art equipment to the investigation of major fire and explosives incidents since 1978. Four regional components, organized geographically to cover the United States, comprise the NRT. The team can respond within 24 hours to work with state and local law enforcement or fire service personnel in onsite investigations.

The responding NRT component normally has 13-18 members, including veteran special agents who have post-blast and fire origin-and-cause expertise; forensic chemists; explosives enforcement officers; fire protection engineers; accelerant detection canines; explosives detection canines; and intelligence, computer forensic and audit support. A fleet of fully equipped response vehicles strategically located throughout the United States provides logistical support.

ATF's partnership with federal, state and local officers is vital to the most effective processing efforts at an explosives or fire scene. The NRT capitalizes on that by working alongside its partners in reconstructing the scene, identifying the seat of the blast

or the origin of the fire, conducting interviews and sifting through debris to obtain evidence related to the explosion or fire.

In addition to investigating hundreds of large fire and explosives scenes, the NRT was deployed for the 2001 terrorist attack on the Pentagon, the Olympics and other major sporting events in the United States, presidential inaugurations and the national political conventions, and major international conferences.

This is the 17th NRT activation in fiscal year 2008, and the 656th since the program began in 1978.

ATF is the federal agency with jurisdiction for investigating fires and crimes of arson. More information on ATF can be found at www.atf.gov.

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