

TYPE 4 RESOURCE FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Appendix “E”

Disaster Dogs and handlers must be trained and tested in order that user agencies are ensured they are getting a quality dog team that can operate safely in a disaster incident. Training and testing are inseparable. Quality cannot be tested into a dog team. Testing of the team serves only as a quality control measure. Training is at the core of the validity of a disaster dog team and is the foundation of that team’s service.

Handler Training

ICS 100

Hazardous Material Awareness

Collapse Structure Awareness

****Additional Training may be required as the SAR USAR Teams are developed**

Canine Training

The basic skills are to be evaluated as the team becomes competent in each skill. Each skill will be tested twice, on two different days, within a four-week period, in different areas and on different equipment (if applicable). The evaluation of these skills will be selected by the agency or organization. The handler will request an evaluation on a selected skill(s) and may choose to be tested on one or more skills during a testing session. Each evaluation of a skill will be tested in an area not used by the team for training. The team must pass two consecutive evaluations in order to have “passed” that skill. The team does not need to test all skills at a testing period, but rather they may test as they train for a particular skill.

After testing and passing a skill the handler must demonstrate the skill once per year to an evaluator and log the evaluation into their logbook. All skills must be completed within a one-year period.

When the team has passed two skill evaluations the team is eligible to take the Rubble Search Evaluation. Once the team has passed the Rubble Search Evaluation it must re-certify every two years by passing the Rubble Search Evaluation.

Element 1 – Obedience

- **Rationale:**
 - The canine must be under the control of the handler at all times, capable of heeling through crowds and non-aggressive to both people and other canines. The canine, for its safety, must be responsive to an emergency stop command. The long down/wait evaluates the reliability and calmness of the canine when the handler is not in sight.

- **Required Skills**
 - Non-aggressive to stranger.
 - Non-aggressive to canine on Figure 8.
 - Heels through crowd, with turns and changes of pace.
 - Emergency Stop.
 - Stays on long down/wait for five minutes.

- **Aggression Testing:**

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- One canine shall be tested at a time. The handler will tie out the canine and leave it unattended. The handler will then proceed to a designated area out of the canine's sight. After a minimum of one minute out of sight, a stranger will untie the canine and return the canine to the handler.
- A canine shall be capable of completing a Figure 8 around two handlers with their canines (post team) on lead, sitting at their side and spaced about eight feet apart. The testing team shall complete the pattern, on loose lead defined as the clip pointing to the ground, passing within two feet of each of the post teams.
- **Heeling Off Lead:**
 - The team must perform the following commands as directed while heeling off lead through a group of not less than five milling people. Heeling is defined as the canine maintaining position at either side of the handler so as to be attentive to the handler and under the handler's control at all times. Additional or repetitive commands are acceptable.
 - Right turn
 - Left turn
 - About turn
 - Halt
 - Change of pace (normal, fast, slow)
- **Emergency Stop**

The evaluators will establish a 25-yard course with a designated "stop" marker placed in the first half of the course. This marker may vary in location at each evaluation site. The handler will start the canine at the entry point and give the emergency stop command at the designated stop marker. Once the stop command has been given, an immediate change of gait is required and the canine must come to an immediate stop. The canine may stand, sit or drop in response to the stop command. The canine will remain stationary until released or called by the handler at the direction of the evaluator.
- **Long Down/Wait for Five Minutes**

The canine may be placed next to the handler's pack and at least five feet away from any other canine. Upon direction from the evaluator, the handler shall give the canine the wait/stay command and the handler will proceed to a designated area out of the canine's sight. The canine must be under the supervision of a monitor. Time starts when the evaluator states, "leave the canine." The canine may sit, stand, or shift position, but shall not move more than a body length in any direction from where the canine was placed until the handler returns to the canine. After five minutes, the evaluator will direct the handler to return to the canine. The handler may signal the canine to stay, if needed, while returning. The exercise is complete when all handlers have returned to their canines and the evaluator states, "exercise complete." Handlers will not be allowed to reward the canine until the "exercise complete" command is given.
- **Suggested Course Layout**

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The course shall consist of an appropriately sized area that has been cleared of hazards to the canine, so it can perform the identified exercises. The designated handler area must be established to permit an efficient return when summoned.

