

**Blaine County Sheriff Search and Rescue K 9 Unit
Area Search
Knowledge & Performance Certification Standards**

Purpose:

To participate in a professional volunteer program involving Emergency Rescue Services for the public in a missing person context.

Policy:

Prior to being evaluated and approved as a field ready team, each individual must have fulfilled the necessary requirements as deemed by the Blaine County Sheriff Search and Rescue K-9 Unit Standard Operating Guidelines.

Level of Certification:

Fulfilling the standards listed will qualify the team as a Level I, II, or III for Area Search in Blaine County Search and Rescue. If a team has passed the NASAR Canine SARTECH I, II, or III certification for Area Search, they will automatically qualify for the same Level for Blaine County Search and Rescue.

Standards for Evaluation

- There will be one or more evaluator(s). At least one of the evaluators must be independent of BCSAR K 9 Unit.
- All evaluator(s) are answerable to the BCSAR K-9 Unit and may be dismissed by same. However, all test results are final and may not be reversed by BCSAR K-9 Unit.
- Selection of an evaluator(s) shall be by agreement of the BCSAR K-9 Unit Commander and Sheriff's Office BCSAR Commander.

- Evaluator(s) will use the BCSAR K-9 Unit Area Search Certification Score Sheet.
- All teams testing will be given fair and equal test situations. Teams will not test on the same day on a previously used site.
- No team with a female dog in heat will be allowed to test with other teams present.
- Any protest of the test scenario must be presented and considered prior to the test, e.g. presence of smoke, fuel or female dog in heat cycle.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be allowed two attempts to pass each test.
- A certified team must re-test every 3 years to maintain certification.

Level III Area Search Dog Field Test:

The candidate handler and canine will be able to search small areas and locate a single stationary subject during daylight hours.

- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using an area of 40-60 acres.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a maximum time limit of 1.5 hours including breaks.
- An uncontaminated subject scent article will be made available to the handler upon request at the beginning of their search

Level II Area Search Dog Field Test:

- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a 60-80 acre area.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a maximum time of 1-½ hours.

- An uncontaminated subject scent article will be made available to the handler upon request at the beginning of their search

Level I Area Search Dog Field Test:

Daylight Area Search -

- The candidate will be able to correctly gather and handle scent articles.
- Prior to the start of the search problem, the canine handler will be able to correctly describe to the evaluation team the following characteristics of their canine partner's search behavior:
 1. Type of alert to be performed by the canine upon entering the scent cone.
 2. Type of find/re-find to be performed by the canine upon locating the victim.
 3. If the canine will work on lead, off lead or both during the problem.
- The candidate handler and canine will be able to search a moderate area with terrain consistent with what the handler normally works during daylight hours.
- The candidate handler and canine will be able to locate at least 2 mobile subjects during daylight hours.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a 140-160 acre area.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a maximum time of four (4) hours.
- Uncontaminated subject scent articles will be made available to the handler upon request at the beginning of the examination.
- Handler will be able to justify and document the search tactics used to complete their search problem. This documentation will include:

1. Search Method
2. Route Traveled
3. Alerts
4. Relevant Meteorology
5. Estimated POD

Night Area Search -

- The candidate handler and canine will be able to search an area consistent with that which could be expected in their area or the testing location, during nighttime hours.
- The candidate handler and canine will be able to locate a single stationary subject during nighttime hours.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a nominal 80-90 acre search area.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a maximum time of 2 hours.
- An uncontaminated subject scent article will be made available to the handler upon request at the beginning of the examination.
- Handler will be able to justify and document the search tactics used to complete their search problem. This documentation will include:
 1. Search Method
 2. Route Traveled
 3. Alerts
 4. Relevant Meteorology
 5. Estimated POD