



Standard Classification System for Canine Search Resources¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1848; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

1. Scope

1.1 This classification system defines canine search resources in terms of their training and capabilities.

1.2 This classification system is intended to aid emergency managers ordering resources for search and rescue incidents. These classifications also provide a means by which dog handlers can convey to emergency management the tasks for which they, and their dogs, are trained.

1.3 This classification system does not define standards of performance or training for canine search resources.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

F1633 Guide for Techniques in Land Search

F3048 Guide for Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue Operations

2.2 *Other Referenced Documents:*

SWGDOG SC1 Terminology³

SWGDOG SC8 Substance Dogs: Human Remains⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *area search*—a search dog action whereby the dog attempts to detect the presence of human scent and, if found, locate its source within a defined search area.

3.1.2 *category*—a specific task for which a canine search resource is trained.

3.1.3 *human remains*—all or part of a deceased human body.

3.1.4 *kind*—a subset of some canine search resource categories.

¹ This classification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F32 on Search and Rescue and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F32.02 on Management and Operations.

Current edition approved March 1, 2014. Published May 2014. Originally approved in 1998. Last previous edition approved in 2012 as F1848 – 98 (2012). DOI: 10.1520/F1848-14.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ http://casgroup.fiu.edu/pages/docs/1062/1335294274_SC1_Terminology_%28abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz29.pdf

⁴ http://casgroup.fiu.edu/pages/docs/1062/1335294313_SC8_Human_Remains.pdf

3.1.5 *scent discrimination*—the ability of a dog to distinguish between the scents of different individuals and to work an assigned scent to complete a search activity without alerting on scents other than that assigned.

3.1.6 *tracking*—a search dog action wherein a non-scent discriminating dog follows a person's route by detecting fresh human scent on the ground or by following scent caused by the physical disturbance of substrate such as crushed vegetation, soil etc.

3.1.7 *trailing*—a search dog action wherein a scent discriminating dog follows a specific person's route by detecting scent on the ground and in nearby plumes.

3.2 Other terminology included in this guide may be found in Terminology F1633 or SWGDOG SC1.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This standard may be used to classify canine search resources (commonly referred to as search dog teams or crews) for emergency management operations, including search and rescue and law enforcement missions.

4.2 Classification of canine search resources is based upon the training of the dog and its handler and their ability to perform specific tasks.

4.3 Canine search resources are classified by *category*, *kind*, and *type*.

4.4 A canine search resource may be more than one *category*.

4.5 A canine search resource may be more than one *kind*.

4.6 A particular kind of canine search resource can only be one *type*.

4.7 A canine search resource's *type* can vary, depending on its *kind*.

5. Canine Search Resource Category

5.1 *Category* identifies the specific task for which a canine search resource is trained:

5.1.1 *Area Search*—A canine search resource trained to search structured areas of varied terrain with minimal man-made structures.

5.1.2 *Avalanche Search*—A canine search resource trained to search avalanche debris fields.

5.1.3 *Land Human Remains Detection*—A canine search resource trained to search for human remains on the land.

5.1.4 *Water Search*—A canine search resource trained to search for human scent or remains in bodies of water.

5.1.5 *Disaster/Collapsed Structure Search*—A canine search resource trained to search for human scent in failed man-made structures and natural debris fields.

5.1.6 *Evidence Search*—A canine search resource trained to search for inanimate objects with transferred human scent.

5.1.7 *Trailing*—A canine search resource trained to follow a person's route by detecting the scent left on the ground or clinging to vegetation.

5.1.8 *Tracking*—A canine search resource trained to follow a person's route, following foot fall to foot fall without significant deviation from the person's physical trail.

5.1.9 *Structure Search*—A canine search resource trained to search for human scent in man-made structures.

6. Canine Search Resource Kind

6.1 *Kind* further defines a canine search resource's capabilities in regard to a particular *category*.

6.1.1 Not all canine search resource *categories* are differentiated by *kind*.

6.2 *Area Search*:

6.2.1 *Scent Specific*—Trained to discriminate between human scents.

6.2.2 *Non-Scent Specific*—Not trained to discriminate between human scents.

6.3 *Avalanche (none)*.

6.4 *Land Human Remains Detection (none)*.

6.5 *Water Search*:

6.5.1 *Shore*—A canine search resource trained to search from the shore only for human scent or the scent of human remains in the water.

6.5.2 *Still Water*—A canine search resource trained to search on still water for human scent or the scent of human remains in the water.

6.5.3 *Swiftwater*⁵—A canine search resource trained to search on moving water for human scent or the scent of human remains in the water.

⁵ For a definition of *swiftwater* see Guide F3048.

6.6 *Disaster/Collapsed Structure Search*:

6.6.1 *Live Find*—A canine search resource trained to search for live humans only.

6.6.2 *HRD*—A canine search resource trained to search for human remains only.

6.6.3 *Live Find/HRD*—A canine search resource trained to search for, and differentiate between, live humans and human remains.

6.7 *Evidence Search*:

6.7.1 *Scent Specific*—Trained to discriminate between human scents.

6.7.2 *Non-Scent Specific*—Not trained to discriminate between human scents.

6.8 *Trailing (none)*.

6.9 *Tracking (none)*.

6.10 *Structure Search*:

6.10.1 *Scent Specific*—Trained to discriminate between human scents.

6.10.2 *Non-Scent Specific*—Not trained to discriminate between human scents.

7. Canine Search Resource Type

7.1 *Type* indicates the maximum period of time during which a canine search resource is prepared, in terms of training and equipment, to function in the field before additional logistical support will be required.

7.1.1 *12-h*—A canine search resource that can be deployed for up to 12 h at a time.

7.1.2 *24-h*—A canine search resource that can be deployed for up to 24 h at a time.

7.1.3 *72-h*—A canine search resource that can be deployed to remote locations for up to 72 h without additional logistical support.

8. Keywords

8.1 canines; incident command systems; resource typing; search dogs

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