



Nevada POST K-9 Guidelines

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K-9 BEST PRACTICES & GUIDELINES

PURPOSE:

To establish best practices and training guidelines for Police Service Dog (PSD) and Search and Rescue Dog (SAR) teams within the state of Nevada. The K-9 STANDARDS have been written to meet or exceed nationally recognized industry standards. Our goals are:

To provide a forum for the sharing of knowledge, skills, and training ideas through presentations, written materials, and personal contacts.

Promote and facilitate education among handlers, trainers, and supervisors about the best practice guidelines.

To bring together individuals and agencies within the State of Nevada, utilizing recognized K-9 industry standards and best practices.

Compile and disseminate suggestions and training ideas from industry leaders to the Law Enforcement K-9 communities within the State of Nevada.

To develop a set of standards for all K-9 team disciplines working within the State of Nevada, thus benefitting the communities they serve.

BEST PRACTICES:

It is recommended that all K-9 units within the state of Nevada should adopt an accepted “industry standard” approach when developing their training guidelines.

It is recommended that all K-9 units within the state of Nevada should incorporate basic levels of obedience and control into their training programs to ensure the safety of their dogs, fellow officers, and the public.

It is recommended that all K-9 units within the state of Nevada should train a minimum of 16 hours monthly or develop a monthly task based training criteria for all K-9 teams certified under POST certified training.

At a minimum, Patrol and HRD certified K-9 teams are required to undergo a basic obedience evaluation in order to complete the evaluation process for those disciplines. It will be left to individual agencies to determine whether or not their single purpose teams require obedience certifications.

All K-9 units should maintain at a minimum: training, deployment, and veterinary records for each K-9 team.

All K-9 units shall have a K-9 policy and procedure manual in place and reviewed by individual agency legal representatives (every other year).

All K-9's completing the evaluations will be allowed to wear authorized "on duty" equipment. For example, if it is authorized by the individual agency for their daily use, they may wear it for certification.

E-Collar activation or use on a K-9 to correct behavior **during** the **evaluation process** will not be allowed.

Efforts will be made by all Evaluators to make the evaluations fair and reasonable, yet designed to challenge the team's abilities.

Explosive and Human Remains Detection K-9's must be trained to respond passively (Sit or Down), alerting the handler that the odor(s) they are trained to detect have been located. Any aggression toward a placed training aid (Bite, Bark, Retrieve, or Scratch / Digging) should be noted by the Evaluator and can be used to disqualify the testing team.

All certifications will be valid for twelve (12) months not to exceed fifteen (15) months from date of issue. (Exception is Explosive Odor Recognition Test, which is twenty four (24) months).

Agencies adopting this certification standard will agree to it in whole, not in part.

SAR / HRD: In addition to the above, the following are recommended for Search and Rescue disciplines (Aged Track/Trail, Area/Wilderness, Avalanche, Human Remains Detection, and Water):

Handler has completed the following coursework

- minimum of ICS 100, ICS200, and ICS700 classes
- minimum of First Aid and CPR
- Crime scene preservation
- HAZMAT awareness
- Blood borne pathogens
- Helicopter orientation
- Track awareness

It is recommended that the handler be proficient using Global Positioning System (GPS) units and land navigation tools.

It is recommended that the handler and K-9 are comfortable and safe in various modes of transport such as helicopters, ATVs, snow machines, among others.

It is recommended that the handler documents training using both blind and double-blind protocols to include zero possible hides or finds as applicable.

It is recommended that the handler have training in K-9 First Aid.

It is recommended that the handler and K-9 maintain a level of fitness appropriate for the certification discipline and typical search environment.

Human Remains Detection:

It is recommended that the HRD K-9 be trained on the full range of human remains, from recently deceased to skeletonized remains.

Area/Wilderness:

It is recommended that the K-9 has documented training on or simulating an intact decedent subject.

Avalanche:

It is recommended that the handler can perform self-supported travel over the snow (e.g., skis or snowshoes).

It is recommended that the handler have completed at a minimum a Level I Avalanche Training course such as the National Avalanche School or American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) to include both classroom and field training.

It is recommended that the handler has demonstrated to their Agency's satisfaction proficiency with an avalanche beacon, shovel, and probe poles.

Water Recovery:

It is recommended both handler and K-9 can swim.

It is recommended that the handler has completed a minimum of a swift water awareness course and boating safety.

It is recommended that the following training is documented:

- The K-9 has trained on divers and cadaver odor
- The K-9 does not indiscriminately go to final response on buoys
- The handler can correctly identify negative areas based on the K-9's behavior

EXPLOSIVES: No detonating devices will ever be placed with explosive aids or used in testing.

TATP / HMTD – Should only be handled / prepared by trained and or certified personnel. Due to the instability of this explosive, it is typically provided in smaller quantities (5 grams) for training and certification.

Transportation of explosives should be accomplished IAW OSHA:

- **Part Number:** 1926
- **Part Title:** Safety and Health Regulations for Construction
- **Subpart:** U
- **Subpart Title:** Blasting and the Use of Explosives
- **Standard Number:** 1926.902
- **Title:** Surface transportation of explosives.
- **Applicable Standards:** 1910.109(a)(12); 1910.109(e)(3)(iii); 1910.109(g)(2); 1910.109(h)(3)(ii)

TARGET ODOR / AID PLACEMENT: Evaluations should replicate real scenarios e.g. engine compartments, trunks, furniture, buildings, public areas, and outdoor areas that simulate the team's actual working environments.

HRD evaluations should exclude using areas that would typically include target odor sources due to their designed use, such as restrooms or medical facilities.

If an odor source has to be moved to a new location, the previously utilized area must be removed as an evaluation site for the remainder of the evaluation.

DISTRACTION ODORS: A distraction odor is any odor that a K-9 may encounter during training and deployments. Distraction odors will be chosen at the discretion of the Evaluator. (Examples)

- Leather products
- Cotton products
- Paper products
- Food products
- Plastic products
- Styrofoam etc.

All distraction odors should be free of cross-contamination with target odor sources. Gloves should be changed between handling of target sources, distraction sources, and discarded after each use.

TERMINATION OF EVALUATIONS: Evaluators may terminate the certification process at their discretion at any time based upon observed control, training deficiencies, safety concerns, and odor recognition issues.

HANDLER SELECTION AND TRAINING: The agency K-9 supervisor is probably best suited to verify a candidate's qualifications. Whenever possible an interview / oral board should be held to determine the best possible candidate. The following are considered to be characteristics of an individual who desires to become a K-9 handler:

Personality Traits:

- Integrity – must possess sound morals and be of good character
- Work Ethics – should be a hard worker, requiring little or no supervision
- Teamwork – must be able to work in small team environments or as part of a larger effort involving multiple resources
- Flexibility – must be willing to work various shifts, long hours, and be able to adapt to sometimes unpredictable working environments
- Trainability – must possess the potential ability and motivation to learn the skills necessary to become a certified handler

- Confidence – must be comfortable speaking in and dealing with the public / groups of people
- Responsibility – must have a track record of fulfilling their obligations and duties
- Judgment – must possess the ability to assess and make sound tactical decisions
- Dedication – must be focused and committed to the training and success of the team
- Initiative – must possess the ability to act upon and make decisions on their own
- Physical Requirements – must meet or exceed the physical requirements determined by the individual agency
- Officer Safety – must have a history of good officer safety skills along with a basic understanding of departmental tactics
- SWAT K-9 – K-9 teams that are utilized during high risk deployments with specialty teams, should train with these teams at least once quarterly and demonstrating individual firearms proficiency with K-9 partner present
- Must understand the rigorous requirements of being a K-9 handler

Special Considerations:

The K-9 Supervisor should verify the candidate’s residence has the capability of housing a Police Service Dog. Considerations should be given to the handler’s family and home environments during testing and selection.

Handler Training: The handler should receive training in accordance with recommended K-9 industry standards. Training should include at a minimum the following areas:

- Safety
- Care of the K-9
- Kenneling
- Obedience
- K-9 Emergencies and Veterinary Care
- Legal Issues & Case Law
- Search Techniques
- Proficiency & Maintenance Training

- Training Aid Storage, Maintenance, and Accountability
- Concealment Techniques
- Record Keeping
- K-9 Health and Conditioning
- Drives & Traits
- Odor Theory and Properties of Scent

EVALUATORS: A person who meets the below listed qualifications and has been delegated the authority by NV POST to conduct a K-9 team evaluation and sign certificates, recognizing a team to be trained and certified to the particular standards within the state of Nevada.

