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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut Science Center Opens New Fire Investigation Exhibit ***Between the Lines- Fire Forensics* opens for February School Vacation**

Hartford, CT (February 20, 2012) – Just in time for February school vacation, the Connecticut Science Center will open a new exhibit that proves things aren't always as they appear at first glance. Based on a real-life fire investigation, the exhibit, *Between the Lines - Fire Forensics* tests our assumptions and guides visitors to use the Scientific Method to see if the fire was accidental or arson, with a surprising conclusion.

Part "whodunit" and part science lesson, the exhibit was developed through a year-long collaborative partnership with the forensic experts of The Travelers Companies, Inc. Travelers has an industry-leading engineering lab as part of its Connecticut operations. The exhibit uses a real-life scenario and unveils the facts of the case to reveal the truth behind the claim.

"This exhibit is a great example of how science intersects with so many aspects of our lives and is fundamental to many occupations and industries, including insurance and finance." said Matt Fleury, Connecticut Science Center President and CEO, "By taking visitors through a process of testing assumptions, we reveal the scientific process and its crucial role in problem solving. The exhibit also exposes kids to career paths in unlikely places, and inventions that improve our quality of life."

Between the Lines-Fire Forensics explores the science behind insurance investigations using an actual case study with compelling video and interactive components. It leads visitors through the investigative process from evidence collection to fire pattern analysis and arc mapping. Visitors choose from a menu on a touch-screen monitor that guides them through a house fire investigation to determine the cause. An actual sample from the fire scene contains clues as to the fire's origins to help you in your conclusions. Samples of circuit breakers show the improvements made to fire safety devices that are outcomes of fire investigations.

"Science is something we use every day at Travelers to help us understand how damage occurs," said John Machnicki, Vice President and Director of Travelers Engineering Laboratory. "We're pleased to work with the Connecticut Science Center on this exhibit and give patrons an inside look at fire investigations and how science comes to life."

This exhibit is one of many ways that Travelers has partnered with the Science Center since its opening in 2009. The exhibit is a permanent installation and will be located in the Travelers Invention Dimension Gallery on the Science Center's fifth floor. The exhibit is designed to be refreshed periodically to feature other investigative cases. *Fire Forensics* and more than 150 other hands-on and minds-on exhibits are included with Connecticut Science Center General Admission or Membership. For more information, please visit www.CtScienceCenter.org.

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About the Connecticut Science Center The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Visitors experience over 150 exhibits in ten galleries and a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store and café, and ongoing events and lectures for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. More information: www.CTScienceCenter.org or 860.SCIENCE.