

**ARIZONA SEARCH TRACK AND RESCUE, INC.
AZ STaR
STANDARDS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES
FOR HANDLERS AND SEARCH DOGS**

**GENERAL
SAR DOG / HANDLER
INFORMATION**

SECTION VI

1st Rev. 7-18-99
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ARIZONA SEARCH TRACK AND RESCUE, INC.
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There are three basic divisions:

AIR SCENT DOGS
TRAILING DOGS
TRACKING DOGS

Within each division there are three proficiency levels:

NON-OPERATIONAL LEVEL I
OPERATIONAL LEVEL II
OPERATIONAL LEVEL III

Each proficiency level is determined by passing a series of tests, one in obedience, one in agility, and one in search ability. The basic level must be passed prior to proceeding to the next level.

Each search dog handler, who makes application for membership in Arizona Search Track and Rescue, Inc. (Hereafter referred to as “**AZ STaR**”), will be considered NON-OPERATIONAL in ALL search divisions and will undergo training in basic obedience, agility and search proficiency. All search dog handlers will undergo BI-monthly progression evaluations conducted by the Training Officer. When the dog handler feels ready to be tested and after their probationary period has passed, the handler may request that an evaluation be conducted by the **EVALUATION COMMITTEE** as provided for within the bylaws of AZ STaR. The handler may be evaluated in any combination or sequence of divisions at the discretion of the Evaluating Committee.

All K-9 teams must test for and pass Non-Operational Level I requirements within one year of joining the unit. Failure to test and/or pass the Level I requirements will result in expulsion of the K-9 from the AZ STaR Unit. All K-9 teams must test for and pass Level II within 24 months of passing Level I.

Existing Search and Rescue Handlers transferring in from other units that are currently operational/certified within their agency may request that their probationary period be shortened. **NO** probationary period may be less than six (6) months. Operational handlers requesting an adjustment to their probationary period will be required to produce a letter of reference from their previous agency and turn over their training logs for review.

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To qualify at a **Non-Operational Level I** status, the dog and handler must pass basic control, obedience, agility, and search proficiency progression tests. The team being evaluated, on a BI-monthly basis, must demonstrate progression in each area. The Training Officer of AZ STaR will evaluate the team.

The **TRAINING OFFICER** will consider both handler and dog overall performance, rating them as a **TEAM**. Throughout the testing, the Training Officer will be looking at the following characteristics for the Non-Operational Level I team:

1. Handler and dog should be in good physical condition; and
2. Handler and dog should show a mutual liking and respect for each other and enjoy playing together as well as working; and
3. Handler should give appropriate encouragement and praise to the dog; and
4. The dog should show an eagerness to work and please in a range of stress situations and interact in a non-aggressive manner; and
5. The handler must have the ability to interact with other resources, while maintaining a constructive and positive attitude

To qualify for an **Operational Status**, the dog and handler must pass obedience, agility, and search proficiency tests beginning with Operational Level (II). The team must pass Operational Level II proficiency tests all (obedience, agility & field exercises), prior to being allowed to test for Operational Level III. The team being evaluated will pass or fail each test with no gradations in between. The search proficiency tests will be conducted in an area **TOTALLY UNFAMILIAR** to the team being evaluated.

The **EVALUATION COMMITTEE** will consider both handler and dog overall performance, rating them as a **TEAM** (the exception to this will be the written test / field exercises that the handler must undergo to become an Operational Member as outlined in Section III). Throughout the testing, the Evaluation Committee will be looking at the following characteristics:

1. Handler and dog should be in good physical condition; and
2. Handler and dog should show a mutual liking and respect for each other and enjoy playing together as well as working; and
3. Handler should give appropriate encouragement and praise to the dog; and
4. Handler must be able to recognize and define when his dog is alerting to human scent; and
5. The dog must give good "found victim" indication, even when tired; and
6. The handler should demonstrate his ability to work, control and care for his dog effectively (for a minimum of 24 hours) in a variety of areas and conditions according to the terrain and weather; and
7. The dog should show an eagerness to work and please in a range of stress situations and interact in a non-aggressive manner; and

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8. The dog shall not miss an obvious scent, even when tired; and
9. The handler must demonstrate the following:
 - a) Handler must have completed their one year probationary period as well as one year as an operational support; and
 - b) Handler must have the ability to interact with other resources, while maintaining a constructive and positive attitude; and
 - c) An ability to plan the search area for best use of wind and efficient coverage for that terrain if working an air-scent dog; and
 - d) The ability to evaluate the search area and revise the search tactics based on conditions present in the field; and
 - e) Land navigation skills, including appropriate use of a compass, topographical maps, and grid coordinates; and
 - f) An ability to operate safely in desert, wooded, and rough terrain areas; and
 - g) An ability to use a portable radio effectively for efficient operations between the command post and field; and
 - h) An ability to judge the probability of detection after a sweep of an area based upon the current conditions; and
 - i) An ability to relate accurate information to the command post which as a minimum shall include, but not be limited to, the route taken, areas left uncovered, alerts, wind direction, location of any clues and POD; and
 - j) An understanding of the components of the Incident Command System; and
 - k) An ability to recognize when any dog handler team is working in an inefficient manner and report the condition.
 - l) The handler should be able to identify and protect a crime scene properly.