Qualifications:

- The evaluator shall have demonstrated current knowledge, skills, and abilities required by POST to evaluate law enforcement and search and rescue K-9 teams by completing a NV POST K-9 Team Evaluator Course.
- Have at least 5 years of prior experience as a law enforcement / military handler, SAR handler, trainer, or evaluator.
- Should only evaluate K-9 teams in the areas they have been trained or certified in.
- Should actively participate in re-occurring safety training in all pertinent disciplines, ensuring up to date knowledge of proper training aid handling techniques.
- Be a sworn law enforcement member from an agency within the State of Nevada or a current member of a Search and Rescue unit under the direction of an agency within the State of Nevada.
- Must not have a monetary interest or be responsible for the day to day training of the K-9 teams that they are evaluating.
- Verification of training, certificates, and agency references will be verified prior to completion of Evaluators course.
- Evaluators that retire from active service may continue in their capacity providing they stay current with industry standards and safety training.

MAINTENANCE / PROFICIENCY TRAINING: The team shall conduct regular objective-oriented training to maintain and enhance operational proficiency. Training should be supervised by an agency approved trainer / instructor to monitor and improve proficiency, identify training deficiencies, provide corrections, and proficiency assessments. It will include but is not limited to the following:

- Correcting deficiencies or operational concerns
- Variety of search and environmental conditions
- Varied durations of searches
- Varied times of day / night
- Varieties of distractions within the working areas
- Varied set times of training aids
- Varied weights and quantities of target odors
- Variety of concealment methods
- It is recommended that all K-9 units within the state of Nevada should train a minimum of 16 hours monthly or develop a monthly task based training criteria for all K-9 teams certified under NV POST Standards.

RECORD KEEPING / DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT:

- The handler and / or department shall document training, certification, and proficiency evaluations.
- Agencies will develop a standardized record keeping system based upon their operational needs.
- Certification / Evaluation records shall be maintained by the handler and certifying evaluator.
- Evaluation sheets will be completed for every K-9 team certifying under the NV POST K-9 Team Standards. The evaluation sheet and a POST Certificate will be provided to the handler and their agency upon successful completion of the evaluation, and a copy will be kept by the evaluator.
- Evaluation sheets will be standardized in format and adapted to the individual disciplines.
- Training and Evaluation records can be discoverable in court proceedings and may become evidence of a K-9 team's reliability. Record retention policies shall be determined by the individual agencies.

TRAINING AID RECORDS / ACCOUNTABILITY:

- Agencies should have a policy in place clearly stating how they manage / store their training aids.
- Training aids should be clearly labeled or identifiable in a manner that supports accountability.
- Appropriate records shall be maintained by the agencies in accordance with federal, state, and local requirements.

VETERINARY RECORDS:

- Veterinary records should be maintained in a manner that they are easily accessible to the handler or respective agency.
- Vaccinations required by state or local laws should be documented and copies placed in the records of each K-9 team.

OBEDIENCE STANDARDS

PURPOSE:

This evaluation is designated for K-9 teams to show proficiency in obedience and control. It is a basic evaluation of the levels of control and obedience a K-9 handler should have while working their K-9 in varied working environments. It will be left up to the individual departments as to whether or not their single purpose detection teams require an obedience certification; however it is a recommended training discipline.

PROCEDURE:

- The K-9 team will heel at different directions and at all times remain under control at the handler's side.
- The evaluation should simulate the K-9 team's working environment and include associated distractions.
- During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized "on duty" equipment only

The evaluation consists of the following exercises with the dog ON and OFF Lead:

- The team will heel on a course with a minimum of two left turns, two right turns, and two about turns.
- The K-9 will be commanded to sit, stand, or down in motion. The handler will continue walking, leaving the dog in the last position commanded. The handler will turn and face the K-9 and at the direction of the evaluator recall the K-9 to a finish position.
- The Evaluator may waive the on lead portion of the test if the team successfully passes the off lead requirement.

This evaluation will be judged Pass / Fail.

Certification shall be valid for a twelve (12) month period from the date of issue, not to exceed fifteen (15) months.

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL BE:

The K-9 staying under control at the handler's side and performing the sit, stand, or down without breaking. A minimal amount of forging or lagging will not be considered a failure.

PATROL STANDARDS

The Nevada POST Canine Patrol Certification will consist of the following three phases:

- Obedience Phase:
- Apprehension Phase – Includes Apprehension without contact (Call Off), Apprehension with contact (Bite), gunfire neutralization test, and Handler Protection
- Search Phase – Includes Building and / or Outside Area

The K-9 team must pass the obedience phase before continuing on to the other phases of evaluation. The evaluation may be terminated at any time for performance and safety deficiencies. The K-9 team must pass at a minimum the obedience and apprehension phases to receive a basic patrol certification.

It is important that all patrol disciplined K-9's be neutral to gunfire. A gunfire neutralization test will be conducted during the apprehension sequence of testing. The Evaluator may choose the order of the testing sequence to ensure fluidity of the evaluation based upon agency needs.

During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized "on duty" equipment only.

Decoys will be provided a bite suit, bite sleeve, or hidden sleeve.

Distractions on the field will be at the discretion of the Evaluator.

Certification shall be valid for a twelve (12) month period from the date of issue, not to exceed fifteen (15) months.

APPREHENSION WITHOUT CONTACT (CALL OFF)

PURPOSE:

This evaluation is to simulate the apprehension of a suspect where the situation requires the handler to stop the K-9 from biting the suspect. The evaluation will be conducted on lead until such time the handler deems it necessary to release the K-9 for the apprehension, and should simulate the K-9 teams working environment. The K-9 will be evaluated on pursuit and control.

PROCEDURE:

Prior to the evaluation the handler will advise the evaluator on which of the following methods will be demonstrated:

- Disengage: On command from the handler, the K-9 will stop the pursuit and remain at the point of termination. The handler will be allowed to move to the K-9 and take control.
- Recall: On command from the handler, the K-9 will stop the pursuit and return to the handler.
- Detain: On command from the handler, the K-9 will approach the decoy and detain by holding and barking. After successful demonstration the handler will be allowed to move to the K-9 and take control or recall.

Aggressive contact with the decoy will be considered a failure, non-aggressive incidental contact is acceptable.

During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized “on duty” equipment only

The evaluation ends when the handler takes control of the K-9 and is dismissed by the evaluator.

The evaluation will be judged PASS / FAIL.

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE:

- The K-9 remains under control of the handler
- The K-9 shows obvious pursuit of the decoy
- The K-9 makes no aggressive contact with the decoy when called off or detaining

GUNFIRE NEUTRALIZATION

PURPOSE:

This evaluation is designed to show the K-9's ability to remain neutral to gunfire. This is an important part of the patrol based certification to help ensure the K-9 does not break (run away) or show aggression towards the handler, fellow officers, or the suspect during gunfire.

PROCEDURE:

- The K-9 will be deployed per agency policy
- The handler will maintain verbal control of the K-9 at the starting position designated by the evaluator
- During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized "on duty" equipment only
- With the decoy at a safe and reasonable distance, the handler will command the K-9 to a sit or down stay position
- The decoy will then fire one blank from a caliber not smaller than a .22 blank gun and no larger than a .38
- The decoy will not aim the blank gun at or show aggressive movements towards the K-9 team
- Barking and lunging towards the decoy is acceptable as long as the handler can control the K-9 with the use of verbal commands
- The evaluation ends when the Evaluator allows the handler to take physical control of their K-9
- This evaluation will be judged PASS / FAIL

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL BE:

- The K-9 remains neutral to gunfire; does not show aggression towards handler, evaluator, or decoy
- The handler does not have to provide a physical correction to K-9

APPREHENSION WITH CONTACT (BITE)

PURPOSE:

This evaluation is designed to show the K-9's ability to apprehend a suspect by biting and holding until released by **VERBAL COMMAND** from the handler. The evaluation will begin with the K-9 on lead until the handler deems it necessary to release the K-9 for the apprehension. The K-9 team will be evaluated on pursuit, bite, verbal release, and control. The evaluation should simulate the K9 teams working environment.

PROCEDURE:

- The K-9 will deploy per agency policy
- The handler will control the K-9 at the starting position designated by the evaluator
- During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized "on duty" equipment only
- With the decoy at a reasonable distance, the handler will issue announcements per agency policy
- Upon command from the handler the K-9 will pursue and engage the decoy
- Upon command from the handler the K-9 will release the bite and remain under control
- The evaluation ends when the handler takes control of the K-9 and is dismissed by the evaluator
- The evaluation will be judged PASS / FAIL

VERBAL RELEASE:

When the handler verbally commands the K-9 to release, the K-9 shall:

- Respond to the command of the handler in a reasonable amount of time
- Release the bite
- Remain under verbal control of the handler

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE:

- The K-9 remains on the bite until verbally commanded to release by the handler
- The K-9 must release the bite within a reasonable amount of time
- The K-9 must not re-engage the decoy prior to the handler taking control
- The handler must not have physical contact with dog prior to the release of bite

HANDLER PROTECTION

PURPOSE:

This evaluation demonstrates the K-9's ability to engage a suspect who is attacking the handler. The K-9 team is evaluated on the K-9's response to the attack, verbal release from the bite, and control.

