

MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

Search Dog Team Certification Standard

Appendix C

Certification Tests: Basic Tracking/Trailing for Wilderness Search

I. Application

- A. These tests apply to a Type I, Kind F and G, search dog team which performs basic tracking and trailing searches in wilderness locations (per ASTM F1848-98, "Standard Classification for Search and Rescue Dog Crew/Teams).

II. Certification Tests

- A. Basic day tracking/trailing
 - 1. Testing shall take place on the track/trail described in (C) below.
 - 2. The dog shall bring the handler to the search subject.
 - 3. The handler will be given a scent article to start with if he or she requests one.
 - 4. When the PLS is presented to the handler, no direction of travel will be given by the tester.
- B. Basic night tracking/trailing
 - 1. The dog shall meet the requirements listed in (A) above.
 - 2. Testing shall take place after dark on the track/trail described in (C) below.
 - 3. The dog team may be provided with an experienced navigator who will be able to keep track of the team's location and help the team to return to any location on the track or trail which the handler requests.
 - 4. The navigator may know where the track or trail has been laid, but shall not use this knowledge to help the handler.
- C. Track/Trail Description for day or night tracking or trailing:
 - 1. Shall be 1/2 to 1 mile long.
 - 2. Shall be in an uncontaminated area.
 - 3. Shall be a minimum of 30 minutes old.
 - 4. Shall contain at least one major change in terrain.
 - 5. Three cloth or leather articles, one large (garment size) and two smaller (glove or shoe size) will be laid directly on the track/trail in plain sight by the tracklayer.
- D. Contaminated start tracking/trailing
 - 1. Testing conditions will be as in (A) above.
 - 2. The track or trail used for the test shall be as described in (2) below.

3. Track/trail description for contaminated start tracking or trailing:
 - a) Shall be 1/3 to 1/2 mile long.
 - b) Shall be one to two hours old.
 - c) Shall start at a highly contaminated location, such as where the training group has parked its vehicles.
 - d) The tracklayer must not have left or traveled through this location before the track/trail is laid.
 - e) The tracklayer will leave a scent article with only her or his scent on it for the tracking team to start with.
 - f) Three small (glove or shoe size) cloth or leather articles shall be laid in plain sight on the track/trail by the tracklayer.