Standard Classification for Search and Rescue Dog Crew/Teams[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 1848; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This classification covers the aid of search and rescue managers in ordering resources for search and rescue incidents and to aid dog handlers in communicating the types of tasks for which they and their dogs have trained.

1.2 This classification is intended as a supplement to the resource typing specifications of the Incident Command System[2] and specifically as a means of typing search and rescue dog resources.

1.3 This classification is suitable for classifying dog resources for a wide variety of emergency management purposes including both search and rescue and law enforcement incidents.

1.4 This classification does not attempt to put forth standards of performance or training for dogs or their handlers. This is the responsibility of local agencies responsible for utilizing the resource.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*
F 1633 Guide for Techniques in Land Search[3]

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *air-scenting*, *v*—a search dog action the dog to search for human scent within a defined search area

3.1.2 *kind*, *n*—a classification of a group of similar team/crew functions.

3.1.3 *scent discrimination*, *n*—the ability of a dog to distinguish between the scents of different individuals and to work an assigned scent to complete a SAR activity.

3.1.4 *tracking*, *v*—a search dog action that requires the dog to put its nose within 1 to 2 ft (or m) of the targets track as it moves towards the freshest scent.

3.1.5 *trailing*, *v*—a search dog action that allows the dog to range about a targets trail in proportion to the rafts of scent as it moves towards the freshest scent.

3.1.6 *type*, *n*—a classification that refers to resource capability.

3.1.7 *typing*, *v*—the classification of search and rescue resources by *type* and *kind*.

3.2 Terminology not defined in this guide but referenced in the text can be found in Terminology F 1633

4. Classification of Search and Rescue Dog Types

4.1 Typing of SAR dog resources is based upon the most basic methods of using working dogs engaged in search and rescue activities. These two basic types are based upon whether or not the dog can effectively discriminate between the human scent of different individuals.

4.2 *Type I*—Trained to discriminate human scent, and

4.3 *Type II*—Not trained to discriminate human scent.

5. Classification of Search and Rescue Dog Kinds

5.1 Kind classifications of SAR dog resources are based upon the specific tasks for which dogs are deployed.

5.2 *Kind A—Area Search Dog*—SAR dog teams trained to search moderately large unstructured areas of varied terrain.

5.3 *Kind B—Avalanche Search Dog*—SAR dog teams trained to search avalanche debris fields.

5.4 *Kind C—Cadaver Search Dog*—SAR dog teams trained to search for deceased human remains.

5.5 *Kind D—Disaster/Collapsed Structure Search Dog*—SAR dog teams trained to search for human scent in failed manmade structures, and natural debris fields.

5.6 *Kind E—Evidence Search Dog*—SAR dog teams trained to search for inanimate objects.

5.7 *Kind F—Trailing Search Dog*—SAR dog teams trained to search by trailing.

5.8 *Kind G—Tracking Search Dog*—SAR dog teams trained to search by tracking.

5.9 *Kind H—Water Search*—SAR dog teams trained to search for human scent in and along bodies of water.

6. Keywords

6.1 incident command system; resource typing; search dogs