



TASK BOOK- AVALANCHE RESCUE CERTIFICATION

The Airscent Task Book will be provided to applicants at the beginning of the education/certification clinic. Each task must be demonstrated, acknowledged and documented by a SARDUS evaluator to receive certification.

A prospective *Avalanche Rescue* Team must demonstrate the following:

- Proof of successful completion of one of the following courses, or an approved equivalent must be provided;•American Avalanche Association, Level I or II•National Ski Patrol Avalanche, Level I or II•American Institute for Avalanche Research Education, Level I or II
- Team must have tested and passed an Avalanche Fundamental Skills Assessment Test within 30-days of certification test
- Canine does not display uncontrolled aggression toward people or other canines.
- Canine is under the control of Handler at all times.
- Safe operational procedures during search.
- Preparation to search for 24-hour self-sustained operational period.
- Written plan with equipment list outlining how team is self-sustained for 24 hours operational period.
- Show pack and mandatory equipment for 24-hour operational period.
 - Avalanche Transceiver (in “send” mode or “off” if site is safe)
 - Collapsible Avalanche Probe
 - Avalanche Shovel
 - Ten (10) wands/flags with handler name
 - Appropriate clothing for spending a night out in the winter environment
 - Skis or snowshoes, as needed
 - First aid supplies and water for the Handler/K9 team
- Radio equipment used in search operations



- Adequately attired for avalanche response and have mandatory equipment.
- Establishes scene safety.
- Performs an effective pre-deployment interview which may include the following questions;
 - Time of avalanche
 - Number of potential subjects
 - What were subjects doing at time of avalanche (snowmobile, ski, snowboard)
 - Subject location at the time of the avalanche
 - If the scene is safe
 - If avalanche watch is present
 - Warning alarm for further slides
 - Where the safe zone is
- Demonstrate the ability to plan an efficient search, best utilizing wind, terrain, topography, and existing environmental conditions to provide efficient and effective coverage of the terrain given the time constraints of the test.
- Verbalized the dog's final response prior to entering the search scene.
- Demonstrate the ability to work and control the dog to effectively search the area.
- Demonstrate that the handler recognizes when the dog is alerting to human scent.
- Demonstrate the ability to judge sweeps of areas as to their suitability to conditions.
- Demonstrate that they were aware of visual clues.
- Were able to give a POD for the area searched.
- Demonstrates appropriate canine care, safety and welfare.
- Demonstrate that the handler behaves professionally during the test.
- Dog responsive to handler's direction and control.
- Dog searches independently and with focus.
- Dog shows commitment to each target.
- Dog demonstrates trained final response on one to two targets with no false alerts.
- Dog alerts repetitively and independently of handler.
- Team demonstrates that the Handler and dog have adequate agility and stamina to effectively work an avalanche search area.
- Team demonstrates that the Handler and dog have the ability to work effectively and find a subject with an additional person or persons accompanying the K-9 team.
- Was the search completed within the allowable time with all finds made?
- Did the dog and handler make an effective team?
- Did the dog demonstrate obedience through its reactions to handler commands?
- Was the search completed within the time limit for the evaluation?
- Team must pass SARDUS Avalanche Rescue Test.

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