

# Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc.

## Standards

Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc. Standards are intended to define membership responsibilities, prerequisites, and requirements of canine handlers. The following standards are required of current and prospective RMRD handlers.

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## 1.0 PERSONNEL CATEGORIES

### 1.1 POTENTIAL CANDIDATE

The potential candidate is a participant who has shown interest in becoming an operational member of RMRD. To achieve candidate status, a prospective handler must meet the following qualifications:

1. The potential candidate should review and familiarize themselves with the RMRD information package.
2. The potential candidate can attend monthly workouts without his/her dog.
3. The potential candidate must attend a minimum of two workout weekends (4 days) without his/her dog prior to applying for candidate status.
4. Every prospective search dog is required to be evaluated by a qualified trainer/animal behaviorist for socialization and suitability for search work. The governing board may waive this requirement if the dog is less than 6 months of age. The governing board shall approve the evaluator.
5. The potential candidate and canine must pass an evaluation by the governing board.
6. The potential candidate must be in excellent physical condition.
7. The potential candidate does not pay dues, cannot vote, and cannot hold office.
8. The potential candidate shall be interviewed after they meet all candidate qualifications and the governing board shall make a recommendation to the voting members to accept or reject their candidacy.
9. Upon the recommendation of the governing board, the potential candidate shall be voted on by written ballot or email vote when necessary and must be accepted by 2/3 of the membership present.

### 1.2 CANDIDATE

A candidate must meet the following qualifications:

1. The candidate shall be at least 21 years of age.
2. The candidate shall submit an application, release of indemnity, medical release, proof of liability insurance (home owners or renters' policy shall be sufficient) and pay for and obtain a background check.
3. The candidate shall obtain a current American Red Cross Basic First Aid certification (6-8 hours course) and CPR certification or equivalent. Copies of these certifications must be submitted prior to being interviewed by the Governing Board.
4. The candidate shall submit proof of current canine rabies vaccination by a licensed veterinarian.
5. Upon acceptance, the candidate shall pay a yearly fee of \$40.00.
6. A candidate must attend 2/3 of all workouts and meetings, and show through their training progress a willingness to train on their own.
7. The candidate shall complete a mandatory progress assessment with the governing board within 6 months of becoming a candidate.
8. The candidate must be in excellent physical condition and shall pass the fitness test prior to testing for operational handler.

9. The candidate can select (upon approval of the governing board) or shall be assigned two level 1 experienced operational handlers as mentors to assist in the quality of training until they obtain membership. The selection of these level 1 handlers can be changed upon approval of the governing board.
10. Candidates must actively train in search work and furnish the governing board and their mentors a copy of their training logs monthly.
11. The candidate can test level 2 - operational air scent/area and/or operational HRD land-cadaver after having six months of candidacy, being in good standing, and being approved by governing board.
12. A candidate in good standing may go on actual SAR operations, without their dog, under the direction of an RMRD team.
13. The candidate shall sign read, sign and abide by the RMRD Code of Ethics found in the candidate package.
14. The candidate must successfully test for operational status within one year of becoming a candidate. If the candidate is not ready to test for operational status within a year, they may request in writing an extension from the governing board. The written request must include reasoning for their extension. The governing board shall make a recommendation to the membership on a case-by-case basis with final approval by 2/3-majority vote of the membership.
15. Candidates may not represent themselves as RMRD member or handlers.
16. The candidate cannot vote and cannot hold office.

#### 1.2.1 CANDIDATE IN GOOD STANDING REQUIREMENTS

Candidates shall be considered in good standing if they meet the following requirements:

- 66% attendance of business meetings.
- 66% attendance of workouts.
- Current on training logs.
- Current on CPR/first aid certification, medical release form and fitness test.

#### 1.3 MEMBER

An RMRD member is an active SAR dog handler and is governed by the following qualifications:

1. To achieve member status, a handler must successfully meet level 2 operational standards, and be voted into the organization by written ballot or email vote when necessary and must be accepted by 2/3 of the membership present.
2. Member dues are \$60.00 per year, which includes group membership to NASAR, and are due by July 1. Dues are prorated for those joining at various times during the year.
3. A member must attend a minimum of 50% of monthly organization workouts and a minimum of 50% of monthly business meetings.
4. One day of workout attendance shall be given for every 10 hours spent in demonstrations (not to exceed 4 hours on one demonstration), and a maximum of two days per year.

