



WATER SEARCH CERTIFICATION

Test: Water Search Certification

Search Capabilities: Capable of locating a recent drowning or human remains in moving or still water from the shore or on a boat. Capable of self-sustaining for 24- hours operations.

Task Book All items in Water Search Certification Task Book must be demonstrated for certification.

TESTING STANDARD

TYPE I- MOVING WATER SEARCH

SARDUS Moving Water Search certification meets or exceeds *the* FEMA 508-8 Typed Resource Definitions Search and Rescue Resources. Moving water flows at a rate of 1 knot or more and is for search in irrigation ditches, streams, and rivers. Handler must have equipment necessary for working along moving water: throw bag, PFD, and helmet.

- Search area 250 feet of shoreline along ditch, stream or river for one substantial portion of human remains source.
- Placement of source (distance from shore and depth) will be up to evaluator to mimic conditions that may be found in area.
- One source will be used.
- Water flow must be safe enough for canine to safely enter water. There should be no potential hazards to canine in search area.
- Handler must identify hazards, articulate search strategy, and describe canines final trained response.
- Team has 25 minutes to successfully locate source.



- Evaluator will determine reasonable distance the final trained response should occur to the source given flow rates, streamflow dynamics, wind direction and size of source.

TYPE II- STILL WATER SEARCH

SARDUS Swift Water Search certification meets or exceeds the FEMA 508-8 Typed Resource Definitions Search and Rescue Resources. The certification consists of two tests that must be successfully completed; shoreline search and boat search. Handler must have equipment necessary for working near water: throw bag, PFD, canine harness with handle.

- Shoreline search will consist of a search of approximately 250 feet of the shoreline of a pond or lake.
 - One source will be located at a depth and distance from shore as determined by evaluator.
 - Handler must identify hazards, articulate search strategy, and describe canine final trained response.
 - Team has 25 minutes to successfully locate source.
 - Handler must demonstrate ability to triangulate location of source by use of landmarks, or compass points to direct divers to the location of the alert.
- Boat search requires canine to search 1-4 acres of a pond or lake from a boat.
 - One source will be located at a depth and distance from shore as determined by evaluator.
 - Handler must identify hazards, articulate search strategy, and describe canine final trained response.
 - Handler must demonstrate ability to communicate with boat operator to fulfill their search strategy.
 - Handler must be able to mark location of source by use of buoy or by triangulation using landmarks or compass to get divers to area of find.
 - Team has 45 minutes to successfully locate source.
 - Evaluator will determine reasonable distance to source given any movement of water below surface, wind conditions and size of source.



GUIDELINES FOR THE EVALUATION:

- Moving Water and Still Water search is an advanced certification requiring a previous certification in Area Search, Trailing, HRD or similar for dog team to qualify.
- Canine team must demonstrate in a previous training that the team has ability to locate a diver to replicate recent drownings. Test will not utilize divers due to the difficulties of test set-up, requirements for rebreather apparatus and the need for safety divers also being in the water with subject.
- Water safety is of paramount importance. All teams being evaluated must have a coastguard rated personal floatation device, throw bag, helmet, PFD for dog or harness with handle. The area chosen should be devoid of snags and debris that could endanger canines or boat. Evaluators should investigate if toxic blue-green algae is located at site used for testing. Any divers used must be associated with a diver rescue organization that has their own safety protocols and procedures. A downstream safety officer trained in swift water operations should be present on moving water tests.
- Evaluators must take into consideration that placement of source should mimic the environmental conditions found in their general location. Placement of source in moving water should allow the canine to search for source from each bank and both upstream and downstream, roughly in two feet of water depending on conditions. Placement of source for shoreline search must allow the scent to be carried to the shore, generally less than twenty feet from the shoreline. Should off-shore wind shifts occur a new test area must be set up. Placement of source for boat search must allow the boat to maneuver on all sides of the source. Depth of placement is dependent on water conditions in the general region but generally 15 feet for a source size of a hand. Smaller sources will need to be placed in more shallow water.
- Ideally divers will be used to place and retrieve source. If divers are not available source may be tied to buoys or to a rope anchored to shore. These anchors must not be visible to dog or handler. Evaluators must take into consideration that scent can wick-up the cords attaching the scent source to buoys or to the shore, which the dog may alert on. Source must be contained in a bag or jar to not pollute water.
- Testing material will be human in origin and based upon availability, of a quantity/type mutually agreed upon by the evaluators. 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. The scent sources should be composed of tissue in qualities found in the HRD large area/source evaluation. Ideally samples the size of a hand or foot are adequate. Smaller sources would be placed in more shallow water.
- 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.
- Location of all scent sources will be unknown to handler and boat operator.