Each team will be evaluated separately so the EVALUATION COMMITTEE can pay special attention to the dog and handler under evaluation. Each team will pass or fail by a consensus of the EVALUATION COMMITTEE. The EVALUATION COMMITTEE may offer candid, helpful advice for any team who fails any portion of the test and may openly discuss the reasons for failure with the team in question. Immediate or future opportunities for re-testing will be up to the discretion of the EVALUATION COMMITTEE. When the EVALUATION COMMITTEE decides to re-test the team, it has the discretion to re-test immediately or to set a date for the next test (within reasonable limits, i.e. at the next BI-annual testing date). If either the dog or handler fails some aspect of search work, the EVALUATION COMMITTEE may work closely with the handler to solve the problem, keeping in mind that high proficiency teams benefit AZ STaR and more importantly, any lost person.

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**SAR DOG
OBEDIENCE**

SECTION VII

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OBEDIENCE
NON-OPERATIONAL LEVEL I

SAR obedience and agility tests shall not penalize a dog if his posture and position are not correct, but the dog must respond instantly and eagerly to voice command and other signals even while being harassed by the presence of other dogs and people and under duress of unusual noises and distractions.

BASIC OBEDIENCE: (FOR QUALIFYING DOGS AT NON-OPERATIONAL LEVEL I)

The AZ STaR Training Officer will evaluate the “basic obedience” progression of all AZ STaR SAR Dogs in training every other month. This will be done in the presence of, at least, THREE (3) other members and will include the following:

1. **CONTROL:** Handler must demonstrate basic control of a non-aggressive dog.
2. **OBEDIENCE:** Handler must call dog to “come” from at least 5 yards. Handler will then perform basic obedience moves with dog (heeling, turns, sitting at heel, sit and down stay) with dog on lead.

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OBEDIENCE
OPERATIONAL LEVEL II

SAR obedience and agility test shall not penalize a dog if his posture and position are not correct, but the dog must respond instantly, and eagerly, to voice command and other signals even while being harassed by the presence of other dogs and people and under duress of unusual noises and distractions.

BASIC OBEDIENCE: (FOR QUALIFYING DOGS AT OPERATIONAL LEVEL II)

A team will take the following tests under the guidance of the EVALUATION COMMITTEE in the presence of at least three other people according to the test requirements.

1. **OBEDIENCE FOR SAR DOGS:** (Heel on a loose lead, Stand for Examination, Recall, Long Sit (one minute), Long Down (three minutes), with the handler working the dog. The dog must be easily controlled by other handlers and/or Support Personnel, including loading and unloading.
2. **DROP ON RECALL:** The dog will be left in a sitting position and on command from a member of the EVALUATION COMMITTEE, the handler will move about 100 feet away. The handler will then be instructed to call his dog. The handler will then be instructed to down his dog with a hand or voice signal, at which time the dog must lay down.
3. **NOISE AND CONFUSION RESPONSE:** The handlers will place their dogs in a group of 3-4 and put them on sit or down stays. The handlers will then move about 50 feet away. While the dogs remain on a down stay someone should then fire two rounds from a firearm away from the dogs. The dogs must **remain Controllable**.
4. **PEOPLE ACCEPTANCE:** Immediately, after situation #3, the dogs will be approached by the person that fired the gun (with the gun shall be holstered), and another stranger. Each of them will pat each dog using pleasant voices. The dogs shall not show any aggressive behavior.
5. **TRANSPORTATION:** Each dog must demonstrate the ability to ride in a variety of situations and vehicles (trucks, jeeps, aircraft, watercraft, etc.) with one or more other dogs and handlers.

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OBEDIENCE
OPERATIONAL LEVEL III

SAR obedience and agility test shall not penalize a dog if his posture and position are not correct, but the dog must respond instantly, and eagerly, to voice commands and other signals, even while being harassed by the presence of other dogs and people and under duress of unusual noises and distractions.

ADVANCED OBEDIENCE: (FOR QUALIFYING DOGS AS OPERATIONAL LEVEL III)

The team will take the following test under the guidance of the EVALUATION COMMITTEE in the presence of at least two other people and at least two other dogs strategically placed according to test requirements.

1. **LONG DOWN:** With a lead snapped on and at least two other dogs also in down stays, the dog will stay in one location for a period of 45 minutes. Two to three handlers will rotate one at a time supervising the dogs for 5 to 10 minutes each. No supervising handler will be the handler of a dog under test. The dog may shift position, sit up, then lay down in the same place, but must not leave his immediate area. All dogs will be within three to four feet of each other.
2. **PERSONAL CONTROL:** While the dog is on a long sit or long down, and off lead, another handler and dog will provide a distraction for approximately one minute, while the dog (in the long down or long sit) is in site of it's handler. The dog must respond to any voice commands from its handler immediately.
3. **DISTRACTION:** While off lead, the dog will be given an article and allowed to play with it for one full minute. Upon signal from the EVALUATORS, the handler will command the dog to drop the article, leave it and return to the handler. The dog will then be permitted to play for a full minute off lead with a selected unit dog, and return to the handler with the playmate **UNCONTROLLED**.
4. **DISTANCE COMMANDS:** Handler will command dog with voice and/or hand commands to sit, down, stay and come from a distance of not less than 10 feet.