5. A member is encouraged to attend extra organization workouts. Extra workouts shall occur on a very limited basis and shall be essential to procedures that handlers are likely to experience.
6. Extra workouts may count towards monthly workout attendance at the discretion of the governing board.
7. Active members must provide the governing board with a copy of their training/search logs monthly or alternatively notify the governing board of website log entries or links.
8. No member may go on an RMRD SAR operation unless dispatched through the RMRD callout coordinator or governing board.
9. If a member loses their dog or their dog becomes unable to work, they have one year to obtain and begin training another dog, or their present dog is able to work again, without losing their membership. The handler must maintain the minimum qualifications for membership. If the dog is unable to work for three months or more due to medical reasons, to become operational again the dog must have a medical release from their veterinarian.
10. A handler with at least 5 consecutive and uninterrupted years' experience as a Level 1 handler in good standing that is no longer working a dog or starting to work a new dog can retain their level 1 handler and member status by keeping in good standing.
11. A member must possess adequate equipment to be self-sufficient for searching 3 days in all conditions.

#### 1.3.1 MEMBER VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Active members shall have voting privileges if they meet the following requirements:

- 50% attendance of business meetings
- 50% attendance of workouts
- Current on annual dues.

#### 1.3.2 MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING REQUIREMENTS

Active Members shall be considered in good standing if they meet the following requirements:

- 50% attendance of business meetings.
- 50% attendance of workouts.
- Current on annual dues.
- Current on training logs.
- Current on all testing.
- Current on CPR/first aid certification, medical release form and fitness test.

#### 1.3.3 MEMBER CATEGORIES

The following standards are required of current and prospective RMRD handlers.

##### 1.3.3.1 LEVEL 2 – OPERATIONAL HANDLER

A Level 2 operational handler must meet the following qualifications:

1. Meet all candidate qualifications.
2. Serve a minimum of 6 months as a candidate.

3. Yearly, pass a physical exam by a medical doctor aware of the handler's SAR activities (medical release form).
4. Yearly, pass the RMRD fitness evaluation (30 minute, 2 mile hike with 25 lb. pack) or equivalent as approved by governing board.
5. Current on all annual dues.
6. Current on all training logs.
7. Must have responded to and attended 2 actual SAR missions. Upon recommendation of the governing board, up to 50 % of these searches may be waived depending on the experience of the handler per the discretion of the governing board.
8. The level 2 handler can test to level 1 experienced operational status after six months of being an operational handler if they are in good standing, and have approval by governing board.
9. Successful completion of the level 2 operational air scent/area and/or operational HRD land – cadaver search tests.
10. The level 2 handler must successfully test for level 1 status within one year of becoming operational. If the level 2 handler is not ready to test for level 1 status within a year, they may request in writing an extension from the governing board. The written request must include reasoning for their extension. The governing board shall make a recommendation to the membership on a case-by-case basis with final approval by 2/3-majority vote of the membership.
11. In addition to monthly training at the RMRD workouts, it is required that all level 2 teams show adequate search dog training applicable to their status and discipline, on an average at least once a week. Failure to meet average weekly training can be cause for removal from the call out list per the discretion of the governing board.

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#### 1.3.3.2 LEVEL 1 - EXPERIENCED OPERATIONAL HANDLER

A level 1 experienced operational handler must meet the following qualifications:

1. Meet all candidate and level 2 qualifications.
2. Serve a minimum of 6 months as a level 2.
3. Must have responded to and attended a minimum of 4 (two counted in level 2 status) actual SAR missions before testing for level 1 status. Upon recommendation of the governing board, 50% of these searches may be waived depending on the experience of the handler per the discretion of the governing board.
4. Show competence in all aspects of searching and search disciplines (navigation, search strategy, scent theory, endurance, mountain weather, etc.). This qualification shall be judged during workouts and in a variety of conditions. The overall level of competence of the handler shall be rated rather than any specific test given.
5. Successful test completion in at least one of the following fields:

- WILDERNESS TRACKING/TRAILING
  - URBAN TRACKING TRAILING
  - HRD LAND - EVIDENCE
  - HRD WATER
  - AVALANCHE
6. Experienced operational handlers who fail to remain current on required Level 1 tests will lose level 1 status. If a level 1 handler has a lapse in required test certification, the handler may request in writing an extension from the governing board. The written request must include reasoning for the extension.
  7. A level 1 team is required to retest, successfully, every two years in a level 1 discipline to maintain their level 1 status.
  8. All experienced operational level 1 teams are required to have current training logs on file with the governing board showing ongoing adequate and quality training.
  9. In addition to monthly training at the RMRD workouts, it is required that all level 1 teams show adequate search dog training applicable to their status and discipline, on an average at least once a week. Failure to meet average weekly training can be cause for removal from the call out list per the discretion of the governing board.