Element 2 – Wilderness Alert Behavior

- **Rationale:**
 - The area search dog may use its trained alert. Penetration and digging is desired to help identify the scent source. However, when the canine is searching, the bark alert is the only alert behavior that can be recognized from out-of-sight in hazardous areas where it is unsafe for the handler to enter.
- **Required Skills:**
 - The dog must demonstrate the Area Search Alert sequence. (Which could be a bark alert.)
 - The canine shall perform the “re-find and show me” behavior and lead the handler to the victim’s location.
 - If the canine performs a bark alert at **the victim’s location**, the canine must stay with the victim until the handler arrives.
 - The handler cannot communicate with the canine after indication of scent. The dog should work independent of the handler.
- **Handler Information:**
 - The team will have five minutes to perform the exercise. The marked starting point will be 25 yards from the victim location. The handler will remove the canine’s leash before the exercise begins. The canine may be given a hand signal and voice command to send the canine to the victim’s location. If the canine does not go directly to the victim’s location, the handler may use additional commands, as necessary, to direct the canine to the victim’s location. The handler may not move from the starting position.
 - The handler may direct the canine toward the victim’s location but once the canine has committed to the victim’s scent, the handler may not communicate with the canine in any way. The canine must perform the re-find alert behavior and report to the handler and lead the handler to victim or if the canine has committed to the victim’s location by barking, it must remain focused for 20 seconds and stay at the victim’s location.
 - There will be two official timers. One timer will start timing the total exercise as soon as the handler sends the canine. The wilderness dog will perform the trained alert behavior by reporting to the handler and then lead the handler to the victim’s location.
 - The second timer will time the bark alert for **20 seconds** starting with the first bark. The handler will be told when he or she may go to the canine in the case of the bark alert. The canine will not be allowed access to the victim. When the exercise is over the handler may praise the canine, put on the leash and quickly leave the area.
- **Suggested Course Construction:**
 - A victim’s location will be set up in as isolated an area as the site permits. The location should be made/constructed of a material that can be buried in a dirt bank to give the optimum control of scent (example: barrels, concrete sewer pipe, etc.). Ideally, scent should

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only be detected from the front. There should be a slightly recessed, snug fitting cover with holes at the bottom for scent to escape. This cover may have a handle/grab bar on the inside for the victim to hold, or it may be securely taped in place.

- The starting point shall be measured and clearly marked. This distance is to be 25 yards from the starting line to the victim's location.
- **Victim Placement:**
 - The victim shall be in place at least ten minutes before the canine is deployed.

Element 3 – Direction and Control

- **Rationale:**
 - In order to search areas the handler may not access or to avoid hazardous areas, the canine must demonstrate the ability to be directed and controlled by the handler. The canine should respond to audible and/or visual signals.
- **Required Skills:**
 - Goes up on each required elevation at the direction of the handler.
 - Waits on elevation until directed by handler.
- **Handler Information:**
 - The handler will remove the canine's leash before the exercise begins.
- **Directability:**
 - On the first go out, the canine must go onto a specified elevation without getting on any other elevation. The handler may stop the canine and redirect or recall the canine and restart as many times as time allows. If the canine goes on the incorrect elevation first, the canine must be recalled and restarted. This applies to the first direction only.
 - The team will have three minutes to complete the course. The evaluators will designate which elevation the canine shall be sent to (right, left or center) first. The handler will direct the canine to a series of elevations. The canine must go onto these elevations and stay there for five seconds. The canine may sit, stand, or lie down. The handler may give multiple commands.
 - The elevations may consist of two or three different types of objects.
 - The canine will be directed to four or five designated elevations and stay for five seconds on each elevation, ending the exercise with a recall to the handler. (See the canine directability diagram.) Diagonals will only be used to and from the starting position.
- **Suggested Course Construction:**
 - The course will be laid out with three elevations in a row and spaced 15 yards apart. The area should be uncluttered, clear as possible of any confusing elevations. The start shall be a four foot base line or starting line that is clearly marked: See diagram.