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**SAR DOG
AGILITY**

SECTION VIII

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**AGILITY
NON-OPERATIONAL LEVEL I**

BASIC AGILITY (FOR QUALIFYING DOGS AT NON-OPERATIONAL LEVEL I)

The AZ STaR Training Officer will evaluate the “basic agility” progression of all AZ STaR SAR Dogs in training every other month.

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AGILITY
OPERATIONAL LEVEL II

BASIC AGILITY (FOR QUALIFYING DOGS AT OPERATIONAL LEVEL II)

Each dog will be evaluated individually by three members of the EVALUATION COMMITTEE and each dog must demonstrate the ability to go over, under or around any obstacles that it encounters in the field while working.

1. **JUMPING:** The dog must demonstrate the ability to jump 40" (the distance into the back of a full size pickup).
2. **FENCES:** The dog must demonstrate the ability to go over, under or through fences and locked gates.
3. **TUNNEL:** The dog must demonstrate the ability to traverse a long, narrow, enclosed space from one end to the other when directed by the handler.
4. **STREAMS:** The dog must demonstrate the ability to ford streams.
5. **ROCKS AND BOULDERS:** The dog must demonstrate the ability to climb up and over rocks and boulders that are encountered in rough terrain areas.
6. **AIRCRAFT/HELICOPTERS:** The handler must demonstrate his dogs willingness to load and unload into an aircraft, following normal safety procedures. With helicopter blades rotating, the handler will load and unload his dog, following procedures for helicopter safety. If no helicopter is available for the test the handler must have previously demonstrated, in the presence of other unit members, his own dog's ability to load and unload safely.

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AGILITY
OPERATIONAL LEVEL III

ADVANCED AGILITY: (FOR QUALIFYING DOGS AS OPERATIONAL LEVEL III)

1. **AGILITY:** This test requires a six (6) foot ladder leading up to a platform, a minimum of 12” wide and six (6) feet long, raised 4-5 feet above the ground. Off lead, the dog will climb the ladder (which should be at an angle) and cross the platform. The handler should be able to command the dog to sit or lay down on this platform and then command to dog to descend the ladder.
2. **DIRECTED GO:** The handler will direct his dog to move in different directions or to a pre-identified person or object, then return upon command.
3. **TRAVERSE:** Dog must exhibit the willingness and ability to cross over a shifting debris pile.

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**COMMON
SAR DOG
REQUIREMENTS**

SECTION IX

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COMMON SAR DOG SEARCH REQUIREMENTS

All SAR dog teams must pass a series of THREE (3) field exercises for Operational Level II and Operational Level III. The first exercise will be a “Hasty” search to evaluate that the dog is working. The Hasty exercise may not be omitted or combined with any other exercise. The next two exercises may be combined, at the discretion of the Evaluation Committee, as long as all major components of the exercise are met. (I.e. The Air-scent Open Terrain / Multi-Victim can be done at Night which covers all aspects of both exercises).

All AZ STaR SAR dogs will be evaluated during seasons when the temperatures are between the ranges, of not more than, **85 degrees** during the day and at minimum, a 15 degree drop at night. This will be the optimum time for evaluating the dogs. The dogs must be able to operate in a variety of terrain, but should be tested in the areas most common to the teams searching (i.e. desert, bare ground, rocky areas). The dogs should **not** be evaluated during the heat of the day, but in the evening, night, and/or early morning hours. Air scent dogs can be evaluated after hard rains and during light rain showers. However with tracking and trailing dogs, consideration should be made if heavy rains or light showers occur after the tracks are laid.

Air-scent dog’s evaluations can be made with victims hidden for many hours or a few. A minimum time frame should be not less than one hour and preferably at least six hours to 48 hours. Very little consideration should be given to contamination of the area as an air-scent dog should be able to work if people are moved out of the area 30 minutes prior to the dog team entering to work. Air-scent dogs should utilize wind, ground, and pooling scents to locate the victim.

Tracking and Trailing dog evaluations call for tracks to be aged a minimum length of time. A minimum should not be less than 6 hours and preferably 12-48 hours old. More consideration will have to be given to contamination of the area and temperatures, as a track laid at 6:00 am and then aged throughout the day with temperatures getting much above 80 degrees will leave very little scent for the dogs after 12 hours especially in bare ground and rocky areas. It is imperative that the evaluations take place when temperatures are not extremely hot for this reason. Whenever possible, the tracks should be laid in the early evening for evaluations during the late evening, night and early morning, so there will be as much scent as possible for the tracking / trailing dogs to follow. For dogs that are searching in the desert the track will be, not less than 6 hours old.

Trailing dogs **are** permitted to work off of the actual track. They may deviate from the track depending upon wind, temperature, and terrain considerations. Trailing dogs should not continue on the cross tracks more than 100 feet before returning to the victim’s tracks. Trailing dog teams must demonstrate trailing capabilities and scent discrimination. Trailing dogs **may** air-scent to the victim within the last 300 yards, depending upon wind, temperature, and terrain considerations.

Tracking dogs should follow very closely to the actual track (**not more than 20 feet variation on either side**) and when coming to cross tracks should not proceed more than 50 feet along the cross tracks before returning to the victims track. Tracking dogs must demonstrate tracking capabilities and scent discrimination. Tracking dogs **may not** air-scent to the victim.

