



Proposed Cadaver, Search & Rescue (S&R) Trailing and S&R Area Certification

(Revisions 2022)

Land Cadaver Detector Certification Test

This test is to determine the proficiency and reliability of Police Service or Search and Rescue team in the detection of human remains. An accredited Master Trainer in Cadaver detection will conduct the test.

The Associate member SAR canine handler must provide the testing Master Trainer(s) Proof of Completion of the following courses prior to testing

1. Crime Scene Preservation Course
2. HAZMAT Awareness Course
3. Bloodborne Pathogens Course
4. NIMS and ICS Training Courses, IS-100.B, IS-700.A, IS-200.B, IS-800.B

Only one (1) overall false/negative alert will be permitted to pass the certification test. A team negative alert is defined as any incorrect response by the handler or canine. If a team fails certification an opportunity to retest may be provided, however the team must repeat all phases of testing not just the areas failed.

Teams will be tested in four areas which are as follows:

1. Vehicle Phase
2. Building Phase
3. Buried Land Search
4. Other Designated Areas: Rubble, Disarticulated Remains, Open Area, Rubbish Pile

General Guidelines

- There will be a mandatory break between each test phase.
- Only Human remains consisting of blood material, tissue, and bone will be utilized for testing. No Pseudo aids will be used.

- At least one test area will not contain an aid (blank)
- At least one test area will contain distraction odors (dead animal, food, feces, etc.)
- At least one area will be searched double-blind. The individual placing the aid will not walk with the testing team. The team will mark the location of the source within 3 ft. of the hide.
- Searches may be conducted by “free search” and/or “detailed search” at the handlers’ discretion.
- The dog’s reward toy or object used during the cadaver detector certification test will not contain any cadaver odor/residue.
- Certifying Master Trainer(s) will take every precaution in securing and concealing cadaver hides in an effort to prevent accidental exposure and ingestion of cadaver materials used for testing purposes.
- Teams intending to seek a Water Cadaver certification MUST first have successfully completed the Land Cadaver certification.

Vehicles (required)

- Five vehicles free from any target odors of narcotics or explosives will be utilized for testing.
- Hides will be placed in/on two different vehicles
- Hides will be placed at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the test.
- Cadaver hides will be placed either interior or exterior per Master Trainer’s discretion.

Buildings (required)

- Two hides will be placed in a building.
 - One must be higher than four feet.
- There must be at least two (2) negative rooms.
- The team will search at least four (4) rooms but no more than six (6) rooms.

Buried (required)

- A minimum of 6 hours prior to testing two hides will be buried at a depth of 6-12” in debris, loose vegetation, or loose soil
- There will be three search areas: 25 yards by 25 yards.
- There will be a least 10 feet between holes. As a distraction, a minimum of six blank holes will also be dug.

Rubble or Rubbish Pile

- Two hides will be placed in rubble. Rubble will consist of manmade debris containing uneven footing and mixed materials.

- Dry bone will not be used on the rubble pile.
- The search area should be a minimum of 25 yards by 25 yards.
- Handlers should wear safety equipment including long pants, long sleeve shirt, gloves, work type boots with ankle support, helmet (ANSI rated Z89. 1-1997 Type 1), eye protection and knee pads.

Disarticulated Remains

- Disarticulated remains will consist of two hides of bone placed in an area of 150 feet by 150 feet.
- These bones will not be visible to the handler.

Open Area Search

- There will be three search areas a minimum of 25 yards by 25 yards.
- Two hides will be placed in search area.
 - One must be higher than four feet.

Master Trainers certifying the cadaver detector team(s) will issue the certification certificate listing the composition of cadaver materials, age (< 6 months or >6 months) and amount of material used.

The test will be conducted on a pass/fail basis. The Master Trainer determines if the team will be certified upon completion of the test. If certified, the handler and dog are considered a team and it is the team that is certified. In the event the dog changes handlers, a new team will then exist, which will immediately invalidate the previous certification. The new team will then need to be certified.

This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue, providing the member remains in good standing and his/her membership dues are current.

Water Cadaver Detector Certification Test

This test is to determine the proficiency and reliability of Police Service or Search and Rescue team in the detection of human remains. An accredited Master Trainer in Cadaver detection will conduct the test. Teams attempting a Water Cadaver certification **MUST** successfully complete the Land Cadaver certification within 30 days of the test

The team must accurately locate all hides to pass water certification. A team negative alert is any incorrect response by the handler or canine. If a team fails certification an opportunity to retest may be provided, however, the team must repeat all phases of testing, not just the area failed.

General Guidelines

- There will be a mandatory break between each test phase.
- Only Human remains consisting of blood material, tissue, and bone will be utilized for testing. No Pseudo aids will be used.
- Natural distractions including dead animals, food, bait, etc. might be present in the search area.
- Searches may be conducted by “free search” and/or “detailed search” at the handlers’ discretion.
- The dog's reward toy or object used during the cadaver detector certification test will not contain any cadaver odor/residue.
- Certifying Master Trainer(s) will take every precaution in securing and concealing cadaver hides in an effort to prevent accidental exposure and ingestion of cadaver materials used for testing purposes.

Teams will be tested in two areas which are as followed:

1. Shoreline
2. Boat Search

Shoreline

- The shoreline search will be a minimum of 25 yards with both the beginning and end clearly identified.
- One hide will be placed between 5-10 ft. from the shoreline a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the test.
- The team should identify and mark the location of the hide.
- Certifying Master Trainer(s) will take every precaution in securing and concealing cadaver hides in an effort to prevent accidental exposure and ingestion of cadaver materials used for testing purposes.

