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## Standard Guide for Minimum Training of Search Dog Crews or Teams<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1847; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This guide establishes the minimum standard for training of search dog crews or teams as it relates to their general and field knowledge, skills, and abilities specific to their use in Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.

1.2 Search dog crews perform searches on the surface of the land, including in mountainous terrain, alpine environments, and on inland water bodies.

1.3 This guide does not include the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to search in partially or fully collapsed structures, confined spaces, underground (such as in caves, mines, and tunnels), in mountainous terrain, in an alpine environment, or on the water.

1.4 This guide does not provide a theoretical basis for how a search dog crew operates; rather it describes the minimum knowledge, skills, and abilities required for a search dog crew to function safely and effectively.

1.5 A search dog crew is able to respond into the field and back country to locate subjects in the wilderness environment.

1.6 A search dog crew is required to have, at a minimum, the knowledge, skills, and abilities outlined within this guide.

1.7 Search dog crews are eligible to be members of Type I and II SAR teams or crews as defined in Classification F1993.

1.7.1 Personnel trained in accordance with this guide may be members of Type I and II teams or crews of Kind A (Wilderness), Kind B (Urban), Kind C (Mountainous), Kind D (Disaster/collapsed structure), Kind E (Inland water), Kind I (Avalanche), and Kind J (Evidence/human remains), and may operate in urban and disaster areas that may be isolated or have lost their infrastructure.

1.8 Further training may be required before a search dog crew can fully participate on a particular *type* and *kind* of team or crew, based on specific local need, regulations, or policies.

1.9 Search dog crews shall work under qualified supervision, as deemed appropriate by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).

1.10 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

### 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:<sup>2</sup>

F1633 Guide for Techniques in Land Search

F1848 Classification for Search and Rescue Dog Crew/Teams

F1879 Guide for Demonstrating Obedience and Agility in Search and Rescue Dogs (Withdrawn 2014)<sup>3</sup>

F1993 Classification System of Human Search and Rescue Resources (Withdrawn 2014)<sup>3</sup>

F2209 Guide for Training of Level I Land Search Team Member

F3029 Guide for Level I GPS Wilderness Navigator (GPS-IW) Endorsement (Withdrawn 2013)<sup>3</sup>

### 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

3.1.1 *alert*—a characteristic change in a search dog's ongoing behavior in response to a trained odor, as interpreted by the handler.

3.1.2 *bringsel*—an object carried by the dog or handler that is retrieved or tugged on by the dog when the dog finds its target.

3.1.3 *handler*—a person with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to control and direct a trained search dog.

3.1.4 *search dog crew or team*—a single operational resource utilized in SAR operations, typically consisting of one human handler and one dog trained to search for live humans,

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).