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**AIR-SCENT
SAR DOG
REQUIREMENTS**

SECTION X

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AIR-SCENT DOGS

Very little consideration should be given to contamination of the area as an air-scent dog should be able to work if people are moved out of the area 30 minutes prior to the dog team entering to work. Air-scent dogs should utilize wind, ground, and pooling scents to locate the victim. Air-scent dog's should have good "found victim" alert and recall.

**NON-OPERATIONAL
LEVEL I REQUIREMENTS:**

RUNAWAY: A short air-scent problem will be conducted, every other month, by the AZ STaR Training Officer, to evaluate the dog's progression in search work

OBEDIENCE: The handler will demonstrate, to the AZ STaR Training Officer, what basic obedience skills have been learned by the air-scent dog in training and the progression of those skills from the previous evaluation.

AGILITY: The handler will demonstrate, to the AZ STaR Training Officer, what basic agility skills have been learned by the air-scent dog in training and progression of those skills from the previous evaluation.

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AIR-SCENT DOGS

Very little consideration should be given to contamination of the area as an air-scent dog should be able to work if people are moved out of the area 30 minutes prior to the dog team entering to work. Air-scent dogs should utilize wind, ground, and pooling scents to locate the victim. Air-scent dog's should have good "found victim" alert and recall.

LEVEL II REQUIREMENTS:

OBEDIENCE: Skills as stated under the Obedience Section VII for Operational Level II SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required obedience skills.

AGILITY: Skills as required under the Agility Section VIII for Operational Level II SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required agility skills.

HASTY SEARCH: Along a path, trail, or unpaved road approximately one-half mile long through a desert or wooded area, the dog must locate the victim (who should be placed within 20 feet of the trail). The scent trail must be at least one hour old.

OPEN TERRAIN, MULTI-VICTIM: In an area of approximately 1/2 mile x 1/2 mile, with light brush/tree cover interspersed with open areas two to three people (number of victims known to handler) shall be hidden out of the handlers sight. The search scenario should be set up to test the SAR dog teams stamina for at least a one- (1) hour period of searching. They must locate their victim's within 2 hours. The dog must demonstrate a recall and re-find of each victim. The handler must demonstrate knowledge of search strategy for their area and submit a map showing the areas searched, location of any clues located and POD's for each area, as well as a completed ICS 214. The victims shall be in position at least one hour prior to the air-scent team's entry into the area.

NIGHT PROBLEM: In an area of approximately 1/2 mile x 1/2 mile, the dog must find one victim within a reasonable amount of time and demonstrate a recall and re-find of the victim. The victim shall be in position at least one hour prior to the air-scent teams' entry into the area. The search scenario should be set up to test the SAR dog teams stamina for at least a one- (1) hour period of searching. They must locate their victim within 2 hours. The handler must demonstrate knowledge of search strategy for their area and submit a map showing the areas searched, the location of any clues located and POD's for each area, as well as a completed ICS 214. The victims shall be in position at least one hour prior to the air-scent team's entry into the area.

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AIR-SCENT DOGS

Very little consideration should be given to contamination of the area as an air-scent dog should be able to work if people are moved out of the area 30 minutes prior to the dog team entering to work. Air-scent dogs should utilize wind, ground, and pooling scents to locate the victim. Air-scent dog's should have good "found victim" alert and recall.

LEVEL III REQUIREMENTS:

OBEDIENCE: Skills as stated under the Obedience Section VII for Operational Level III SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required obedience skills.

AGILITY: Skills as required under the Agility Section VIII for Operational Level III SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required agility skills.

HASTY SEARCH: Along a path, trail or unpaved road approximately one mile long through a heavily brushed area, the dog must locate the victim in a reasonable period of time. (The victims scent trail must be not less than one hour old).

HEAVY UNDERGROWTH: In an area of approximately 3/4 mile x 3/4 mile, with heavy brush or undergrowth, a victim is hidden out of the teams sight and must be found by scenting within a reasonable period of time. The dog must demonstrate a recall and re-find of the victim. The search scenario should be set up to test the SAR dog teams stamina for at least a one- (1) hour period of searching. They must locate their victim within 2 hours. The handler must demonstrate knowledge of search strategy for their area and submit a map showing the areas searched, location of any clues located and POD's for each area, as well as a completed ICS 214. The victim shall be in position at least one hour prior to the air-scent team's entry into the area.

MOVING VICTIM PROBLEM: In an area of approximately 1/2 mile x 1 mile, the dog must find (within a reasonable period of time) and continue to lead the handler towards the victim, who is moving, until the handler reaches the victim. The search scenario should be set up to test the SAR dog teams stamina for at least a one- (1) hour period of searching. They must locate their victim's within 2 hours. The dog must demonstrate a recall and re-find of the victim. The handler must demonstrate knowledge of search strategy for their area and submit a map showing the areas searched, location of any clues located and POD's for each area, as well as a completed ICS 214. The victim shall be in position at least one hour prior to the air-scent team's entry into the area.