PROCEDURE:

- The K-9 will deploy per agency policy (conditioned response or verbal command)
- During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized "on duty" equipment only
- The K-9 will engage by biting the suspect, remaining on the bite until verbally commanded to release by the handler
- The K-9 remains under control of the handler upon release from the bite.
- The evaluation will be judged PASS / FAIL

The evaluation ends when the handler takes control of the K-9 and is dismissed by the evaluator.

VERBAL RELEASE: When the handler verbally commands the K-9 to release, the K-9 shall:

- Respond to the command of the handler in a reasonable amount of time
- Release the bite
- Remain under verbal control of the handler

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE:

- The K-9 Deploys from a vehicle (car retention) or from a down stay per agency policies
- K-9 engages decoy and **NOT THE HANDLER**
- The K-9 remains on the bite
- The K-9 releases the bite upon verbal command from the handler
- The K-9 remains under control of the handler

OUTDOOR AREA SEARCH

PURPOSE:

This evaluation simulates a suspect fleeing into an open area with a number of places that could be used to avoid detection. The decoy will be concealed in a location out of view of the K-9 and handler.

AREA TYPE:

The evaluator will make the final determination of which area type will be utilized and where the decoy will be hidden. An effort will be made to make all the searches fair and reasonable, yet designed to challenge the team's ability.

- Open fields, warehouse complexes, fenced in storage lots, etc.
- The area selected should simulate K-9 team's working environment

PROCEDURE:

- The decoy will be hidden for a minimum of 10 minutes prior to evaluation
- The evaluation can be either bite or no bite scenario
- The evaluation may be conducted on or off lead
- During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized "on duty" equipment only
- The team must demonstrate the ability to locate the hidden suspect
- The handler must be able to identify the alert to the presence of the suspect to the evaluator
- The handler will act in compliance to their department policies regarding announcements
- Tactics will not be evaluated, however they should be employed as appropriate
- The evaluation will be judged PASS / FAIL

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE:

- The K-9's indication of the decoy location must be obvious
- The handler will call the alert to the location of the decoy
- The handler will demonstrate control of their K-9

BUILDING SEARCH

PURPOSE:

This evaluation simulates a working environment where a suspect is avoiding apprehension by hiding within a building.

BUILDING TYPES: The evaluator will make the final determination of which building type will be utilized and where the decoy will be hidden. An effort will be made to make all the searches fair and reasonable, yet designed to challenge the team's ability.

- Residential dwelling, warehouse, barn, open garage / shop, office building, school, hotel / motel, etc.
- Building selected should simulate the K-9 teams working environment

PROCEDURE:

- The decoy will be concealed in a location out of view from the K-9 and handler.
- Decoy will be hidden for a minimum of 10 minutes prior to the test
- The evaluation may be conducted on or off lead
- During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized "on duty" equipment only.
- The team will demonstrate the ability to locate a hidden suspect
- The handler will be able to identify the response of the K-9 to the evaluator
- The handler will act in compliance with their department policies regarding announcements
- Tactics will not be evaluated, however should be employed
- The evaluation will be judged PASS / FAIL

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE:

- The K-9's indication of the decoy location must be obvious
- The handler will call the alert to the location of the decoy
- The handler will demonstrate control of their K-9

NARCOTICS DETECTION K-9 TEAM STANDARDS

PURPOSE:

This evaluation is to demonstrate that the K-9 team can successfully identify target odors in a typical environmental and operational setting. The area to be used will be at the discretion of the evaluator.

PROCEDURE:

The handler will receive no information regarding the source locations, blank areas, distractions, or any other aspect of the sets prior to or during the search. All reasonable efforts will be made to assure the evaluation is conducted at a minimum of a single blind standard.

- Evaluations shall be conducted in environments that have naturally occurring distraction odors.
- During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized “on duty” equipment only
- The certification may be terminated at any time for performance and safety deficiencies.
- At a minimum phase I and phase II must be completed including one of the options from phase III. If areas and time permits, it would be suggested that canine teams challenge all five areas of the narcotics detection certifications, (Vehicle, Building, Large Vehicle, Parcel/Luggage, and Open Area).
- Failures will be considered as - Any false responses by the K-9 to any areas in which the narcotics odor could not be present, which is called positive by the handler.
- If a handler recognizes a false response by his/her K-9 and called the alert as such, the false response will not be considered as a failure.
- One missed odor is allowed for entire evaluation sequence.
- Any one area failed during the evaluation period may be subsequently remediated to a pass within a 24-hour window.
- All efforts made to bring the canine team up to certification standards must be documented and handed to the originating evaluator or their designee at the time of remediation. The handler must return to the originating evaluator or their designee to prove proficiency.
- Basic odors for certification:
- Marijuana, Methamphetamines, Cocaine, Heroin, additional odors can be added to accommodate K-9 team / agency requirements.
- All odors for which the K-9 will be certified should come from a certified source (DEA, crime labs, etc.) Pseudo-narcotics shall not be used during certifications.

- In order to assure the narcotics odor is available for the K-9 to detect, all substances must be planted a minimum of 30 minutes prior to testing. In colder temperatures, a greater plant time is recommended.
- Odor source will be a minimum of five (5) grams.
- **Type of K-9 Response:** Prior to the start of the evaluation, the handler must provide the evaluator information on the type of response, whether passive or aggressive.
- **Start and Finish:** The evaluator will signal the start and finish of each evaluation.
- **K-9 Response:** The handler must indicate to the evaluator that they have a positive response from their K-9 and they believe the odor source has been located in the immediate vicinity.
- Certification shall be valid for a twelve (12) month period from the date of issue, not to exceed fifteen (15) months.
- Certification testing will be judged as PASS / FAIL

NARCOTICS DETECTION K-9 TEAM CERTIFICATION:

Phase I:

Vehicle search (interior/exterior)

- (4) Vehicles (1-2) hides (1-3) blank 30 min. max
- Handler identifies which vehicle(s) contain the source odor(s)
 - Sources will not be visible to handler or canine
 - K-9 teams may sniff interior and exterior of every vehicle

Phase II:

Building search

- Approx. 1500 Sq. Ft structure (2-3) hides (1) blank area 30 min. max
- No more than one odor source per room
 - At least one blank area must be used
 - Sources will not be visible to handler or K-9

Phase III: A third area of narcotics certification shall resemble searches within the normal operational environment of the canine team.

Large Vehicle search (interior) (Bus, airplane, commercial truck, etc.)

- (2) Large vehicles (1) hide (1) blank 30 min. max
- Parcel/Luggage search (Line drill)
- (4) parcel/luggage (1) hide (3) blank 10 min. max
- Open Area search
- 100 ft. by 100 ft. area (1) hide 30 min. max

EXPLOSIVE DETECTION STANDARDS (PHASE I)

ODOR RECOGNITION TEST

PURPOSE:

This evaluation is to demonstrate that the K-9 can successfully identify target odors in a controlled setting and to provide a standardized method for assessing a K-9's ability to recognize explosive odors.

- Successful completion of this evaluation does not indicate proficiency in operational environments.
- Successful completion of this evaluation is required prior to attempting an operational evaluation.
- This odor recognition evaluation is established to determine whether or not a K-9 can successfully recognize explosive odors.
- This evaluation will be valid for a period of two (2) years and only needs to be completed for initial certification and every other year after.

PROCEDURE:

The evaluation is to determine that the K-9 is trained to recognize explosive odors and will be conducted as a single blind to the handler.

- Evaluations can be conducted on or off lead.
- During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized “on duty” equipment only.
- All explosive aids should be from uncontaminated sources.
- All distraction odors should be from uncontaminated sources.
- The K-9 shall have a passive final response.
- The quantity of explosives used for each test sample will be between ten (10) and twenty five (25) grams. The exception is TATP / HTMD, as little as five (5) grams.
- Each odor sample (Explosive or Distraction) should be placed in a clean, unused container.
- All containers used for the evaluation shall be identical and un-contaminated.
- In order to pass the odor recognition test the K-9 must demonstrate 100% accuracy.
- Remediation will be at the discretion of the Evaluator conducting the test.
- The K-9 should be trained to disregard distraction odors.
- The K-9 shall have a passive final response.