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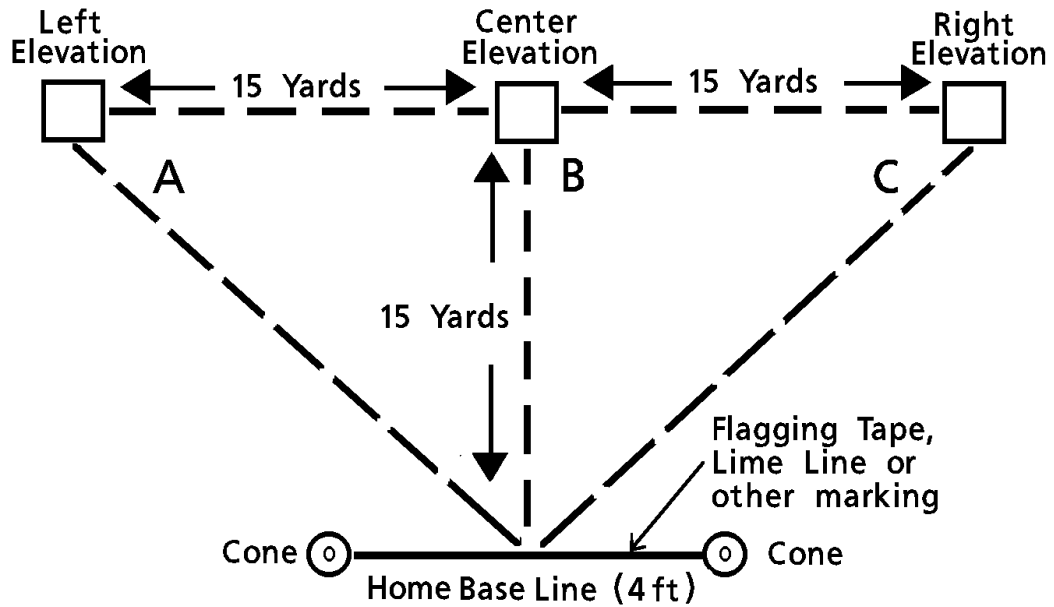
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- The center elevations shall be 15 yards from the starting line. All other elevations shall be 15 yards from the center elevation.
- The elevations should be clearly visible to the canine. Elevations should be approximately 36" X 24", 10" to 20" high, and stable.

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CANINE DIRECTABILITY TYPE 4



— — — Indicates possible Course Pattern

A, B or C Indicate possible Initial Course Send-Out

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Element 4 – Agility

- **Rationale:**
 - In order to safely search rubble for victims, the canine must acquire certain specific skills and overcome some of its natural instincts. It may be dangerous to jump off moving objects. The canine must learn it is possible to balance or gain control of a moving object by using its body weight and gravity. In order to maintain traction on slippery surfaces, the canine must learn to spread its toes and not dig in with its toenails. It is very important the canine learn to place each foot deliberately and independently on rubble. Agility training will give the canine confidence on rubble. The canine should be able to search rubble without being overly concerned about its safety.

- **Required Skills:**
 - Completes five of six obstacles, including the four mandatory obstacles.
 - Demonstrates a stop on any obstacle.
 - Canine precedes handler.

- **Handler Information:**
 - This will include the following obstacles: Ladder, plank walk elevated six feet, slippery/wobbly surface and a tunnel with right angle turn. Additionally, select two of the following: A moving barrel plank walk, seesaw, and an object that requires the canine to crawl on its belly.
 - The team shall have five minutes to complete the agility course.
 - The handler will be directed to the clearly marked beginning of the course. The handler shall remove the canine’s collar and leash before starting. The course should be run in the sequence as numbered. However, if a canine refuses an obstacle, at the handler’s discretion, the team may complete the course and re-attempt the obstacle in the remaining time. The canine should work as independently as possible following the handler’s direction. Multiple commands are permitted.
 - The canine should negotiate the obstacles confidently and carefully.
 - The canine should negotiate the obstacles under handler control.
 - Once the canine has started an obstacle, the handler may follow behind the canine’s rear legs.
 - If the handler precedes the canine. The evaluator will instruct the handler to restart the canine on the obstacle. The handler may lift the canine off the obstacle or turn it around to restart. The canine is allowed three attempts to complete each obstacle, if time permits.
 - The handler may slow, stop or encourage the canine as needed, and may assist the canine, if needed, for safety reasons. Any physical assistance will require a restart.
 - The handler shall demonstrate his ability to command the canine to stop and turn on one obstacle.