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**TRAILING
SAR DOG
REQUIREMENTS**

SECTION XI

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TRAILING DOGS

Trailing dog's are permitted to work off of the victim's track, however, they should still work along the path taken by the victim, where the scent lies. Trailing dogs may air-scent to the victim within the last 300 yards, depending upon wind considerations. Deviations of more than 100 feet along the cross tracks will result in failure to pass the test.

**NON-OPERATIONAL
LEVEL I REQUIREMENTS:**

RUNAWAY TRAIL: A short trailing problem will be conducted, every other month, by the AZ STaR Training Officer, to evaluate the dog's progression in search work.

OBEDIENCE: The handler will demonstrate, to the AZ STaR Training Officer, what basic obedience skills have been learned by the trailing dog in training and the progression of those skills from the previous evaluation.

AGILITY: The handler will demonstrate, to the AZ STaR Training Officer, what basic agility skills have been learned by the trailing dog in training and progression of those skills from the previous evaluation.

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TRAILING DOGS

Trailing dog's are permitted to work off of the victim's track, however, they should still work along the path taken by the victim, where the scent lies. Trailing dogs may air-scent to the victim within the last 300 yards, depending upon wind considerations. Deviations of more than 100 feet along the cross tracks will result in failure to pass the test.

LEVEL II REQUIREMENTS:

OBEDIENCE: Skills as stated under the Obedience Section VII for Operational Level II SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required obedience skills.

AGILITY: Skills as required under the Agility Section VIII for Operational Level II SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required agility skills.

HASTY SEARCH: Upon being given an uncontaminated PLS or scent article, the trailing dog must cast for the track within a 20 ft. radius along a path, trail or unpaved road and continuously trail the victim for at least three quarters of a mile. The track should be a minimum of one (1) hour old. The trailing dog may quarter back and forth along the track and may deviate from the track. The trailing dog may move forward in a leap frog pattern moving from bush to grass clump to tree (the trailing dog follows the victims trail by wherever the scent is laying).

OPEN TERRAIN: In an area of light brush, the trailing dog will be given the exact PLS of the victim and must continuously trail the victim for a length of approximately one and one half (1 1/2) miles. This track should be a minimum of six (6) hours old and should contain at least two sets of cross tracks. The trailing dog should not deviate more than 100 feet along the cross tracks before returning to the victim's track. The search scenario should be set up to test the SAR dog teams stamina for at least a one- (1) hour period of searching. They must locate their victim's within 2 hours. The handler must demonstrate knowledge of search strategy for their area and submit a map showing the areas searched, location of any clues located and POD's for each area as well as a completed ICS 214. The victims shall be in position at least six (6) hours prior to the trailing team's entry into the area.

NIGHT PROBLEM: In an area of moderate brush, the trailing dog will be given the PLS of the victim and must continuously trail the victim for a length of approximately one and a half (1.5) miles at night. This track should be a minimum of six (6) hours old and should contain at least one set of cross tracks. The search scenario should be set up to test the SAR dog teams stamina for at least a one- (1) hour period of searching. They must locate their victim's within 2 hours. The handler must demonstrate knowledge of search strategy for their area and submit a map showing the areas searched, location of any clues located and POD's for each area as well as a completed ICS 214. The victims shall be in position at least six (6) hours prior to the trailing team's entry into the area.

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TRAILING DOGS

Trailing dog's are permitted to work off of the victim's track, however, they should still work along the path taken by the victim, where the scent lies. Trailing dogs may air-scent to the victim within the last 300 yards, depending upon wind considerations. Deviations of more than 100 feet along the cross tracks will result in failure to pass the test.

LEVEL III REQUIREMENTS:

OBEDIENCE: Skills as stated under the Obedience Section VII for Operational Level III SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required obedience skills.

AGILITY: Skills as required under the Agility Section VIII for Operational Level III SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required agility skills.

HASTY SEARCH: Along a path, trail or unpaved road, the trailing dog must locate along a 1/4 mile stretch of path, trail or road, the desired track by use of a scent article, and continuously trail the victim for 1/2 mile. This track should be a minimum of one (1) hour old and should contain multiple cross tracks.

BARE GROUND/LIGHT BRUSH AREA (12 Hours Old): In an area with bare ground and light brush areas, the trailing dog will be given the exact location of the PLS of the victims. The team will be given a scent article from one of the two victims and shall continuously trail that victim for a distance of not less than 2 miles. The two victims will walk together approximately ¼ to ½ mile and then split, going in opposite directions. The victim who is to be found will drop a scent article along the track **after** the split. This track should be a minimum of twelve (12) hours old and should have two (2) additional sets of cross tracks. The search scenario should be set up to test the SAR dog teams stamina for at least a one- (1) hour period of searching. They must locate their designated victim within 2 hours. The handler must demonstrate knowledge of search strategy for their area and submit a map showing the areas searched, location of any clues located and POD's for each area, as well as a completed ICS 214. The victims shall be in position at least twelve (12) hours prior to the trailing team's entry into the area.

VARIABLE SURFACE/LIGHT BRUSH (12 Hours Old): In an area with variable surfaces (bare ground, rocks, sand, paved and/or unpaved roads) the trailing dog will be given the victims track and must continuously trail the victim for a distance of not less than 2 miles. This track should be a minimum of 12 hours old, should contain at least three different surfaces for the dog to trail over as well as multiple cross tracks. The search scenario should be set up to test the SAR dog teams stamina for at least a one- (1) hour period of searching. They must locate their victim's within 2 hours. The handler must demonstrate knowledge of search strategy for their area and submit a map showing the areas searched, location of any clues located and POD's for each area as well as a completed ICS 214. The victims shall be in position at least twelve (12) hours prior to the trailing team's entry into the area.