Boat Search

- The water search will consist of an area no smaller than 100 yards by 100 yards.
- One hide will be placed a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the test. The Master Trainer will GPS the location to ensure accuracy.
- The depth of the hide will be between 15-20 feet and consists of at least 1500 grams of material.
- The team must correctly identify the location of the hide via dropping a buoy or marking with a GPS.
- The location should be within a distance to the source of twice the depth of the source. Accuracy will be at the Master Trainers' discretion depending on environmental conditions.

Master Trainers certifying the cadaver detector team(s) will issue the certification certificate listing the composition of cadaver materials, age (< 6 months or >6 months) and amount of material used.

The test will be conducted on a pass/fail basis. The Master Trainer determines if the team will be certified upon completion of the test. If certified, the handler and dog are considered a team and it is the team that is certified. In the event the dog changes handlers, a new team will then exist, which will immediately invalidate the previous certification. The new team will then need to be certified.

This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue, providing the member remains in good standing and his/her membership dues are current.

S&R Trailing

This test is to determine if the Police Service or Search and Rescue Team is capable of performing a trailing exercise in a simulation of conditions, which are encountered during working situations this test is designed to test the dog's ability and proficiency and the handler's control of the dog. An accredited Master Trainer in Utility or Tracking/Trailing will conduct the test.

The Associate member SAR canine handler must provide the testing Master Trainer(s) Proof of Completion of the following courses prior to testing

1. Crime Scene Preservation Course
2. HAZMAT Awareness Course
3. Bloodborne Pathogens Course
4. Land Navigation
5. NIMS and ICS Training Courses, IS-100.B, IS-700.A, IS-200.B, IS-800.B

General Guidelines

- The trail layer will be unknown to the dog when possible.
- The trail layer will be at the end of the track.
- The trail layer will receive instructions from the Master Trainer for the method and route of the trail

- Prior to conducting this certification test, the handler will receive an uncontaminated scent article.
- Master Trainer will follow the handler and in no way interfere with or distract the canine. Master Trainer may choose to use the GPS device to evaluate the accuracy of the Trailing Team if appropriate
- The handler should demonstrate proper care of K9 (water, physical examination, rest periods, etc.)

The K9 team shall initiate an unknown trail, aged a minimum of 4 hours, at the Master Trainer's discretion, depending on climatic conditions.

- There will be one (1) fresh cross trail, laid at least five (5) minutes after the original trail is laid. The cross trail will be laid by a second person to test the dogs' scent discrimination.
- The team shall be required to trail for a minimum distance of 1 mile. During the certification test the trail shall include the following:
 - The trail must contain surface changes and a minimum of two (2) turns.
 - The team should complete the trail in 1 hour or less. However, if the Master Trainer deems the team to not be working, the Master Trainer may end the test, and it will be a team failure.

The test will be conducted on a pass/fail basis. The Master Trainer determines if the team will be certified upon completion of the test. If certified, the handler and dog are considered a team and it is the team that is certified. In the event the dog changes handlers, a new team will then exist, which will immediately invalidate the previous certification. The new team will then need to be certified.

This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue, providing the member remains in good standing and his/her membership dues are current.

S&R Area Search

This test is designed to test the Police Service or Search and Rescue team's ability and proficiency in searching designated areas to locate a lost or missing person. An accredited Master Trainer in Utility or Tracking/Trailing with demonstrated training in Land Navigation will conduct the test. It is required that this canine team demonstrates sociability with the Master Trainer conducting this Search and Rescue Area Search Test prior to this certification. Any display of aggression by the K9 during any part of this test will constitute a failure.

The Associate member SAR canine handler must provide the testing Master Trainer(s) Proof of Completion of the following courses prior to testing

1. Crime Scene Preservation Course
2. HAZMAT Awareness Course
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4. Land Navigation
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General Guidelines

- There will be a mandatory break between search areas.
- Topographical maps will be provided to the handler. If problems arise with the availability of topographical maps of the test area, the Master Trainer may select an alternative type of map for this test.
- When possible the test will be administered at night.
- The handler must tell the Master Trainer what the K9 alert will be prior to entering the search area, and the “victims” will be unknown to the K9 team.
- The use of GPS devices is allowed during this portion of the test.
- The alert must be obvious to the Master Trainer.
- The handler should demonstrate proper care of K9 (water, physical examination, rest periods, etc.)

Test Areas:

The team shall be given coordinates on a map and must clear the assigned areas. There will be two (2) test areas; the combined area will be a minimum of 40 acres and a maximum of 160 acres. The terrain shall be light to medium and the area will be adjusted if the terrain becomes denser. There will be between zero (0) to two (2) “victims” in each search area. The “victims” shall remain still and not stimulate or make any noises or movements to get the K9’s attention. The maximum time for both areas to be cleared will be two (2) hours.

The team may not miss any victims in the time permitted, as this will constitute a failure. A team miss is any incorrect response by the K9 team. The test will be conducted on a pass/fail basis. The Master Trainer determines if the team will be certified upon completion of the test. If certified, the handler and dog are considered a team and it is the team that is certified. In the event the dog changes handlers, a new team will then exist, which will immediately invalidate the previous certification. The new team will then need to be certified.

This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue, providing the member remains in good standing and his/her membership dues are current.