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Liberal Fire Department Brings in Outside Entities to Help with Investigation

The Liberal Fire Department is trying to wrap up the Rent A Center fire with the most thorough investigation possible. Wednesday Liberal fire investigators teamed with other outside agencies including an accelerant sniffing dog on loan from the Topeka Fire Department. Liberal fire chief Kelly Kirk says they want to do this right. "The outside agencies have access to expertise, things like this accelerant sniffing dog and testing processes that we don't have access to," Kirk said. "It's just a way for us to supplement our resources. In this case we'll also be working along side the private investigators hired by the insurance company by the owner of the building. There are two investigations going on concurrently but working together and supporting each other's findings. Our goal is to investigate this fire, determine it's cause and make the proper reporting and bring it to a proper conclusion." Fire investigator Rusty Vollintine from the Topeka Fire Department brought Boomer the golden retriever to help investigate. He says the dog can help. "The dog is trained to detect ignitable liquids. Ignitable liquids that someone would use to accelerate a fire such as gasoline, diesel fuel, and the broad range of hydro carbons," Vollintine said. The fire engulfed Rent A Center at the Coronado Plaza in north Liberal Monday morning.

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