



## HUMAN REMAINS DETECTION CERTIFICATION

**Test:** HRD Certification

**Search Capabilities:** Capable of locating human remains in urban areas, wilderness areas and debris fields, as well as remains buried in the soil, located on surface or located above surface. Capable of self-sustaining for 24 hours and 12 hour search operations.

**Task Book** All items in HRD Certification Task Book must be demonstrated for certification.

### TESTING STANDARD

#### **TYPE I- HRD (LAND CADAVER AIRSCENT)**

SARDUS adopts the FEMA Disaster Land Cadaver Airscent testing process in its entirety, as defined by FEMA requirements. The scent source is designated as 15 grams or less of human remains.

#### **TYPE II- HRD (LAND CADAVER AIRSCENT)**

SARDUS adopts the FEMA Disaster Land Cadaver Airscent testing process in its entirety, as defined by FEMA requirements. The scent source is designated as greater than 15 grams of human remains.

#### **TYPE III AND TYPE IV- HRD (LAND CADAVER AIRSCENT)**

Capable of locating human remains in urban areas, wilderness areas and debris fields, as well as remains buried in the soil, located on surface or located above surface. Capable of self-sustaining for 24 hours. Areas include:

- Four (4) areas will be used for testing purposes (urban, wilderness and debris as well as one choice by evaluators.)
- Each search area is approximately 100' x 100' (or 10,000 sq. ft.) of terrain where dog will be asked to work.



- Zero to three scent sources will be located in each search area.
- Each search must be completed within 20 minutes.
- Scent sources may be buried, on surface or placed above surface in each area.
- 80% of scent sources must be located to pass. This includes correctly identifying one buried, one surface and one elevated and correctly identifying the blank area. The calling of any known distracting scents or blank holes, either placed or natural, by the handler, will count against the 80% needed to pass (see Guidelines).
- Type III evaluation- 15 grams or less of HRD material
- Type IV evaluation- greater than 15 grams of HRD material
- Type III and Type IV evaluations may be combined in a single test, in which case ½ of scent sources will be less than or equal to 15 grams of material and the other half greater than 15 grams of material. To achieve certification in both Type III and IV team must correctly identify both quantities of material within the testing process.

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE EVALUATION:**

- Four (4) areas will be used for testing purposes (urban, wilderness and debris as well as one choice by evaluators.) One of the four areas will be blank, meaning no source material, but may still contain distracting scent sources and/or dry holes. The evaluators will not reveal to the testee the type of area they are searching as this information could be used to determine a blank area.
- Testing material will be human in origin and based upon availability, of a quantity/type mutually agreed upon by the evaluators. Evaluators retain the right to repackage the material for testing purposes as needed.
- Material must be obtained and stored in a manner that is consistent with local, State and Federal laws and regulations and handled in a safe and appropriate manner.
- All scent sources shall be concealed and inaccessible to the canine.
- The evaluators will place the scent sources at least thirty minutes before the test and sketch a map of their locations as well as where scent flows from source.
- There will be distracting scent sources within the testing area. No cadaver scent source will knowingly be placed under animal remains by the evaluators.
- Buried scent sources must be buried from 3" to 12" depending on the porosity and density of soil, with a loose backfill.
- Above surface scent sources must be located less than four (4) feet above surface.



- The test area should be disturbed with a minimum of three (3) “dry holes” and two (2) “distracting scents.”
- The scent sources should be composed of tissue, bone (bone in the quantity of >100 grams or 4 ounces) or significant samples of body fluids (not teeth or hair). Quantity of material will be determined by the Type of test being performed, Type III (less than or equal to 15 grams) or IV (greater than 15 grams) or combination test (equal amounts of material.)
- Location of all scent sources will be unknown to handler.
- Care must be taken to not contaminate the test area by inadvertently introducing human remains material on equipment, tools, or personnel.
- Each testing area must be in different locations to eliminate the possibility that a dog will find HRD material in another testing area.
- Destruction of anything considered evidence results in a failure of the test and dog must not consume the scent sources/containers or excessively “mark” during the HRD exam.
- A team who does not successfully complete the HRD exam may retest at the evaluators discretion.
- Handler must verbalize search strategy and follow through with strategy or articulate changes in strategy.
- Handler will maintain control of the dog.
- The handler must be able to describe the dog’s final response prior to the test and must state the locations where the dog has indicated.
- The dog must perform the final response behavior independent of the handler (not elicited or cued).
- For the purpose of calculating the percentage of Scent Sources that must be located to reach the required 80% (# of correct finds/ # sources), any blanks or known distractions that are called by the handler will be added to the total number of sources.

## URBAN SITE

- Area of substantial contamination by other human scents such as out buildings, alleyways, parking lots, parks, vehicles and etc. The boundaries shall be clearly marked and articulated to the handler.



## WILDERNESS SITE

- Area typical of where team may be searching in forested areas, fields, meadows, brush, farmland and etc. The boundaries shall be clearly marked and articulated to the handler.

## DEBRIS FIELD

- Debris is defined as rubble, slash piles, rock plies, or other natural or manmade items that may be found after a disaster. The boundaries shall be clearly marked and articulated to the handler.

## BLANK SITE

- Located at an urban, wilderness or debris field site as determined by evaluators.
- Will contain distracting scents and/or dry holes.

## DISTRACTING SCENTS:

Any object that has not knowingly been in contact with human tissue or fluid, which shall be mutually agreed upon by the evaluators.

## EVALUATORS:

Two (2) SARDUS certified evaluators.

## RECERTIFICATION:

Every two years, recertification test is retake of full test, only one evaluator required.

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