Designation: F1848 – 14

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.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*[2]
F1633 Guide for Techniques in Land Search
F3048 Guide for Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Operations
2.2 *Other Referenced Documents:*
SWGDOG SC1 Terminology[3]
SWGDOG SC8 Substance Dogs: Human Remains[4]

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 that 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 Terminology 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.