Designation: F1848 – 14 (Reapproved 2022)

Standard Classification System for
Canine Search Resources[1]

1. Scope

1.1 This classification system defines canine search resources in terms of their training and capabilities.

1.2 This classification system is intended to aid emergency managers ordering resources for search and rescue incidents. These classifications also provide a means by which dog handlers can convey to emergency management the tasks for which they and their dogs are trained.

1.3 This classification system does not define standards of performance or training for canine search resources.

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*[2]
F1633 Guide for Techniques in Land Search (Withdrawn 2017)[3]
F3048 Guide for Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Operations

2.2 *Other Referenced Documents:*
SWGDOG SC1 Terminology[4]
SWGDOG SC8 Substance Dogs: Human Remains[5]

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *area search*—a search dog action whereby the dog attempts to detect the presence of human scent and, if found, locate its source within a defined search area.

3.1.2 *category*—a specific task for which a canine search resource is trained.

3.1.3 *human remains*—all or part of a deceased human body.

3.1.4 *kind*—a subset of some canine search resource categories.

3.1.5 *scent discrimination*—the ability of a dog to distinguish between the scents of different individuals and to work an assigned scent to complete a search activity without alerting on scents other than those assigned.

3.1.6 *tracking*—a search dog action wherein a non-scent discriminating dog follows a person's route by detecting fresh human scent on the ground or by following scent caused by the physical disturbance of substrate such as crushed vegetation, soil, etc.

3.1.7 *trailing*—a search dog action wherein a scent discriminating dog follows a specific person's route by detecting scent on the ground and in nearby plumes.

3.2 Other terminology included in this guide may be found in Guide F1633 or SWGDOG SC1.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This standard may be used to classify canine search resources (commonly referred to as search dog teams or crews) for emergency management operations, including search and rescue and law enforcement missions.

4.2 Classification of canine search resources is based upon the training of the dog and its handler and their ability to perform specific tasks.

4.3 Canine search resources are classified by *category, kind*, and *type*.

4.4 A canine search resource may be more than one *category*.

4.5 A canine search resource may be more than one *kind*.

4.6 A particular kind of canine search resource can only be one *type*.

4.7 A canine search resource's *type* can vary, depending on its *kind*.

5. Canine Search Resource Category

5.1 *Category* identifies the specific task for which a canine search resource is trained:

5.1.1 *Area Search*—A canine search resource trained to search structured areas of varied terrain with minimal man-made structures.

5.1.2 *Avalanche Search*—A canine search resource trained to search avalanche debris fields.

5.1.3 *Land Human Remains Detection*—A canine search resource trained to search for human remains on the land.

5.1.4 *Water Search*—A canine search resource trained to search for human scent or remains in bodies of water.

5.1.5 *Disaster/Collapsed Structure Search*—A canine search resource trained to search for human scent in failed man-made structures and natural debris fields.

5.1.6 *Evidence Search*—A canine search resource trained to search for inanimate objects with transferred human scent.

5.1.7 *Trailing*—A canine search resource trained to follow a person's route by detecting the scent left on the ground or clinging to vegetation.

5.1.8 *Tracking*—A canine search resource trained to follow a person's route, following footfall to footfall without significant deviation from the person's physical trail.

5.1.9 *Structure Seach*—A canine search resource trained to search for human scent in man-made structures.

6. Canine Search Resource Kind

6.1 *Kind* further defines a canine search resource's capabilities in regard to a particular *category*.

6.1.1 Not all canine search resource *categories* are differentiated by *kind*.

6.2 *Area Search:*

6.2.1 *Scent Specific*—Trained to discriminate between human scents.

6.2.2 *Non-Scent Specific*—Not trained to discriminate between human scents.

6.3 *Avalanche (none).*

6.4 *Land Human Remains Detection (none).*

6.5 *Water Search:*

6.5.1 *Shore*—A canine search resource trained to search from the shore only for human scent or the scent of human remains in the water.

6.5.2 *Still Water*—A canine search resource trained to search on still water for human scent or the scent of human remains in the water.

6.5.3 *Swiftwater*[6]—A canine search resource trained to search on moving water for human scent or the scent of human remains in the water.

6.6 *Disaster/Collapsed Structure Search:*

6.6.1 *Live Find*—A canine search resource trained to search for live humans only.

6.6.2 *HRD*—A canine search resource trained to search for human remains only.

6.6.3 *Live Find/HRD*—A canine search resource trained to search for, and differentiate between, live humans and human remains.

6.7 *Evidence Search:*

6.7.1 *Scent Specific*—Trained to discriminate between human scents.

6.7.2 *Non-Scent Specific*—Not trained to discriminate between human scents.

6.8 *Trailing (none).*

6.9 *Tracking (none).*

6.10 *Structure Search:*

6.10.1 *Scent Specific*—Trained to discriminate between human scents.

6.10.2 *Non-Scent Specific*—Not trained to discriminate between human scents.

7. Canine Search Resource Type

7.1 *Type* indicates the maximum period of time during which a canine search resource is prepared, in terms of training and equipment, to function in the field before additional logistical support will be required.

7.1.1 *12-h*—A canine search resource that can be deployed for up to 12 h at a time.

7.1.2 *24-h*—A canine search resource that can be deployed for up to 24 h at a time.

7.1.3 *72-h*—A canine search resource that can be deployed to remote locations for up to 72 h without additional logistical support.

8. Keywords

8.1 canines; incident command systems; resource typing; search dogs

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[6] For a definition of *swiftwater* see Guide F3048.