**ARIZONA SEARCH TRACK AND RESCUE, INC.
AZ STaR
STANDARDS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES
FOR HANDLERS AND SEARCH DOGS**

**TRACKING
SAR DOG
REQUIREMENTS**

SECTION XII

1st Rev. 7-18-99
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3rd Rev: 1-01-06
4th Rev: 2-1-2011

ARIZONA SEARCH TRACK AND RESCUE, INC.
AZ STaR
STANDARDS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES
FOR HANDLERS AND SEARCH DOGS

TRACKING DOGS

The Tracking dog should work right on or in very close proximity to the victim's track. Deviations of more than 20 feet along the track and more than 50 feet along cross tracks will result in failure to pass the test.

**NON-OPERATIONAL
LEVEL I REQUIREMENTS:**

RUNAWAY TRACK: A short tracking problem will be conducted, every other month, by the AZ STaR Training Officer, to evaluate the dog's progression in search work.

OBEDIENCE: The handler will demonstrate, to the AZ STaR Training Officer, what basic obedience skills have been learned by the tracking dog in training and the progression of those skills from the previous evaluation.

AGILITY: The handler will demonstrate, to the AZ STaR Training Officer, what basic agility skills have been learned by the tracking dog in training and progression of those skills from the previous evaluation.

ARIZONA SEARCH TRACK AND RESCUE, INC.
AZ STaR
STANDARDS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES
FOR HANDLERS AND SEARCH DOGS

TRACKING DOGS

The Tracking dog should work right on or in very close proximity to the victim's track. Deviations of more than 20 feet along the track and more than 50 feet along cross tracks will result in failure to pass the test.

LEVEL II REQUIREMENTS:

OBEDIENCE: Skills as stated under the Obedience Section VII for Operational Level II SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required obedience skills.

AGILITY: Skills as required under the Agility Section VIII for Operational Level II SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required agility skills.

HASTY SEARCH: Upon being given an uncontaminated PLS or scent article, the tracking dog must cast for the track within a 20 ft. radius along a path, trail or unpaved road and continuously trail the victim for at least three quarters of a mile. The track should be a minimum of one (1) hour old. The tracking dog may not deviate more than 20 feet to either side of the track.

OPEN TERRAIN: In an area of light brush, the tracking dog will be given the exact PLS of the victim must continuously track the victim for a length of approximately one and one half (1 1/2) miles. This track should be a minimum of six (6) hours old and should contain at least two sets of cross tracks. The tracking dog should not deviate more than 50 feet along the cross tracks before returning to the victim's track. The search scenario should be set up to test the SAR dog teams stamina for at least a one- (1) hour period of searching. They must locate their victim's within 2 hours. The handler must demonstrate knowledge of search strategy for their area and submit a map showing the areas searched, location of any clues located and POD's for each area, as well as a completed ICS 214. The victims shall be in position at least six (6) hours prior to the tracking team's entry into the area.

NIGHT PROBLEM: In an area of moderate brush, the tracking dog will be given the PLS of the victim and must continuously track a victim for a length of approximately one and a half (1.5) miles at night. This track should be a minimum of six (6) hours old and should contain at least one set of cross tracks. The search scenario should be set up to test the SAR dog teams stamina for at least a one- (1) hour period of searching. They must locate their victim within 2 hours. The handler must demonstrate knowledge of search strategy for their area and submit a map showing the areas searched, location of any clues located and POD's for each area, as well as a completed ICS 214. The victims shall be in position at least six (6) hours prior to the tracking team's entry into the area.

ARIZONA SEARCH TRACK AND RESCUE, INC.
AZ STaR
STANDARDS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES
FOR HANDLERS AND SEARCH DOGS

TRACKING DOGS

The Tracking dog should work right on or in very close proximity to the victim's track. Deviations of more than 20 feet along the track and more than 50 feet along cross tracks will result in failure to pass the test.

LEVEL III REQUIREMENTS:

OBEDIENCE: Skills as stated under the Obedience Section VII for Operational Level III SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required obedience skills.

AGILITY: Skills as required under the Agility Section VIII for Operational Level III SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required agility skills.

HASTY SEARCH: Along a path, trail or non paved road, the tracking dog must locate along a 1/4 mile stretch of path, trail or road, the desired track by use of a scent article and continuously track a victim for 1/2 mile. This track should be a minimum of one (1) hour old and should contain multiple cross tracks.

BARE GROUND/LIGHT BRUSH AREA (12 Hours Old): In an area with bare ground and light brush areas, the trailing dog will be given the exact location of the PLS of the victims. The team will be given a scent article from one of the two victims and shall continuously trail that victim for a distance of not less than 2 miles. The two victims will walk together approximately ¼ to ½ mile and then split, going in opposite directions. The victim who is to be found will drop a scent article along the track after the split. This track should be a minimum of twelve (12) hours old and should have two (2) additional sets of cross tracks. The search scenario should be set up to test the SAR dog teams stamina for at least a one- (1) hour period of searching. They must locate their designated victim within 2 hours. The handler must demonstrate knowledge of search strategy for their area and submit a map showing the areas searched, location of any clues located and POD's for each area, as well as a completed ICS 214. The victims shall be in position at least twelve (12) hours prior to the trailing team's entry into the area.

