MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

Search Dog Team Certification Standard
Appendix B

Certification Tests: Air Scent for Wilderness Search

I. Application
  A. These tests apply to a Type II, Kind A search dog team which performs air scent searches in wilderness locations (per ASTM F1848-98, "Standard Classification for Search and Rescue Dog Crew/Teams.)
  B. Dog teams currently certified by another agency or organization may request certification under this standard.
    1. The field evaluation requirements of the standard under which the team was certified must equal or exceed those defined in this standard.
    2. The applicant shall be responsible for documenting or demonstrating this equivalency.
    3. If the field evaluation requirements of the alternate certification standard equal or exceed this standard, the dog team may be certified as an Air Scent for Wilderness Search team.
    4. The Standards Committee reserves the right to require that, upon request, a team demonstrate that it can pass any one, or all, of the tests defined below.

II. Certification Tests
  A. Heavy brush search
    1. The dog team shall demonstrate that it is able to find one search subject in an area of approximately 40 acres of lightly rolling topography with at least 2/3 of the area covered with heavy brush. Heavy brush is defined as vegetation that significantly slows down the handler's progress and restricts visibility to an average of 30 feet.
    2. The subject(s) shall be in the search area a minimum of 20 minutes before the team begins searching.
    3. The test shall be completed in 3 hours or less.
  B. Night search
    1. The dog team shall demonstrate that it is able to find one search subject in an area of approximately 40 acres of moderate terrain covered with light brush or open woods at night.
    2. The subject(s) shall be in the search area a minimum of 20 minutes before the team begins searching.
    3. The test shall be completed in 3 hours or less.
  C. Trail search
    1. The dog team shall demonstrate that it is able to find one search subject on a trail.
    2. The trail shall be between 1/2 and 1 mile in length in moderate terrain.

3. The search subject shall be hidden within 50 feet of the trail.
4. The search subject shall fulfill one of the following conditions:
   a) Be hidden upwind of the trail
   b) Have walked down the trail and hidden downwind.
   c) Have crossed the trail and hidden downwind.
5. The search subject shall be in position at least 20 minutes before the search test begins.
6. The dog team shall be limited to one pass down the trail and back.

D. Large area search
1. The team will search two 40-acre areas on the same day for this test.
2. Both areas shall have moderate terrain.
3. Both areas shall be covered with vegetation including grass, light to heavy brush, and/or tree cover, but shall be relatively easy to navigate and traverse.
4. Each area will have 1 or 2 subjects in it. The number of subjects in each area will be determined by a coin toss by the evaluator prior to the start of the test:
   a) Heads means one subject
   b) Tails means two subjects
5. The subject(s) shall be in the search area a minimum of 20 minutes before the team begins searching.
6. The team shall have 2-1/2 hours to search each area.
   a) This time does not include the team's travel time between areas.
   b) This time does not include subject "set times", e.g. the time needed for search subject(s) to move between the areas, get into position, and rest for at least 20 minutes before the test resumes.
   c) Time not spent in the first area may not be used to increase the time available to search the second area.
7. The handler must correctly state the number of subjects in the first area before proceeding to the second area.
8. When both areas have been searched, the team must have located all the subjects and the handler reported the correct number of subjects in each area to pass the search test.
9. The handler shall be informed of the number of subjects in an area only after the search in that area is finished.