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## Standard Classification System for ~~Search and Rescue Dog Crew/Teams~~ Canine Search Resources<sup>1</sup>

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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

### 1. Scope

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

~~1.2 This classification aids search and rescue managers in ordering dog crew/team system is intended to aid emergency managers ordering resources for search and rescue incidents and to aid dog handlers in communicating the types of incidents. These classifications also provide a means by which dog handlers can convey to emergency management the tasks for which they, and their dogs have dogs, are trained.~~

~~1.2 This classification is intended as a supplement to the resource typing specifications of the Incident Command System<sup>2</sup> 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.~~

~~1.3 This classification system does not attempt to put forth define standards of performance or training for dogs or their handlers. This is the responsibility of local agencies responsible for utilizing the resource canine search resources.~~

### 2. Referenced Documents

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

[F1633 Guide for Techniques in Land Search](#)

[F3048 Guide for Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Operations](#)

2.2 *Other Referenced Documents:*

[SWGDOG SCI Terminology](#)<sup>3</sup>

[SWGDOG SC8 Substance Dogs: Human Remains](#)<sup>4</sup>

### 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 ~~air-scenting; area v—search—a search dog action which requires whereby the dog to search for human scent attempts to detect the presence of human scent and, if found, locate its source within a defined search area.~~

3.1.2 ~~kind, category—n—a classification of a group of similar team/crew functions 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, 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 search activity without alerting on scents other than that assigned.~~

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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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> [http://casgroup.fiu.edu/pages/docs/1062/1335294274\\_SCI\\_Terminology\\_%28abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz%29.pdf](http://casgroup.fiu.edu/pages/docs/1062/1335294274_SCI_Terminology_%28abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz%29.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://casgroup.fiu.edu/pages/docs/1062/1335294313\\_SC8\\_Human\\_Remains.pdf](http://casgroup.fiu.edu/pages/docs/1062/1335294313_SC8_Human_Remains.pdf)

3.1.6 *tracking, 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, 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, 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, wherein a scent discriminating dog follows a specific person’s route by detecting scent on the ground and in nearby plumes.

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

#### **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.

#### **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. Classification of Search and Rescue Dog Kinds Canine Search Resource Category**

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.

5.1 *Kind D—Disaster/Collapsed Structure Search Dog*—SAR *Category* dog teams trained to search for human scent in failed manmade structures, and natural debris fields; 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 foot fall to foot fall without significant deviation from the person’s physical trail.

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

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.