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**News Release | For Immediate Release**

## **First Responder and K9 Partner Receive Gift of Transportation during Arson Awareness Week**

**RALEIGH, NC (May 4, 2016)** — With wildfire season approaching, Caliber Collision- in Raleigh teamed up with State Farm® Arson Dog Program to provide critical and reliable transportation for a first responder and his K9 partner as part of 2016 Arson Awareness Week, May 1-7.

The vehicle presentation was made today at a ceremony on the Capitol courtyard lawn to New Bern Fire Marshal Danny Hill and K-9 partner Darby. The event was attended by State Fire Marshal and Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin who addressed the importance of arson awareness and local efforts to combat the serious crime that destroys countless property and lives every year.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, of the 10 million acres of wildfires nationwide last year, 86% was caused by people, whether intentional or as a result of human negligence. North Carolina ranked third in the nation in wildfires last year with 3,828 wildland fires that burned 15,220 acres.

Their Ford F150 truck was donated by State Farm and repaired and modified by Caliber Collision as part of its Recycled Rides program in which collision industry companies collaborate to provide transportation to individuals and service organizations. Caliber technicians volunteered their personal time as a community service.

Accelerant detection canines – known as arson dogs - are trained to sniff out minute traces of accelerants (gasoline, lighter fluid, etc.) that may have been used to start a fire. With limited resources, most fire departments, especially those in rural areas, do not have a dedicated vehicle for the arson dog team that would allow them to more effectively and efficiently respond to the scene of a fire.

“Our highest purpose at Caliber collision is to restore the rhythm of life for our customers and the communities we serve. Providing a vehicle to help improve the ability of our fire departments and



arson dog teams to investigate fires is one of the ways we give back to our community,” said Todd McGowan, Caliber Vice President of Operations.

State Farm has funded 360 arson dog teams across the country.

“Each year billions of dollars in property and hundreds of lives are lost as a result of intentionally set fires,” said Heather Paul, Public Affairs Specialist for State Farm® Safety & Innovation. “State Farm is committed to helping to provide the necessary resources to combat the severity and impact of arson on businesses and public safety,”

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**ATTACHED PHOTO BY CALIBER COLLISION:** *New Bern Fire Marshal Danny Hill with his new Ford F-150 truck from Caliber Collision and State Farm and K9 partner Darby who is more interested in his gift of food and treats.*

**About State Farm®:**

The mission of State Farm is to help people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected, and realize their dreams. State Farm and its affiliates are the largest providers of auto, home and individual life insurance in the United States. Its 18,000 agents and more than 65,000 employees serve more than 82 million policies and accounts – nearly 80 million auto, home, life, health and commercial policies, and nearly 2 million bank accounts. Commercial auto insurance, along with coverage for renters, business owners, boats and motorcycles, is available. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company is the parent of the State Farm family of companies. State Farm is ranked No. 41 on the 2015 Fortune 500 list of largest companies. For more information, please visit <http://www.statefarm.com>.

**About Caliber Collision Centers**

Caliber Collision is one of the largest collision repair companies in America with 392 I-CAR Gold Class Professional certified collision repair centers across 14 states. Caliber is consistently ranked among the highest customer satisfaction scores in the industry and backs all repair work with a written, lifetime warranty available at any of its 392 repair centers. For more information about Caliber Collision, please visit our website at [www.calibercollision.com](http://www.calibercollision.com) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

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