- Each container should have a perforated top (wood, cardboard, metal etc.) and will be absent of external markings and perforations will be small enough to eliminate the presence of visual cues.
- The eight (8) mandatory explosive odors will be utilized.
- Four (4) total elective odors may be added to the testing. The four (4) elective odors may be chosen by the team being tested based upon operational needs or availability of the aids.
- Total evaluated odors should not exceed twelve (12).

MANDATORY EXPLOSIVE ODORS:

The K-9 shall be capable of recognizing the scent of the following mandatory explosive odors:

- Black Powder
- Double base smokeless powder
- Commercial Dynamites
- RDX
- TNT or Military Dynamite
- PETN
- Slurries (Water-Gel)
- Ammonium Nitrate

ELECTIVE ODORS: (Example)

- Black powder substitutes
- Blasting agents
- Cast boosters
- Composition B
- Emulsions
- Nitro-methane
- Photoflash, fireworks, and pyrotechnic powders
- Plastic explosives (unmarked and marked with detection agent)
- SEMTEX
- Single based smokeless powder
- Slurries
- Tetryl
- Water gels
- Homemade explosives (HME) that include:

- Chlorate based mixtures (e.g., potassium chlorate)
- Nitrate based mixtures (e.g., ANFO)
- Perchlorate based mixtures (e.g., potassium perchlorate)
- Urea nitrate
- Peroxide based explosives
- Hexamethylene Triperoxidediamine (HMTD)
- Tri-acetone tri-peroxide (TATP)

CONTAINERS:

A minimum of three (3) to six (6) containers per odor will be utilized for this evaluation. Examples of the containers can be:

- Single or double hole cinder blocks or a drop in container with a perforated top
- Wood boxes with a drop-in container with a perforated top
- Small cardboard box with a drop-in container with a perforated top
- Sterile paint cans of like size

The containers should be placed three (3) to four (4) feet apart. The twelve (12) explosive aids will be placed randomly inside the containers. The Evaluator will select the overall arrangement of the containers. Examples of arrangement include two individual lines, two circles, or one large circle. Containers should be numbered to allow for documentation of aid placement, starting, and stopping points during the evaluation.

Care should be taken to avoid cross-contamination of one explosive aid with the prevalent odor of another.

To allow for sufficient odor availability, the explosive training aids should be in place for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes prior to testing.

Prior to conducting the evaluation it is recommended that the Evaluator walk the handlers through the evaluation process to ensure they understand the procedures:

- This is an odor recognition test only
- The K-9 should get their noses deep into the container (handler presented)
- The search can be conducted on or off lead
- This is not a timed event
- Evaluators may terminate the certification process at their discretion at any time

The handler will notify the Evaluator each time the K-9 has made a positive response. The Evaluator will record the placement of the container where each final response is identified.

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE:

- The K-9 must make correct final responses on all explosive odors used in the test.
- The K-9 is allowed two false responses on non-explosive samples.

EXPLOSIVE DETECTION EVALUATION (PHASE II)

OPERATIONAL EVALUATION

PURPOSE:

This evaluation is to demonstrate that the K-9 team can successfully identify target odors in an operational setting and should be conducted within their typical working environment.

PROCEDURE:

The handler will receive no information regarding the source locations, blank areas, distractions, or any other aspect of the sets prior to or during the evaluation. All reasonable efforts will be made to ensure the evaluation is conducted at a minimum of a single blind standard.

Team must have passed a Phase I Odor Recognition Evaluation prior to conducting Phase II

It should be noted that all aids might not be pinpointed to source due to the height, air movement, or placement of the aids.

During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized “on duty” equipment only.

The evaluation will be judged PASS / FAIL

Any one area failed during the evaluation period may be subsequently remediated to a pass within a 24 hour window.

If two (2) failures occur, the team will be required to undergo the entire evaluation at a later date.

A maximum of two false responses will be allowed during the entire evaluation process. The K-9 team will be allowed one miss (no find).

All aids will be placed at least thirty (30) minutes prior to testing.

Each handler shall brief the Evaluator as to the K-9’s final response to an aid prior to testing.

The Evaluator shall explain prior to the testing phase a minimum of the following:

- Area boundaries
- Safety concerns
- Starting location
- Areas / items to be searched

THE TEST:

The Evaluator should exercise reasonable judgment during the course of the evaluation. Any aggression towards a placed training aid (Bite, Bark or Scratch) can be used to disqualify the testing team.

Each certification shall be valid for a twelve (12) month period from the date of issue, not to exceed fifteen (15) months.

All aids used in testing should be of recent manufacture and in separate containers.

MANDATORY ODORS: All canines must be tested on all basic odors.

- Black Powder
- Double base smokeless powder
- Commercial Dynamites
- RDX
- TNT or Military Dynamite
- PETN
- Slurries (Water-Gel)
- Ammonium Nitrate

ELECTIVE ODORS: (Example)

- Black powder substitutes
- Blasting agents
- Cast boosters
- Composition B
- Emulsions
- Nitro-methane
- Photoflash, fireworks, and pyrotechnic powders
- Plastic explosives (unmarked and marked with detection agent)
- SEMTEX
- Single based smokeless powder
- Slurries
- Tetryl
- Water gels
- Homemade explosives (HME) that include:
 - Chlorate based mixtures (e.g., potassium chlorate)
 - Nitrate based mixtures (e.g., ANFO)
 - Perchlorate based mixtures (e.g., potassium perchlorate)
 - Urea nitrate
 - Peroxide based explosives
 - Hexamethylene Triperoxidodiamine (HMTD)
 - Tri-acetone tri-peroxide (TATP)

The maximum weight of the explosive used shall be unlimited; however, a minimum weight of one quarter (1/4) pound shall be used for testing. Each area tested will contain a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) aids, where each aid is a different explosive. The handler will not be told the number or type of explosives they are searching for.

Areas Tested:

The K-9 team will be tested in four (4) of the six (6) following areas based upon operational needs. The areas will be selected by the Evaluator based upon availability.

- Buildings
- Vehicles
- Open Area
- Aircraft
- Baggage
- Mass Transit Vehicle

Building Search:

The building search will consist of a minimum of (4) four rooms and a maximum of six (6) rooms. Each room will be at least 400 square feet and have some type of furniture in it. Only one (1) aid may be placed per room. One (1) or more rooms should be blank (no target odors). One (1) aid must be placed high, not to exceed eight (8) feet in height. The aids will be placed so the K-9 cannot retrieve it. Search tactics will be considered during the evaluation. The handler may not open cabinet doors, desk drawers, closet doors, etc.

Vehicle Search:

Eight (8) vehicles minimum with a maximum of sixteen (16) of any type or model may be used. The vehicles will be parked in a configuration so as to allow the team to have access to each vehicle. The aids will be placed so the K-9 cannot retrieve them. Only one (1) aid may be placed per vehicle. All detection will be done from outside the vehicle. Aid placement should simulate realistic target substance placement.

Open Area Search:

Areas selected should simulate the team's working environment, no larger than 100 X 100 yards, and no smaller than 50 X 50 yards or any configuration thereof. Aids will be placed a minimum of one (1) foot below the surface level to a maximum of eight (8) feet above surface level where the K-9 cannot retrieve them.

An open area may be defined as:

- Exterior of buildings
- Open Fields
- Wooded Area
- Any area outside not covered

Aircraft Search:

The size of aircraft to be used will be at the discretion of the Evaluator. Availability will be the ruling factor in the testing. The entire search shall include the interior and exterior of the aircraft. One (1) aid must be placed inside the aircraft, with additional aids placed outside. All aids will be placed so the K-9 cannot retrieve them. TSA rules relating to contamination will be strictly adhered to regarding the placement of aids inside any aircraft.

Baggage Search:

Baggage shall be defined as hard and soft-shell suitcases, attaché cases, clothing bags, brief cases, golf bags, sea bags, duffel bags, etc. A minimum of twelve (12) bags with a maximum of twenty (20) bags may be used. Bags should contain some type of clothing or filler materials. All aids will be placed inside the bags in a manner so the K-9 cannot retrieve it. Bags should be placed in two (2) to three (3) rows with enough space between each bag to allow the K-9 to search. A maximum of two (2) odors will be placed.

Mass Transit Vehicles:

The Evaluator will select the number and type of mass transit vehicles based on availability. Consideration should be given to the types of mass transit vehicles typically encountered in their operational environments. These vehicles may include buses, trains, watercraft etc. Aids will be placed so that the K-9 cannot retrieve them. A maximum of one (1) odor will be placed on each vehicle.