- Each testing area must be in different locations to eliminate the possibility that a dog will find HRD material in another testing area. Care must be taken to not allow contamination of search area by test set-up.
- Handler will maintain control of the dog.
- The main components of evaluating the Handler are: the search strategy employed, how effectively the Handler communicates with boat operator and how efficiently the Handler can read the dogs alerts.
- The handler must be able to describe the dog's final response prior to the test and must be able to direct a boat with side-sonar or divers to the location of the find using triangulation on markers from landscape or compass directions or by the placement of a buoy.
- The dog must perform the final trained response behavior independent of the handler (not elicited or cued).
- The evaluator must understand the movement of water, the movement of wind, stream dynamics (eddies/rapids) to correctly determine the distance the dog can successfully alert. The use of a qualified dog team can be helpful in assessing this and evaluators must also understand that conditions can change during the test and pooling when no movement is present may be a substantial problem. Generally, the team needs to pinpoint the source close enough that a dive team can locate the subject in moving water or from shoreline and by a boat with side-sonar that could locate a body within two passes.
- A team who does not successfully complete the water HRD exam may retest at the evaluator's discretion.

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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SARDUS Water Certification Evaluation (CE) Score sheet

Date: _____ Testing Location: _____

Handler: _____ Canine: _____

Type I Type II Rostered Team: _____

Please make a map of each search area. Please indicate wind direction, potential scent flow and source location with triangulation marked on map.

HRD in Water – Dog working from shore: Source _____ Depth: _____ Find: Y/N

Time Source placed: _____ Time Team started: _____ Finished: _____

Conditions at time test set up: Air Temp _____ Water Temp _____

Wind direction and mph _____ Water direction and mph _____

Conditions at time test conducted Air Temp _____ Water Temp _____

Wind Direction and mph _____ Water direction and mph _____

HRD in Moving Water: Source _____ Depth: _____ Find: Y/N

Time Source placed: _____ Time Team started: _____ Finished: _____

Conditions at time test set up: Air Temp _____ Water Temp _____

Wind direction and mph _____ Water direction and mph _____

Conditions at time test conducted Air Temp _____ Water Temp _____

Wind Direction and mph _____ Water direction and mph _____

HRD in Water, dog working from boat: Source _____ Depth _____ Find: Y/N

Type of boat _____ Motor type battery or gas _____

Time Source placed: _____ Time Team started: _____ Finished: _____

Handler's description of location with Triangulation: _____

Conditions at time test set up: Air Temp _____ Water Temp _____

Wind direction and mph _____ Water direction and mph _____

Conditions at time test conducted Air Temp _____ Water Temp _____

Wind Direction and mph _____ Water direction and mph _____



Pass = 100% correct finds

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| • Team found 100% of hides | YES | NO* |
| • Handler was able to verbalize search strategy and follow through and/or articulate changes in strategy: | YES | NO* |
| • Handler identifies hazards present | YES | NO* |
| • Handler triangulates location based on the dog's indication | YES | NO* |
| • Handler able to maintain control of the dog: | YES | NO* |
| • Handler able to describe the dog's final response: | YES | NO* |
| • Dog displays final response independent of handler | YES | NO* |
| • Handler directs the boat operator to get the dog in the most advantageous position? | Yes | NO* |
| • Handler able to articulate area where the dog has indicated: | YES | NO* |
| • Dog DID NOT destroy or consume scent sources: | YES | NO* |
| • Dog DID NOT excessively mark during the exam: | YES | NO* |

***A "No" to any of the Testing Objectives constitutes an automatic failure**

COMMENTS:

It is our opinion that the handler and dog

_____ PASSED

_____ FAILED

The Water Humans Remains Detection Certification Evaluation (CE) as set forth by Search and Rescue Dogs of the United States

Evaluator (print): _____

Signature: _____

Evaluator (print): _____

Signature: _____

MAPS: Show map of each area. Shore, Boat, Moving Water