

## **Blaine County Sheriff Search and Rescue K-9 Unit Standard Operating Guidelines**

### **Purpose:**

To participate in a professional volunteer program involving emergency search and rescue services for the missing person(s).

### **Policy:**

I. All members of the Canine Unit (K-9 Unit) must adhere to the Blaine County Search and Rescue Guidelines and Protocols.

II. K-9 Unit will follow the Blaine County K-9 Certification Standards. These standards meet or exceed the performance expectations for both dog and handler as stated in the NASAR SAR Dog Unit Guidelines, and have been deemed appropriate to the needs of Blaine County and the communities we serve.

III. BCSAR K-9 Unit Commander will be appointed by Blaine County Sheriff's Office.

### **Standards of Performance:**

Only K-9 Teams that have completed the Standards of Performance may participate in BCSAR K-9 training exercises.

### **Handlers-**

- Will be a member in good standing with Blaine County Search and Rescue (BCSAR), a member in good standing with Galena Backcountry Ski Patrol, employed by the Sun Valley Company Ski Patrol, or any Blaine County Law Enforcement Agency.

- Will follow the Blaine County Search & Rescue K-9 Certification Standards for testing purposes.
- Be a NASAR SAR Tech II, or better\* BEFORE K9 certification can be completed (\*exception for Avalanche Certification for National Ski Patrol members & LE).
- A current American Red Cross or equivalent Basic First Aid Course or higher medical training, including a current nationally approved Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation certification.
- Completion of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) IS-700
- Complete a National Ski Patrol (NSP) Avalanche Awareness or National Forest Service (NFS) Avalanche Awareness BEFORE K9 certification can be done in Avalanche Operations.
- All candidates will complete the study questions and demonstrate an understanding of the theory expressed in the most recent NASAR Canine SARTECH Student Manual.
- All candidates must demonstrate they possess all items required in the NASAR basic canine pack. The full canine pack does not need to be worn by the candidate during any field certification test.
- Maintains and submits to the K-9 Unit and Sheriff's Office, upon request, documentation of training routine and certifications.

## **K-9 -**

- Be sufficiently obedience trained, be under the handler's control at all times, and capable of being controlled by others, if necessary.
- Be in good physical condition and have all current vaccinations.
- Be non-aggressive to humans and other dogs.
- Successfully complete the AKC Canine Good Citizenship testing.

## **Operational Requirements:**

In order to be considered operational for search and rescue missions (non avalanche), a team must complete all of the following:

- BCSAR Standards of Performance
- BCSAR Night Hasty Search Certification
- BCSAR Level III Wilderness Trailing or BCSAR Level II Area Search Certifications.

In order to be considered operational for avalanche search and rescue missions, a team must complete all of the following:

- BCSAR Standards of Performance
- BCSAR Level I Advance Avalanche Certification

## **Search Applications/Certifications:**

- Area Search – Rural or Wilderness
- Area Search – Human Remains Detection (HRD) - Land
- Area Search – Avalanche
- Scent Discriminating/Trailing - Wilderness
- Night Hasty Search - Area and Trailing

## **Other:**

- Special meetings and trainings will be arranged as needed.
- Failure to comply with the K-9 Unit SOGs will result in barring participation in search missions as part of the BCSAR K9 Unit.