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE:

- The K-9 remains under control of the handler
- The K-9 shows obvious signs of working
- The K-9 shows a positive passive response to target odor and handler calls alert

ARTICLE / EVIDENCE DETECTION STANDARDS

PURPOSE:

This evaluation is to demonstrate that the K-9 team can successfully identify target odors in a typical environmental and operational setting, demonstrating the team's ability to locate articles / evidence bearing human odor in a simulated working environment.

AREA TYPE:

The area selected by evaluator should simulate the K-9 teams working environment. Weather conditions during evaluation should permit for a fair and reasonable deployment setting.

ARTICLE / EVIDENCE SELECTION:

Items used should be of different materials e.g. metal, plastic, wood, leather, cloth, etc. They should be well saturated with human odor by the person hiding / placing the items.

PROCEDURE:

- The evaluation area will be determined by the evaluator with consideration given to the K-9 teams working environment.
- The area should not exceed 100 ft x 100 ft.
- Four (4) well scented articles will be utilized.
- Set time of items should be no less than 20 minutes.
- During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized "on duty" equipment only.
- The handler will demonstrate control of the K-9 during the evaluation.
- The K-9 will successfully locate / retrieve 3 of the 4 items within 30 minutes.
- Any one area failed during the evaluation period may be subsequently remediated to a pass.

Prior to the evaluation, the handler will inform the evaluator what the K-9's final response will be.

The evaluation will be judged PASS / FAIL

Certification shall be valid for a twelve (12) month period from the date of issue, not to exceed fifteen (15) months.

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL BE:

- K-9 actively searches and remains under control of the handler
- K-9 team successfully locates / retrieves 3 out of the 4 items hidden
- K-9 team does not exceed 30 minute time limit

Human Remains Detection Certification

The Canine Human Remains Detection certification will consist of two phases:

- Obedience Phase
- Search Phase – Includes vehicle, shallow water, building and outside areas

The K-9 team must first pass the obedience phase before attempting the search phase. Successful completion of both phases is required to receive certification in Human Remains Detection.

Evaluators may terminate the certification process at their discretion at any time.

Certification shall be valid for a twelve (12) month period from the date of issue, not to exceed fifteen (15) months.

The evaluation will be judged as PASS / FAIL.

HUMAN REMAINS DETECTION CANINE CERTIFICATION SEARCH PHASE

PURPOSE:

This evaluation is to demonstrate that the canine can successfully identify target odors in a typical environmental setting.

PROCEDURE:

The handler will receive no information regarding source location(s), blank areas, distractions, or any other aspect of the sets prior to or during the search. All reasonable efforts will be made to assure the evaluation is conducted at a minimum of a single blind standard.

The team has completed and passed the obedience phase prior to attempting the search phase.

During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized “on duty” equipment only.

The three odor sources include human bone, human blood, and decomposing human remains (“decomposition”). Each odor source will be used at least once over the course of the evaluation.

Evaluation areas include: vehicle, building, shallow water, open shrub land, and forest.

Search areas will be at the discretion of the evaluator. Areas may be attempted in any order at the discretion of the evaluator.

Evaluators may terminate the certification process at their discretion at any time.

The area to be searched will be clearly identified to the handler prior to the start of the evaluation and may include flagging or other means to mark boundaries.

Three source configurations will be presented: elevated (level at which a dog can no longer sniff and have four paws on the floor and no higher than 6’), buried (~12”), and surface.

Final responses are determined by the handler. A false response is a handler stating that a source is present where it is not.

It is preferred that only one team be evaluated in a given area per day.

Only one team may be evaluated in a given area per day.

The evaluator will signal the start and finish of each test.

In order to assure the human remains odor is available for the canine to detect, a buried source will set a minimum of four (4) hours prior to testing. All other sources will be set no less than twenty (20) minutes prior to the start of the evaluation.

The evaluation will be judged PASS / FAIL.

Odor Sources:

All sources will be used in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes and local regulations.

The following are not considered valid sources: hair, fingernail, pseudo scent, soil.

Blood will be contained on a material such as gauze or in a vial or similar containers.

All sources used in the search phase must be tested by a certified human remains detector K-9 prior to placement.

Sources should be reasonable representations of the variability that would be encountered during deployments.

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE:

- All odor sources must be located.
- Exactly one false response is allowed for the entire evaluation sequence.
- The handler will verbally indicate to the evaluator that he/she has a positive alert from his/her K-9 and believes that the odor source is in the immediate vicinity. The evaluator will not comment or provide feedback until the entire area has been completed.
- Final response is passive. A recall re-find is not considered passive.
- Failure of an area will also include:
 - Eating, retrieving, defecating or urinating on a source.
 - Any other behavior by the K-9 that cannot be stopped by the handler that would compromise a source.

Area 1: Vehicle search

This element demonstrates that a K-9 team can locate human remains odor on or in a vehicle.

(4) Vehicles (1) source (3) blanks 20 min. max

- K-9 teams may sniff the interior and exterior of every vehicle.
- Handler identifies which vehicle contains the source.
- The source will not be visible to handler or K-9.

Area 2: Building search

This element demonstrates that a K-9 team can locate human remains odor inside of a building.

Approx. 1500 square-foot structure (1-2) sources 60 min. max

- A coin toss will be used to determine the number of sources (1 or 2).
- Location of sources is at evaluator discretion.
- The source(s) will not be visible to handler or K-9.

Area 3: Shoreline search

This element demonstrates that a K-9 team can locate the odor of human remains in shallow water from shore that does not require deployment of divers or a technical swift water recovery team to recover the source.

A shoreline of water 75-100 yards in length (1) source 30 min. max

- Decomposition will be the source for this area.
- The water depth at placement will be no greater than 18” and no farther than 5’ from shore.
- The source will not be visible to the handler or K-9.

Areas 4 and 5: Open area / wild-land interface search

These two areas demonstrate that a K-9 team can locate human remains in natural and urban wild-land interface environments, and that a canine team can correctly clear an area that is blank.

½-acre area that is predominantly shrub cover (0-2) sources 30 min. max

½-acre area that is forest or predominantly treed (0-2) sources 30 min. max

- A coin toss will be used to determine which one of these two areas will be blank.
- For the area that is not blank, a coin toss will determine whether 1 or 2 sources are set.
- At least one source will be a 12” burial and the buried source will be decomposition. Bone and blood may be buried with a decomposition source.
- Every effort shall be made to disguise the location of the burial.
- The source(s) will not be visible to handler or K-9.
- Any tree cover is valid (e.g., native conifer, Joshua trees, landscaped).

Area/Wilderness Certification

The Area/Wilderness K-9 Team certification will consist of three phases:

- Obedience Phase
- Final Response Demonstration Phase
- Search Phase

The K-9 team must pass the Obedience and Final Response Demonstration Phases before attempting the Search Phase. Successful completion of all three phases is required to receive certification in Area/Wilderness.

Evaluators may terminate the certification process at their discretion at any time.

Certification shall be valid for a twelve (12) month period from the date of issue, not to exceed fifteen (15) months.

This evaluation will be judged as PASS/FAIL.

Area/Wilderness Canine Certification

Final Response Demonstration Phase

PURPOSE:

This evaluation is to demonstrate that the K-9 will independently perform the trained final response as articulated by the handler.

PROCEDURE:

This demonstration can be done in conjunction with the obedience evaluation.

Successful completion of this test does not indicate proficiency in operational environments.

During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized “on duty” equipment only.

Evaluators may terminate the certification process at their discretion at any time.

The handler will state what the K-9’s final response is.

A live person will be placed in a location not visible to the K-9 and at a location where the K-9 can get odor and follow it to the subject quickly.

Evaluations will be conducted in environments that have natural distracter odors.

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE:

- The handler will start the K-9 with its search command.
- The K-9 will locate the subject and perform its final response without cues or assistance from its handler.
- The final response should be what the handler described.

A FAILURE WILL INCLUDE:

- The K-9 not performing its final response independently;
- The K-9 not performing the final response indicated by its handler.

Area/Wilderness Canine Certification

Search Phase

PURPOSE:

This evaluation simulates a typical area/wilderness working environment where a person is missing.

PROCEDURE:

The handler will receive no information regarding the number of subject(s), subject location(s), or any other aspect of the set prior to or during the search. All reasonable efforts will be made to assure the evaluation is conducted at a minimum of a single blind standard.

There will be a minimum of one (1) live human placed in the search area.

The area to be used will be at the discretion of the evaluator.

Evaluators may terminate the certification process at their discretion at any time.

Evaluations will be conducted in environments that have natural distracter odors.

The area will be approximately 40 acres of mixed terrain that can be searched to a reasonable Probability of Detection (POD).