- **Obstacles (* = Mandatory Completion):**
 - * An 8-foot ladder (flat or round rungs) secured at a 45-degree angle.

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- * A plank elevated at least 6 feet off the ground. The plank is to be stable, 2 inches x 12 inches wide and 12 feet long.
- * 3-foot high slippery / wobbly surface
- * A dark, narrow tunnel/passageway containing at least one right angle turn. The canine should not be able to see through the tunnel to the end. The canine should fit into the tunnel without crawling.
- Choose two of the following:
 - A seesaw (16 feet long by 12 inches wide plank on a 55-gallon drum).
 - A moving plank suspended on two barrels (12 feet long by 12 inches wide).
 - Object that requires the canine to crawl on its belly (must be adjusted to approximately one half the height at the withers of each canine).
- **Course Construction**
 - A new agility course will be constructed for the test.
 - The goal should be to demonstrate the canine’s ability to perform the required skills as well as the canine’s confidence in the handler and willingness to undertake unfamiliar agility obstacles.
 - The course shall be constructed to include six obstacles out of the listed obstacles.
 - The course may be set up as six separately constructed obstacles or as a combination. If two or more obstacles are combined, the canine must have the opportunity to pass each of the obstacles independently. The obstacles must be designed to test the canine on the elements described.
 - The course should be designed in such a way that the canine can precede the handler.
 - Obstacles should be numbered clearly to correspond with the Skills Sheet.
 - The following obstacles must be included in the course:
 - Ladder at 45 degree angle
 - Plank elevated (6 feet high).
 - Unsteady slick / wobbly surface.
 - Tunnel with right angle.

Element 5 – Rubble Pile

- **Rationale:**
 - The rubble search demonstrates the ability of the team to integrate all the previously evaluated elements, in a realistic, simulated disaster environment.
- **Required Skills:**
 - Interview techniques (uses Interview Checklist).
 - Responsive to handler direction and control.
 - Canine searches independently.
 - Canine alerts on two victims with no false alerts by demonstrating the area search alert or the bark alert.
 - Informs evaluator of canine’s alert/location of each scent source.
 - Canine’s agility – The ability to negotiate and search rubble in a safe, confident manner.
 - Handler’s agility – Handler demonstrates the ability to negotiate rubble in a safe manner and without assistance from other personnel.

- **Handler Information:**

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- The handler will remove the canine's collar and leash. If a bringsel is used the handler should provide a break-a-way collar for safety reasons.
- **Interview Checklist:** At a minimum, the following questions are to be asked during the briefing/interview process.
 - What time did the structure collapse?
 - What type of occupancy was the structure (house, office, apartment bldg., etc.)?
 - What is the number of suspected missing persons?
 - Has this structure been searched before?
 - Have any victims been removed?
 - Have the utilities been secured? How and by whom?
 - Gas
 - Electric
 - Water
 - Is there a basement?
 - Are there any known hazards?
 - Is Heavy Rescue available?
 - Is Medical available?
 - Is there a veterinarian available?
- There shall be five minutes for the briefing/interviewing process. The team shall be allowed 15 minutes to search the rubble for two victims. The handler should inform the evaluators of the search strategy. Evaluators may or may not be positioned on the pile while the canine is searching. The handler may not access the rubble pile in any areas identified as inaccessible. The handler shall direct the canine to search the area. The evaluator team will be in attendance during the briefing. Evaluators will then proceed to predetermined locations to view the rubblework before the team's 15-minute time starts.
- The handler may direct the canine to search but shall not encourage the canine's alert. The canine will be required to demonstrate the alert behavior, area search or bark alert.
- The handler will have full access to the search area and may direct/control the canine for the time allotted. The handler may reward the canine with a toy or food on the rubble.
- **Course Construction:**
 - There should be new and unused victim locations created for the evaluation. The evaluators must have a clear view of the canine's work.
 - The rubble site shall have a minimum average height of five feet and consist of an area of 2000 to 2500 square feet. It should consist of a mixture of materials common to disaster sites. Banner tape is to be used to reduce the search area when larger rubble piles are being used.
- **Victim Placement**
 - The victim(s) shall be well concealed from both the handler and the canine.
 - The hiding areas shall be carefully constructed to prevent canines from accessing the victim(s).
 - The hiding areas shall be checked and approved by a safety officer.
 - Rubble pile will have two victim locations.