VARIABLE SURFACE/LIGHT BRUSH (12 Hours Old): In an area containing variable surfaces (heavy growth, bare ground, rocks, sand, paved and/or unpaved roads) the tracking dog will be given the victims track and must continuously track the victim for a distance of not less than 2 miles. The track should be a minimum of twelve (12) hours old and should contain at least three different surfaces for the dog to track over as well as multiple cross tracks. The search scenario should be set up to test the SAR dog teams stamina for at least a one- (1) hour period of searching. They must locate their victim's within 2 hours. The handler must demonstrate knowledge of search strategy for their area and submit a map showing the areas searched, location of any clues located and POD's for each area, as well as a completed ICS 214. The victims shall be in position at least 12 hours prior to the tracking team's entry into the area.

**ARIZONA SEARCH TRACK AND RESCUE, INC.
AZ STaR
STANDARDS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES
FOR HANDLERS AND SEARCH DOGS**

**SPECIALTY
SEARCH
CATEGORIES**

SECTION XIII

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**ARIZONA SEARCH TRACK AND RESCUE, INC.
AZ STaR
STANDARDS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES
FOR HANDLERS AND SEARCH DOGS**

**CADAVER and HUMAN
REMAINS DETECTION
SAR DOG
REQUIREMENTS**

SECTION XIII (A)

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ARIZONA SEARCH TRACK AND RESCUE, INC.
AZ STaR
STANDARDS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES
FOR HANDLERS AND SEARCH DOGS

SPECIALTY SEARCH CATEGORIES

CADAVER SEARCH

The Cadaver search canine / handler team is used to detect human bodies. In order to qualify as a Cadaver Search Dog Team, a dog / handler team should have passed cadaver search problems in their geographic area which reproduce those problems that they might encounter in their area. In addition to the expectations for SAR dogs and SAR Dog Handlers as identified in Sections I, III and IV. of the Standards and Evaluation Procedures, the following criteria should be met:

HANDLER:

- Handler must demonstrate proper knowledge of search strategy and scent theory relating to cadaver searching with dogs.
- Handler should be able to describe the manner of the dog's alert in cadaver search.
- The handler should be knowledgeable about possible hazards and precautions for doing cadaver search.
- The handler should be able to understand and discuss:
 - a) Cadaver search techniques
 - b) Proper handling of training aids / materials
- The handler should be able to demonstrate competency in:
 - a) Search planning and justification.
 - b) Conducting a thorough search
 - c) Directing the dog during the search

CADAVER SEARCH DOG:

- The ability to differentiate Human remains from animal remains.
- The ability to search any area as requested by the handler
- The ability to alert in a consistent and readily identifiable manner easily read by the handler.
- The ability to locate "scent sources" at ground level, above ground or below ground level.

ARIZONA SEARCH TRACK AND RESCUE, INC.
AZ STaR
STANDARDS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES
FOR HANDLERS AND SEARCH DOGS

CADAVER SEARCH
OPERATIONAL CADAVER SEARCH TEAM

OBEDIENCE: Skills as stated under the Obedience Section VII for Operational Level III SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required obedience skills.

AGILITY: Skills as required under the Agility Section VIII for Operational Level III SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required agility skills.

LIGHT TO HEAVY BRUSH (60 MINUTES): In an area of approximately 300 x 300 ft., with light to heavy brush coverage, the Cadaver dog team must locate 2 “**scent sources**”. One (1) of the scent sources will be at ground level and the other one (1) of the scent sources will be either 24-48 inches above ground level or will be below ground level (no deeper than 12 inches). Scent rise time of at least 1 hour will be allowed. Hair, extracted teeth, or various human tissues may be used. No Pseudoscent will be used. There should be a minimum of 1 dig hole, to ensure that the dog does not alert on ground disturbance. The Cadaver K-9 may not false alert during the test.

ARIZONA SEARCH TRACK AND RESCUE, INC.
AZ STaR
STANDARDS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES
FOR HANDLERS AND SEARCH DOGS

HUMAN REMAINS DETECTION SEARCH

The Human Remains Detection search canine / handler team is used to detect human bodies, parts of human bodies and bodily fluids. In order to qualify as a Human Remains Detection Search Dog Team, a dog / handler team should have passed cadaver and/or human remains detection search problems in their geographic area which reproduce those problems that they might encounter in their area. In addition to the expectations for SAR dogs and SAR Dog Handlers as identified in Sections I, III and IV. of the Standards and Evaluation Procedures, the following criteria should be met:

HANDLER:

- Handler must demonstrate proper knowledge of search strategy and scent theory relating to human remains detection searching with dogs.
- Handler should be able to describe the manner of the dog's alert in human remains detection search.
- The handler should be knowledgeable about possible hazards and precautions for doing human remains detection searches.
- The handler should be able to understand and discuss:
 - a) Human Remains Detection search techniques
 - b) Proper handling of training aids / materials
- The handler should be able to demonstrate competency in:
 - a) Search planning and justification.
 - b) Conducting a thorough search
 - c) Directing the dog during the search

HUMAN REMAINS DETECTION SEARCH DOG:

- The ability to differentiate Human remains from animal remains.
- The ability to search any area as requested by the handler.
- The ability to be directed to search particular areas by the handler.
- The ability to alert in a consistent and readily identifiable manner easily read by the handler.
- The ability to locate "scent sources" at ground level, above ground or below ground level.
- The ability to indicate drag marks and "spatter" of human remains.