There will be a two (2) hour time limit for the team to complete the test, including breaks.

The search area will be clearly identified to the handler prior to the start of the evaluation on a master map.

The evaluator will signal the start and finish of the test.

During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized "on duty" equipment only.

It is preferred that only one team be tested in a given area per day.

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE:

- The team shall demonstrate the stamina to search the entire area.
- The K-9 shall independently search for and locate all subjects in the allotted time.

FAILURE OF THE EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE

- The team fails to locate all subject(s).
- Handler does not recognize inadequate coverage of their assigned area.

Avalanche Certification

The Avalanche K-9 team certification will consist of two phases:

- Obedience Phase
- Search Phase

The K-9 team must pass the obedience phase before attempting the search phase. Both phases are required to receive certification in Avalanche.

Evaluators may terminate the certification process at their discretion at any time.

Certification shall be valid for a twelve (12) month period from the date of issue, not to exceed fifteen (15) months.

The evaluation will be judged PASS / FAIL.

Avalanche Canine Certification - Search Phase

PURPOSE:

This evaluation is to demonstrate that the canine can successfully locate a person buried under snow in a typical environmental setting.

PROCEDURE:

The team has completed and passed the obedience phase prior to attempting the search phase.

The subject(s) shall be live human(s).

The handler will receive no information regarding the number of subjects or their location(s), distractions, or any other aspect of the set prior to or during the search. All reasonable efforts will be made to assure the evaluation is conducted at a minimum of a single blind standard.

The test area will be approximately 50 X 50 yards (½ acre) and the specific area to be used will be at the discretion of the evaluator.

There will be a thirty (30) minute time limit to complete the test.

The area will be clearly identified to the handler prior to the start of the evaluation and may include flagging or other means to mark boundaries.

In order to assure that human odor is available for the K-9 to detect there will be a thirty (30) minute burial time before beginning the search.

There will be one (1) or two (2) subjects buried and their location shall not be obvious.

Surface distractions include people, articles and audible distractions.

The evaluator will signal the start and finish of the test.

Evaluators may terminate the certification process at their discretion at any time.

The final response is focused digging to the subject. Barking or other vocalizing is allowed so long as the K-9 is exhibiting focused digging at the subject.

It is preferred that only one team be tested in a given area per day.

Safety protocols will be in force in accordance with NV POST guidelines. Safety of buried subjects and surface personnel takes priority over completion of the test.

A false alert is a handler requesting shovelers where no person is buried or stating they have located a subject where there are only buried articles.

SAFETY PROCEDURES:

The following safety protocols shall be in place during the test:

- Snow caves for subject burials will be constructed such that they do not readily collapse and can provide a relatively safe burial environment.
- Subjects will be buried in snow caves with an insulating pad underneath them and a tarp over top of them while buried.
- One 2-way radio will be with each buried subject and with a safety officer on the surface who maintains radio contact with buried subject(s) at all times.
- Each buried subject will wear an avalanche transceiver actively transmitting. At a minimum the safety officer will also wear an avalanche transceiver turned “on”.
- At any point if a buried person requests un-burial or does not respond to a radio check the test will immediately stop and the subject will be un-buried.
- Each person on the surface will have a shovel and a radio. There will be two surface people for every one person buried. A minimum of three surface people including the evaluator will be present at all times a subject is buried.
- The head area of every buried subject must be marked in some manner to allow for quick access if needed. The marking shall be disguised so as to not be obvious to the team testing.

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE:

- The K-9 shall locate all subjects in the allotted time.
- Final response is focused dig to subject(s).
- The handler recognizes the K-9’s final response and verbally indicates this by calling for shovelers/probers at that location.
- Failure will include:
 - A final response other than a focused dig.
 - A false alert.
 - Not locating all subjects within the allotted time frame.

Certification - Water Recovery

The Water Recovery K-9 Team certification will consist of three phases:

- Obedience Phase
- Boat Phase
- Shoreline Phase

The K-9 team must pass the Obedience Phase before attempting the Search Phase. Successful completion of all three phases is required to receive certification in Water Recovery.

Evaluators may terminate the certification process at their discretion at any time.

Certification shall be valid for a twelve (12) month period from the date of issue, not to exceed fifteen (15) months.

The evaluation will be judged PASS / FAIL.

Water Recovery Canine Certification

Search Phase

PURPOSE:

This evaluation is to demonstrate that the K-9 team can successfully locate a submerged subject.

PROCEDURE:

The handler will receive no information regarding the odor source location, or any other aspect of the set prior to or during the search. All reasonable efforts will be made to assure the evaluation is conducted at a minimum of a single blind standard.

All personnel will wear a minimum of U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) type III personal flotation device (PFD) in the water craft and when working along the shore.

The area(s) to be used will be at the discretion of the evaluator. The search phases will be conducted when conditions allow the test to be solved within test parameters.

The evaluator will signal the start and finish of the test.

Evaluators may terminate the certification process at their discretion at any time.

Evaluations will be conducted in environments that have natural distracter odors and where it is reasonably expected that there is not a submerged decedent.

During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized “on duty” equipment.

The K-9 should have a final response that provides a definitive location from which follow up focal searches using divers, side scan sonar or other methods to locate the body.

Barking as a sole final response is not allowed.

The K-9 may enter the water where conditions allow at the handler’s discretion.

Odor Sources:

Human decomposition is the source type and may include human blood, but human blood alone is not a sufficient source. All sources will be used in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes and local regulations.

The following are not considered valid sources: hair, fingernail, pseudo scent, soil.

All sources used in the search phases must be tested by a certified human remains detector canine prior to placement.

Scent pumps will have sufficient tube length such that the location of the odor outflow relative to the scent pump location on shore can be disguised.

Boat Phase:

From a boat, the K-9 team will locate and mark the location of the simulated drowned subject in a lake, reservoir or similar body of water.

A gas engine may be used if a trolling motor is not available. The handler will be told the type of engine used prior to starting the test.

The boat driver will not know the solution to the test. The boat driver will be experienced to the degree that he/she can maneuver the boat safely and execute the handler's directions.

Boats must have an approved capacity to accommodate the number of people who will be on board. The K-9 counts as one person.

The search area size should simulate a typical working environment, no less than ½ acre (e.g., 50 yards by 50 yards), yet reasonably sized to be solved within test parameters.

The search area to be covered should be clearly defined and may include buoys.

There will be a forty-five (45) minute time limit to complete this phase.

Water depth should be at least three feet deep.

The odor source should be no deeper than approximately ten (10) feet.

The test should be set (odor reaching the water surface) prior to the team beginning deployment.

Bubbles will not be apparent to personnel or K-9 in the boat.

The handler will mark the location of the odor source with a final buoy based on the K-9's response to odor and will tell the evaluator where divers should be deployed.

Shoreline Phase:

From shore the team will locate and mark the location of the simulated drowned subject.

The designated search area should be approximately, but no more than, one hundred (100) yards in length with endpoints clearly marked.

Water depth should be at least eighteen (18) inches deep.

The shoreline should be accessible to the team from land.

There will be a forty-five (45) minute time limit to complete this phase.

The simulated drowned subject should not be visible (e.g., bubbles) to the K-9 or handler and should be within ten (10) feet of the shoreline.

The test should be set so that odor reaches the water surface prior to the team beginning deployment.

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE:

- From a boat, the odor source is located within approximately twenty (20) feet from source.
- From shore, the odor source is located within thirty-five (35) feet.
- Sources are located within the allotted time.

FAILURE OF THE EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE

- The team fails to locate all sources within the allotted time.
- A handler marking a source where there is none.
- Marking outside of the distance requirements stated above.

Tracking/Trailing Hot Track Certification

The Nevada POST K-9 Tracking/Trailing Hot Track Certification will consist of one phase.

PURPOSE:

This evaluation is to demonstrate that the K-9 team can successfully follow a target odor from the last known point (LKP) to the subject.

PROCEDURE:

The handler will receive no information regarding the source locations, blank areas, distractions, or any other aspect of the sets prior to or during the search. All reasonable efforts will be made to assure the evaluation is conducted at a minimum of a single blind standard.

This exercise will consist of a track not less than 440 yard (1/4 mile) and no more than 880 yards (1/2 mile).

During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized “on duty” equipment only.

Search areas to be used will be at the discretion of the evaluator.

Whenever possible, the tracklayer will be an unfamiliar person to the K-9.

The track will begin from a vehicle, evidence article, or by casting the K-9 in the area.

The track will conclude where the tracklayer will be concealed from the K-9 team’s sight.

The directions and travels of the tracklayer will simulate the actions of a lost or fleeing subject.