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- All victim(s) will have a radio with an earpiece (if available) and shall be monitored on a constant basis by a safety officer.
- The victim(s) must be in place 20 minutes before the canine is deployed.

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Skills Sheet –Element Performance and Evaluation Form Guidelines

The evaluators shall consider the following list of key skills in determining the team's success for each of the elements.

Obedience

- Non-aggressive to stranger in absence of the handler.
 - Did Not Complete Canine demonstrated aggression.
 - Completed Canine does not demonstrate aggression.
- Non-aggressive to canine on Figure 8 pattern.
 - Did Not Complete Canine demonstrated aggression.
 - Completed Canine does not demonstrate aggression.
- Heels through crowd, with turns and change of pace.
 - Did Not Complete Does not maintain heel, distracted.
 - Completed Maintains heel, attentive to handler.
- Emergency Stop.
 - Did Not Complete Does not show an immediate change in gait and does not stop immediately.
 - Completed Shows immediate change in gait and stops immediately.
- Long Down/Wait for five minutes.
 - Did Not Complete Does not stay five minutes/ moved from designated area.
 - Completed Stayed for the required time within the designated area, with additional commands that are allowed.

Area Search Alert Behavior or Bark Alert

- Demonstrates wilderness alert or barks repetitively for 20 seconds.
 - Did Not Complete Did not demonstrate a trained search alert or required bark alert.
 - Completed Demonstrated a trained search alert or required bark alert.
- Stays at the victim's location or barrel after indication of scent. (If bark alert.)
 - Did Not Complete Leaves after indication.
 - Completed Stays after indication.

OR

- Wilderness alert or leads handler to victim's location.
 - Did not complete Does not lead the handler to the victim's location.
 - Completed Leads the handler to the victim's location.
- Handler does not communicate with the canine after indication of scent.
 - Did Not Complete Handler communicated after indication of scent.
 - Completed Handler does not communicate after indication of scent, independent work.

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Direction & Control

- Went up on the elevation.
 - Did Not Complete Does not go up on the elevation.
 - Completed Went up on the evaluation.

- Waits on the elevation until directed by the handler and completes the course in time allowed.
 - Did Not Complete Does not wait until directed. Runs out of time.
 - Completed Leaves the elevation when directed. Completes in allowed time.

Agility

- Completes required obstacles under handler's control.
 - Did Not Complete Does not complete five obstacles (Including the four required).
 - Completed Completes five (including the four required).

The following shall be evaluated for each obstacle.

- Canine precedes handler.
 - Did Not Complete Handler precedes or leads the canine.
 - Completed Handler directs or walks behind the canine.

- Demonstrates a "**STOP**" on command on an obstacle(s).
 - Did Not Complete Does not demonstrate behavior.
 - Completed Demonstrated behavior.

Rubble Pile

- Handler Interview Process.
 - Did Not Complete Does not complete the Interview Checklist.
 - Completed Completes the Interview Checklist.

- Responsive to handler's direction and control.
 - Did Not Complete Does not respond to commands.
 - Completed Canine responds to commands.

