



Designation: F1848 – 98 (Reapproved 2005)

Standard Classification for Search and Rescue Dog Crew/Teams¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1848; 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 aids 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 System² 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*:³

F1633 *Guide for Techniques in Land Search*

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

3.1.1 *air-scenting*, *v*—a search dog action where the dog is 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.

¹ This classification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F32 on Search and Rescue and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F32.02 on Management and Operations.

Current edition approved Aug. 15, 2005. Published August 2005. Originally approved in 1998. Last previous edition approved in 1998 as F1848 – 98. DOI: 10.1520/F1848-98R05.

² International Fire Service Training Association, *Incident Command System Field Operations Guide, ICS 420*, available from the International Fire Service Training Association, Fire Protection Publications, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078.

³ For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

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 target's 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 target's 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 classification but referenced in the text can be found in Terminology F1633.

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.