

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Search and Rescue Dog Certification - Live Find Air Scent

40+ ACRES | OPERATIONAL CONTROL | PASS OR FAIL

PURPOSE AND ELIGIBILITY

Open to any UPWDA member who is a civilian or Police, Fire, or Emergency Management canine handler seeking certification as a SAR K9 team.

TESTING SITE

The testing site should be new to both the K9 and handler.

VICTIM FAMILIARITY

The victim or victims must be unknown to the K9.

MINIMUM AREA

40 acres.

MINIMUM SET TIME

One (1) hour.

HANDLER REQUIREMENTS - SCENARIO BRIEFING AND STRATEGY

A simulated search scenario will be presented by the evaluator. Before the search, the handler must:

- Demonstrate understanding of the assignment.
- Describe an initial search plan.
- Assess terrain.
- Account for wind and scent considerations.
- Explain safety planning.
- Explain how K9 alerts will be interpreted and marked.

USE OF THE K9

All victim locations must be determined with the assistance of the K9.

ACCEPTABLE INDICATION

Direct approach or contact with the victim, or a recognized alert that allows the handler to identify the victim's location.

DISALLOWED FIND

A handler visually locating the victim without K9 assistance will not count.

CANINE EVALUATION

Sociability and search performance

CANINE SOCIABILITY TOWARD PEOPLE AND DOGS

The K9 must demonstrate appropriate social behavior around other non-aggressive dogs and show:

- Comfort with new people.
- Comfort in unfamiliar environments.
- Confidence with new terrain, sounds, obstacles, and human interactions.

FAILURE CONDITION

Excessive fear, reactivity, or aggression toward people or dogs is grounds for failure.

SEARCH PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- Strong hunting and air-scenting behavior.
- Independence while remaining responsive to handler direction.
- Clear and recognizable alert behavior.
- Focus, stamina, and ability to work for extended periods.

VICTIM SCENARIO SELECTION

The exact testing scenario shall be determined by a random number selected by a number generator. Scenarios may include:

1. Single victim.
2. Multiple victims (maximum of two).
3. Concealed victim.
4. Elevated victim (up to six feet).
5. Moving victim.

OPERATIONAL CONTROL**Off-lead obedience requirements**

RECALL	Off-lead recall from a minimum of 25 yards while the dog is running free; on evaluator direction, the handler recalls and places the dog in a sit or down.
STAY	Two minutes with handler in sight at a minimum distance of 25 feet; performed while the handler receives the scenario briefing.
POSITIONS	Sit and down, off lead.
RELEASE	Out/let go of the dog's toy.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

DOCUMENT	UPWDA Live Find Air Scent Certification
EVALUATION BASIS	Pass or fail
CORE FIELD STANDARD	Victim locations must be determined with K9 assistance