- Canine searches independently and confidently.
 - Did Not Complete Canine does not search independently or confidently.
 - Completed Canine searches independently and confidently.

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- Canine demonstrated a bark alert indicating the victims with no false alerts.
 - Did Not Complete Does not bark repetitively. False alert.
 - Completed Barks repetitively at the scent source(s).

OR

Canine demonstrates trained Wilderness search alert behavior on two victims. No false alerts.

- Did Not Complete Did not demonstrate a trained alert behavior. False alert.
- Complete Demonstrated a trained alert behavior at the scent source.

- Canine shows focused commitment to each scent source.
 - Did Not Complete Loses interest and leaves.
 - Completed Maintains interest in alert until the handler arrives.
- Handler informs evaluators of the canine's alert/location of each scent source.
 - Did Not Complete Handler does not recognize the canine's alert and/or cannot identify the scent source location by the canine's actions.
 - Completed Handler recognizes the canine's alert and correctly identifies the location of the scent source by the canine's actions.
- Canine's agility.
 - Did Not Complete Fails to negotiate the search site. Canine shows a lack of confidence.
 - Completed Negotiates the search site safely and confidently.
- Handler's Agility.
 - Did Not Complete Fails to negotiate the search site in a safe manner.
 - Completed Negotiates the search site in a safe manner.

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DISASTER SEARCH DOG PREREQUISITE SIGN OFF SHEET TYPE 4

Handlers Name: _____ Canines Name: _____

The team will complete each of the elements on two different training dates and at two different locations.

Obedience Element Completed:

Date _____ Location _____
Evaluator Name _____ Evaluator Signature _____

Date _____ Location _____
Evaluator Name _____ Evaluator Signature _____

- Non-aggressive to stranger; Retrieving dog tied to a fence w/ handler out of sight.
- Non-aggressive to canine on figure 8 exercise.
- Heels through milling crowd, stop, turns and change of pace.
- Emergency stop demonstrated; 25 yard recall; Dog is stopped at evaluator's signal.
- Long down/wait for 5 minutes. Handler must be out of sight.

Wilderness Area Alert Element Completed:

Date _____ Location _____
Evaluator Name _____ Evaluator Signature _____

Date _____ Location _____
Evaluator Name _____ Evaluator Signature _____

- Demonstrates Area Search Alert or a 20 second Bark Alert.
- Takes handler to the victim or stays at victim's location after indication of scent.

Direction/Control Element Completed:

Date _____ Location _____
Evaluator Name _____ Evaluator Signature _____

Date _____ Location _____
Evaluator Name _____ Evaluator Signature _____

- Canine directed onto each target/elevation.
- Canine waits 5 seconds for handler's command to move.
- Finishes course in time allowed.

Agility Element Completed:

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Date _____ Location _____
Evaluator Name _____ Evaluator Signature _____

Date _____ Location _____
Evaluator Name _____ Evaluator Signature _____

- 8-foot ladder (Metal or Wood) secured at a 45 degree angle. (Mandatory)
- Elevated Plank; 6 feet high; 12 feet long; 12 inches wide. (Mandatory)
- Slippery/Unsteady surface; 3 feet high; 3-4 feet wide. (Mandatory)
- Tunnel w/ Right angle turn large enough to accommodate the dog w/o crawling. (Mandatory)

Choose two of the following;

- Moving Plank, 12 feet long and 12 inches wide on two 55 gallon barrels. (Optional)
- Seesaw-16 feet long by 12 inches wide plank on a 55-gallon drum. (Optional)
- An Object that requires the canine to crawl on its belly. (must be adjusted to approximately one half ½ the height at the withers of each canine. (Optional)
- Demonstrate a "STOP" behavior on one of the above obstacles.

Rubble Search Demonstration:

Date _____ Location _____
Evaluator Name _____ Evaluator Signature _____

Evaluator Name _____ Evaluator Signature _____

- Site 2000 to 3500 square feet.
- Two victims placed in area 20 minutes before search and well hidden.
- Dog Alerts with repetitive barks or Wilderness Trained Alert.
- Locates two victims in 15 minutes; No false alerts.