

# 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).
- B. Dog teams currently certified by another agency or organization may request certification under this standard.
  - 1. The field evaluation requirements of the standard under which the team was certified must equal or exceed those defined in this standard.
  - 2. The applicant shall be responsible for documenting or demonstrating this equivalency.
  - 3. If the field evaluation requirements of the alternate certification standard equal or exceed this standard, the dog team may be certified as a Basic Tracking/Trailing for Wilderness Search team.
  - 4. The Standards Committee reserves the right to require that, upon request, a team pass the tests defined below.

#### 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 lead the handler to the search subject.
  - 3. The handler will be provided with a scent article if he or she requests one.
  - 4. When the PLS is presented to the handler, no direction of travel shall be provided or indicated 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 to track the team's location and, upon the handler's request, will direct the team to return to any location on the track or trail.
  - 4. The navigator may know where the track or trail has been laid, but shall not use this knowledge to help the handler.
- C. Contaminated start tracking/trailing
  - 1. Testing conditions shall be the same as for the basic day tracking/trailing

test.

2. The track or trail used for the test shall be as described below.

### **III. Track/Trail Descriptions**

#### **A. Day or night tracking or trailing**

1. The track or trail shall be 1/2 to 1 mile long.
2. The track or trail shall be in an uncontaminated area.
3. The track or trail shall be a minimum of 30 minutes old.
4. The track or trail 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) shall be laid, by the tracklayer, directly on the track/trail in plain sight.

#### **B. Contaminated start tracking or trailing:**

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