To show that the K-9 can follow a track across multiple surfaces, the surfaces types of the track will consist of a variation of grass, weeds, dirt, gravel, etc. The combination of surfaces types should represent the handler’s potential area of deployments.

The track will contain naturally occurring cross tracks and distractions.

The track will be aged a minimum of twenty (20) minutes and not more than one (1) hour.

Evaluators may terminate the certification process at their discretion at any time.

There will be no evidence articles between the starting and ending points.

It will be the responsibility of the K-9 team to determine the direction of travel.

The only direction eliminated will be the path taken by the team to arrive at the starting point.

The team must successfully complete the track by locating the tracklayer within thirty (30) minutes.

The evaluation will be judged PASS / FAIL.

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE:

- It is obvious to the evaluator that the K-9 team is on track.
- The K-9 team must find the subject within thirty (30) minutes.

Tracking / Trailing Aged Track Certification

PURPOSE:

This evaluation is to demonstrate that the K-9 team can successfully identify and follow a target odor from a scented article and locate the target subject. This evaluation will consist of one phase.

PROCEDURE:

The handler will receive no information regarding the source locations, blank areas, distractions, or any other aspect of the sets prior to or during the search. All reasonable efforts will be made to assure the evaluation is conducted at a minimum of a single blind standard.

This exercise will consist of a track not less than one (1) mile and no more than one and one-half (1½) miles.

During the evaluation the K-9 will be deployed wearing authorized “on duty” equipment only.

Search areas to be used will be at the discretion of the evaluator.

Whenever possible the tracklayer will be an unfamiliar person to the K-9.

The evaluation begins when the K-9 is scented on an article that contains only the scent of the tracklayer in the area of where the track begins.

It will be the responsibility of the K-9 team to determine the direction of travel.

The only direction eliminated will be the path taken by the team to arrive at the starting point.

The tracklayer will return to the end of the track for the K-9 to find, taking a route that does not coincide with or cross the original track.

The track will conclude where the tracklayer will be concealed from the K-9 team’s sight.

The directions and travels of the tracklayer will simulate the actions of a lost or fleeing subject.

To show that the K-9 can follow a track across multiple surfaces, the surface types of the tack will consist of a variation of grass, weeds, dirt, gravel, etc. The combination of surface types should represent the K-9 team’s typical area of deployments.

The track will contain naturally occurring cross tracks and distractions.

The track will be aged a minimum of four (4) hours and not more than six (6) hours.

There will be no evidence articles between the starting and ending points.

Evaluators may terminate the certification process at their discretion at any time.

The team must successfully complete the track by locating the tracklayer within ninety (90) minutes.

This evaluation will be judged PASS / FAIL.

A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE:

- The handler is correctly reading / interpreting their K-9 (teamwork)
- The K-9 team must find the subject within ninety (90) minutes.

DEFINITIONS and TERMINOLOGY:

AID or TRAINING AID: Target odor source used for training and evaluations of K-9 teams.

ALERT: The term used to describe the final response of the K-9, coupled with an outward change of behavior that indicates to the handler the K-9 has reached the strongest source of target odor

CASTING: A K-9 moving back and forth while attempting to locate the target odor.

CHANGE OF BEHAVIOR: A noticeable change from existing posture to an increased state of inquisitiveness. The change of behavior is the K-9's natural response to stimulus odor that it is trained to detect.

CONDITIONED RESPONSE: The response that occurs from a stimulus after conditioning has taken place.

DISTRACTION ODORS: Non target odors that K-9's will show an outward change of behavior to.

DISTURBED AREA / EARTH: A change in the normal scent picture of an area as the K-9 might see it.

FINAL RESPONSE DEMONSTRATION: Required during the Area / Wilderness Search for Search and Rescue K-9 teams. The team demonstrates to the evaluator how the K-9 shows a final response alerting the handler to the subject hidden.

FINAL RESPONSE: A trained response from the K-9, alerting the handler that the K-9 has reached its closest physical position to the source of odor. Can be either an aggressive response (barking, biting, scratching) or passive response (sitting, downing, or locking out).

IMPRINTING: To imprint firmly on the mind or fix in the memory, a specific odor or odors.

MASKING AGENT / ODOR: A foreign scent introduced into the scent cone in an attempt to throw off the K-9 from the odor sought. Examples – soap, perfumes, animal odors, etc.

ODOR: A quality of something that stimulates or affects the olfactory organ

ODOR RECOGNITION: K-9 shows outward change of behavior to a stimulus odor that they are trained to detect (varies between K-9's) and is not limited to: head snap, tail carriage, body posturing, salivating, licking and tasting, etc.

PROOF OF REMEDIATION: Can either be individual team training log or trainers / supervisor's report of remediation training conducted showing re-training in deficient areas.

REWARD: As it pertains to K-9 training; it is the procedure of presenting a reinforcing stimulus such as food, praise, toys, etc. when the K-9 has shown the appropriate response.

SCENT CONE: A term used to describe the shape of an area where the K-9 is working an odor. Typically odor travels outward from the source (aid) on the air currents in a cone shape and expands or widens the farther it gets from the source.

SOURCE: The item or group of items giving off a particular odor. If the K-9 cannot physically get to the source of odor, they may indicate “source” as the highest concentration of odor they are able to locate.

STIMULUS: Something that causes a response, technically it is physical energy that excites the receptor and produces an effect on the organism (K-9).

UNCONDITIONED RESPONSE: The response to a stimulus that occurs with no conditioning.

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- Sergeant Michael Wright
- Sergeant James McNeill

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- Sergeant Doug Fisher
- Cheryl Cuthbertson (SAR)

Douglas County Sheriff's Office:

- Sergeant Dave Stanley

Reno Police Department

- Officer Steve Mayfield
- Detective Tyler Clarke
- Officer Jason Morgan

Sparks Police Department

- Officer Glenn Marsh

Nevada Highway Patrol

- Trooper Jason Phillips
- Trooper Tim Raabe

Las Vegas Metro Police Department

- Officer Mel English

Lyon County Sheriff's Office (SAR)

- Mary Cablk
- Chris Salisbury

University of Nevada / Reno Police Department

- Officer Tom Emmons

OBEDIENCE EVALUATION FORM

Handler Name: _____ Canine: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____ Testing location(s): _____

On lead obedience:

Comments: _____

Pass: Fail:

Off lead obedience:

Comments: _____

Distracters: _____

Pass: Fail: Evaluator: _____

Remediated Areas: Not applicable:

Termination of Evaluation: Not applicable:

K-9 Team has failed to demonstrate proficiency for the following reason(s) and it is recommended that the team undergo remediation training and a re-evaluation at a later date. Proof of remediation should be returned to original evaluator or their designee at the time of re-test.

Comments: _____

Fail: Evaluator: _____

PATROL K-9 EVALUATION FORM

Handler Name: _____ Canine: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____ Testing location(s): _____

Apprehension without contact (Call Off)

- The K-9 remains under control of the handler
- The K-9 shows obvious pursuit of the decoy
- The K-9 makes no aggressive contact with the decoy when called off or detaining

Comments: _____

Pass: Fail: Evaluator: _____

Apprehension with contact (Bite)

- The K-9 remains on the bite until verbally commanded to release by the handler
- The K-9 must release the bite within a reasonable amount of time
- The K-9 must not re-engage the decoy prior to the handler taking control
- The handler must not have physical contact with K-9 prior to the release of bite

Comments: _____

Pass: Fail: Evaluator: _____

Handler protection

- K-9 engages decoy and **NOT THE HANDLER**
- The K-9 remains on the bite
- The K-9 releases the bite upon verbal command from the handler
- The K-9 remains under control of the handler

Comments: _____

Pass: Fail: Evaluator: _____

Outdoor area search

- The K-9's indication of the decoy location must be obvious
- The handler will call the alert to the location of the decoy and maintain control of their K-9

Comments: _____

Pass: Fail: Evaluator: _____

Building search

- The K-9's indication of the decoy location must be obvious
- The handler will call the alert to the location of the decoy and maintain control of their K-9

Comments: _____

Pass: Fail: Evaluator: _____

Remediated Areas: Not applicable:

Termination of Evaluation: Not applicable:

K-9 Team has failed to demonstrate proficiency for the following reasons and it is recommended that the team undergo remediation training and a re-evaluation at a later date. Proof of remediation should be returned to original evaluator or their designee at the time of re-test.