ARIZONA SEARCH TRACK AND RESCUE, INC.
AZ STaR
STANDARDS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES
FOR HANDLERS AND SEARCH DOGS

HUMAN REMAINS DETECTION SEARCH
OPERATIONAL HUMAN REMAINS DETECTION SEARCH TEAM

OBEDIENCE: Skills as stated under the Obedience Section VII for Operational Level III SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required obedience skills.

AGILITY: Skills as required under the Agility Section VIII for Operational Level III SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required agility skills.

LIGHT TO HEAVY BRUSH (60 MINUTES): In an area of approximately 300 x 300 ft., with light to heavy brush coverage, a “scene” will be located with human remains disbursed over an area not to exceed 100 x 100 ft. The Human Remains Detection dog team must locate 8 out of 10 “**scent sources**”. Four (4) of the scent sources will be at ground level, three (3) of the scent sources will be 24-48 inches above ground level and three (3) of the scent sources will be below ground level (no deeper than 12 inches). Scent rise time of at least 1 hour will be allowed. Blood, hair, extracted teeth and/or other various human tissues may be used along with articles of clothing. No Pseudoscent will be used. There should be a minimum of 3 holes dug, to ensure that the dog does not alert on ground disturbance. There may also be drag marks and spattering. The HRD K-9 may not false alert during the test.

**ARIZONA SEARCH TRACK AND RESCUE, INC.
AZ STaR
STANDARDS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES
FOR HANDLERS AND SEARCH DOGS**

**WATER
SAR DOG
REQUIREMENTS**

SECTION XIII (B)

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ARIZONA SEARCH TRACK AND RESCUE, INC.
AZ STaR
STANDARDS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES
FOR HANDLERS AND SEARCH DOGS

WATER SEARCH

The water search canine / handler team is used to detect submerged bodies. In order to qualify as a Water Search Dog Team, a dog / handler team should have passed water search problems in their geographic area, which reproduce those problems that they might encounter in their area. In addition to the expectations for SAR dogs and SAR Dog Handlers identified in Sections I, III and IV of the Standards and Evaluation Procedures, the following criteria should be met:

HANDLER:

- Handler must demonstrate proper knowledge of search strategy for water work and scent theory relating to water searching with dogs.
- Handler should be able to describe the manner of the dog's alert in water search.
- The handler will be able to read the dog's alert, and suggest to divers and recovery personnel the areas to search for the body.
- The handler should be knowledgeable about possible water hazards and precautions.
- At all times during training and searching on the water, the handler should wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD (Personal Flotation Device).
- The handler should be able to understand and discuss:
 - a) Types of Water search
 - b) Water search strategies
 - c) The physical laws of water
 - d) How to work with divers
- The handler should be able to demonstrate competency in:
 - a) Swimming in calm water and fast current and/or waves
 - b) Maneuvering a boat with and without the dog in the boat
 - c) Measuring air and water temperatures
 - d) Estimating wind force (Beaufort Scale)
 - e) Record keeping

WATER SEARCH DOG:

- The ability to safely get into and out of the types of watercraft used in the search area but at least, a rubber boat and power boat. Once in the watercraft, the dog should be at ease, remain in the boat for the duration of the search shift and be under control of the handler at all times.
- The ability to search from shore, a dock, or a watercraft.
- The ability to alert in a consistent and readily identifiable manner easily read by the handler.
- The ability to swim confidently in flat and moving water.

ARIZONA SEARCH TRACK AND RESCUE, INC.
AZ STaR
STANDARDS AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES
FOR HANDLERS AND SEARCH DOGS

WATER SEARCH
OPERATIONAL WATER SEARCH TEAM

OBEDIENCE: Skills as stated under the Obedience Section VII for Operational Level III SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required obedience skills.

AGILITY: Skills as required under the Agility Section VIII for Operational Level III SAR dogs. The K-9 must show proficiency in all of the required agility skills.

SHORE: In an area of ½ mile by ½ mile, the SAR dog must locate 4 out of 5 samples of human tissue or articles (fully submerged under water). No Pseudo scent will be utilized.

LAKE or OCEAN:

1. In an area ½ mile by ½ mile, the SAR dog, working from a boat, must locate one diver (fully submerged, at a depth of 20 or more feet). The dog should ignore all persons on shore or in neighboring boats. The dog should alert in a consistent and readily identifiable manner. The alert should be readily apparent to the handler. The team is allowed a maximum of 2 hours to conduct the search.
2. In an area ½ mile by ½ mile, the SAR dog working from a boat, must locate 2 separate scent sources, bone or tissue (fully submerged, at a depth of 20 or more feet – a scent pump may be utilized to pump the scent from the sources into the lake or ocean). No Pseudo scent will be utilized.