

MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

Search Dog Team Certification Standard Appendix D

Certification Tests: Advanced Tracking/Trailing for Wilderness Search

I. Application

- A. This test applies to a Type I, Kind F and/or G, search dog team which performs advanced tracking and trailing searches in wilderness locations (per ASTM F1848-98, "Standard Classification for Search and Rescue Dog Crew/Teams").
- B. Only dog teams currently certified by MASAR as a Basic Tracking and Trailing Team for Wilderness Search (Appendix C) may apply for certification with this test.
- C. 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 an Advanced 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 Test

- A. Advanced tracking/trailing
 - 1. Using the track or trail described in (B) below, the dog team must demonstrate the following:
 - a) Given an uncontaminated scent article, the dog team must start the track in a contaminated area (area contaminated by two other persons besides the tracklayer).
 - b) The dog must lead the handler to the tracklayer.
 - c) The dog team must find and make a positive identification of the tracklayer.
 - d) The dog must indicate on at least three of the five articles left on the trail by the tracklayer.
- B. Track/Trail description:
 - 1. Shall be 3-6 hours old.
 - 2. Shall be 1 to 1-1/2 mile in length.
 - 3. Shall be laid through woods and fields and shall cross one road.

4. Shall cross one small stream.
5. Shall be contaminated by two fresher cross tracks at least 1/2 mile or more from the start.
6. Shall have one scent pool where the tracklayer stops for 10-15 minutes.
7. The tracklayer shall lay one or two false (backtracked) trails from the main track/trail.
8. If laid along an obvious path, the tracklayer must leave the path at least once.
9. The tracklayer shall leave five scent articles on the trail:
 - a) Three of these articles shall be small items like a wallet, set of keys, or mitten
 - b) The other two items shall be larger, such as a pack, shirt, or jacket.
 - c) The large items may be hidden from the handler, but the small items will be placed in plain sight directly on the trail.
10. The tracklayer shall remain at the end of the track unless called in by the evaluator.