Comments: _____

Fail: Evaluator: _____

K-9 Narcotics Score Sheet

Handler Name: _____ Canine: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____ Testing location(s): _____

Vehicle search (interior/exterior) 30 min. max

Substance/Amount and hide location

#1: _____ Pass: Fail:

#2: _____ Pass: Fail:

#3: _____ Pass: Fail:

#4: _____ Pass: Fail:

Comments: _____ Evaluator: _____

Building search 30 min. max

Substance/Amount and hide location

#1: _____ Pass: Fail:

#2: _____ Pass: Fail:

#3: _____ Pass: Fail:

Comments: _____ Evaluator: _____

Large Vehicle search (interior) 30 min. max

Substance/Amount and hide location

#1: _____ Pass: Fail:

#2: _____ Pass: Fail:

Comments: _____ Evaluator: _____

Parcel/Luggage search 10 min. max

Substance/Amount

#1: _____

Pass: Fail:

#2: _____

Pass: Fail:

#3: _____

Pass: Fail:

#4: _____

Pass: Fail:

Comments: _____ Evaluator: _____

Open Area search 30 min. max

Substance/Amount and hide location

#1: _____

Pass: Fail:

Comments: _____ Evaluator: _____

Remediated Area: Not applicable:

Substance/Amount and hide location

#1: _____

Pass: Fail:

Comments: _____

Evaluator: _____

Termination of Evaluation: Not applicable:

K9 team has failed to demonstrate proficiency for the following reasons and it is recommended that the team undergo remediation training and a re-evaluation at a later date. Proof of remediation should be returned to the original evaluator or their designee at time of re-test.

Comments:

Fail:

Evaluator: _____

Phase 1 Odor Recognition Test Evaluation Sheet

Handler: _____ Canine: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____ Test Location: _____

Explosive odors used:

Elective odors used:

Distraction odors used:

Pass: Fail: Evaluator: _____

Remediated Areas: Not applicable:

Substance/Amount and hide location

#1: _____

Evaluator: _____

Termination of Evaluation: Not applicable:

K9 team has failed to demonstrate proficiency for the following reasons and it is recommended that the team undergo remediation training and a re-evaluation at a later date. Proof of remediation should be returned to original evaluator or their designee at time of re-test.

Comments: _____

Fail: Evaluator: _____

Explosive Operational Evaluation Form

Handler Name: _____ Canine: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____ Testing location(s): _____

Vehicles:

Substance/Amount and hide location

#1: _____ Pass: Fail:

#2: _____ Pass: Fail:

#3: _____ Pass: Fail:

#4: _____ Pass: Fail:

Comments: _____ Evaluator: _____

Buildings:

Substance/Amount and hide location

#1: _____ Pass: Fail:

#2: _____ Pass: Fail:

#3: _____ Pass: Fail:

Comments: _____ Evaluator: _____

Aircraft:

Substance/Amount and hide location

#1: _____ Pass: Fail:

#2: _____ Pass: Fail:

Comments: _____ Evaluator: _____

Parcel/Luggage:

Substance/Amount

#1: _____

Pass: Fail:

#2: _____

Pass: Fail:

#3: _____

Pass: Fail:

#4: _____

Pass: Fail:

Comments: _____ Evaluator: _____

Open Area:

Substance/Amount and hide location

#1: _____

Pass: Fail:

Comments: _____ Evaluator: _____

Mass Transit:

Substance/Amount and hide location

#1: _____

#2: _____

Pass: Fail:

Comments: _____ Evaluator: _____

Remediated Areas: Not applicable:

Termination of Evaluation: Not applicable:

K-9 team has failed to demonstrate proficiency and it is recommended that the team undergo remediation training and a re-evaluation at a later date. Proof of remediation should be presented to the evaluator or their designee at re-test.

Comments: _____

Fail: Evaluator: _____

ARTICLE / EVIDENCE SEARCH Evaluation Form

Handler Name: _____ Canine: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____ Testing location(s): _____

Article search – 30 min max

K-9 actively searches and remains under control of the handler

K-9 team successfully locates / retrieves 3 out of the 4 items hidden

K-9 team does not exceed 30 minute time limit

Articles used: _____

Comments: _____

Pass: Fail: Evaluator: _____

Remediated Areas: Not applicable:

Termination of Evaluation: Not applicable:

K-9 Team has failed to demonstrate proficiency for the following reason(s) and it is recommended that the team undergo remediation training and a re-evaluation at a later date. Proof of remediation should be returned to original evaluator or their designee at the time of retest.

Comments:

Fail: Evaluator: _____

Nevada POST Human Remains Detection Evaluation Form

Handler Name: _____ Canine: _____ Date: _____ Agency: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____ Outcome: Pass Fail

	PHASE I: OBEDIENCE	
	On Lead	Off Lead
Pass/Fail		

Evaluators Signature: _____ Handler Signature: _____

Comments:

		PHASE II: SEARCH TEST				
		Vehicle	Building	Shallow Water	Shrub/Open	Forest
Details	Date					
	Location					
	Set Time					
	No. Hides					
	Start Time					
	End Time					
	Total Time					
	No. Missed Hides					
	No. False Alerts					
Source Type	Blood					
	Bone					
	Decomposition					
Configuration	Surface					
	Elevated					
	Buried					
Outcome	Pass/Fail					

Evaluators Signature: _____ Handler Signature: _____

Comments:

Nevada POST Area/Wilderness Certification Evaluation Form

Handler Name: _____ Canine: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____ Outcome: Pass Fail

PHASE I: OBEDIENCE

Date: _____ Location: _____

	PHASE I: OBEDIENCE	
	On Lead	Off Lead
Pass/Fail		

Evaluator Signature: _____ Handler Signature: _____

Comments: _____

PHASE II: FINAL RESPONSE

Date: _____ Location: _____

	PHASE II: FINAL RESPONSE
Pass/Fail	

Evaluator Signature: _____ Handler Signature: _____

Comments: _____

PHASE III: SEARCH TEST

Date: _____ Location: _____

		PHASE III: SEARCH TEST
Details	Set Time	
	No. Subjects	
	Start Time	
	End Time	
	Total Time	
	No. Found Subjects	
	No. Missed Subjects	
Outcome	Pass/Fail	

Evaluator Signature: _____ Handler Signature: _____

Comments: _____

Nevada POST Avalanche Certification Evaluation Form

Handler Name: _____ Canine: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____ Outcome: Pass Fail

PHASE I: OBEDIENCE

Date: _____ Location: _____

	PHASE I: OBEDIENCE	
	On Lead	Off Lead
Pass/Fail		

Evaluator Signature: _____ Handler Signature: _____

Comments:

PHASE II: SEARCH TEST

Date: _____ Location: _____

		PHASE II: SEARCH TEST
	Set Time	
	No. Subjects	
	Start Time	
	End Time	
	Total Time	
	No. Found Subjects	
	No. Missed Subjects	
Outcome	Pass/Fail	

Evaluator Signature: _____ Handler Signature: _____

Comments:

Nevada POST Water Recovery Certification Evaluation Form

Handler Name: _____ Canine: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____ Outcome: Pass Fail

PHASE I: OBEDIENCE

Date: _____ Location: _____

PHASE I: OBEDIENCE		
	On Lead	Off Lead
Pass/Fail		

Evaluator Signature: _____ Handler Signature: _____

Comments:

PHASE II: SEARCH TEST

Date: _____ Location: _____

		PHASE II: SEARCH TEST			
		Shoreline		Boat	
Details	Set Time				
	Start Time				
	End Time				
	Total Time				
	Marker Distance to Hide	$\leq 35'$	$> 35'$	$\leq 20'$	$> 20'$
	No. False Alerts				
Outcome	Pass/Fail				

Evaluator Signature: _____ Handler Signature: _____

Comments:

Tracking / Trailing Hot Track Evaluation Form

Handler Name: _____ Canine: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____ Testing location: _____

Diagram:

Pass: Fail: Evaluator: _____

Remediated Areas: Not applicable:

Termination of evaluation: Not applicable:

K-9 team has failed to demonstrate proficiency for the following reasons and it is recommended that the team undergo remediation training and a re-evaluation at a later date. Proof of remediation should be returned to the original evaluator or their designee at time of re-test.

Comments: _____

Fail: Evaluator: _____

Tracking / Trailing Aged Track Score Sheet

Handler Name: _____ Canine: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____ Testing location: _____

Diagram

Pass: Fail: Evaluator: _____

Remediated Area: Not applicable:

Substance/Amount and hide location

#1: _____ Pass: Fail:

Comments: _____

Evaluator: _____

Termination of Evaluation: Not applicable:

K9 team has failed to demonstrate proficiency for the following reasons and it is recommended that the team undergo remediation training and a re-evaluation at a later date. Proof of remediation should be returned to the original evaluator or their designee at time of re-test.

Comments:

Fail: Evaluator: _____