#### 1.3.3.3 EXPERIENCED HANDLER FROM OUTSIDE RMRD

An experienced handler who has certified with another K9 search and rescue organization is governed by the following qualifications:

- Must meet the potential candidate requirements with the following exceptions:
- An experienced handler from another organization must attend one workout weekend or 2 workout days without his/her dog.
- An experienced handler can test for operational status if meeting all candidate and level 2 operational handler requirements after 3 months.

#### 1.4 INACTIVE STATUS

A handler may request in writing to the governing board to be put on inactive status.

1. The governing board shall make a recommendation to the membership on a case-by-case basis with final approval by 2/3-majority vote of the membership.
2. The request for inactive status may be for a one year maximum time period. After the requested inactive time has passed, the handler shall return to active status, or terminate their membership.
3. To return to active status the handler must be current with their first aid/CPR, fitness test and medical release.
4. The handler must have logs showing adequate training was done during the inactive period, which shall be reviewed by the governing board. The governing board shall determine a period of training as an active member of the organization to be done before testing and returning to the callout list.

5. If the handler is on inactive status for more than 3 months, they may be required to pass an operational air scent/area and/or operational HRD land - cadaver test as by recommendation of the governing board before returning to the callout list.
6. To extend the inactive status, the governing board shall evaluate the request and make recommendation to the membership as stated above.
7. The handler shall return all gear such as radios, GPS, life vest, helmet, and decals, to the organization during the inactive period.

#### 1.5 RETURNING MEMBERS/CANDIDATES

1. Members who have left the group while in good standing may return with the same dog upon recommendation of the governing board and approval by 2/3 majority of the membership.
2. To return to active status the handler must be current with their first aid/CPR, fitness test, and medical release.
3. The member will be required to pass an operational air scent/area and/or operational HRD land - cadaver test and be up to date with their training logs before returning to the callout list.
4. Candidates who have left the group while in good standing may return with the same dog upon recommendation of the governing board and approval of the membership, but will need to fulfill all candidate requirements except they may attend workouts with their dog.

#### 1.6 ADVISORY TRUSTEE

The purpose of the advisory trustees is to provide outside expertise not found in the RMRD membership. Any RMRD member in good standing as outlined in the standards may propose an advisory trustee at any business meeting as needed. Upon consent of the potential advisory trustee, the membership shall vote on the nomination at the next business meeting. RMRD may have as many advisory trustees as deemed appropriate. An advisory trustee may request to be removed at any time.

Advisory trustees shall be provided with current bylaws, standards, and policies and procedures and shall be provided with all updates and/or additions. Advisory trustees are invited and welcome at all RMRD functions and shall receive copies of the Scentinal.

#### 2.0 DUAL SAR MEMBERSHIP

Membership in multiple SAR organizations is acceptable as long as the team continues to meet all RMRD requirements. When responding to a non-RMRD call out, the team cannot represent itself as an RMRD member or display RMRD logos.

#### 3.0 CALL-OUT LIST

A list of teams eligible for callout and their current disciplines shall be maintained and filed with the callout coordinator by the governing board. The listing of an individual team on the callout list shall be subject to the following minimum standards.

- Candidates must be in good standing as defined in section 1.2.1.
- Members must be in good standing as defined in section 1.3.2.

### 3.1 REMOVAL FROM CALLOUT LIST

A handler may be removed from the callout list for failure to meet the minimum qualifications as described in section 1.3.2 in the standards. The handler shall be given written notice fifteen (15) days prior to removal from the callout list. If a handler is off the callout list for more than 6 consecutive months, they shall be required to turn in all RMRD equipment. Equipment shall be returned to the handler when they meet the qualifications to be reinstated on the callout list.

### 4.0 SEARCHES

Any level 2 or level 1 handler in good standing with a current certification test for the discipline requested may go on searches. Handlers without certification for the requested discipline may respond as support personnel without their dog.

Candidates in good standing may go on searches without their dog, but shall be required to be under direct supervision by a level 2 or level 1 handler when searching.

Any RMRD member or candidate who responds to a RMRD callout and search on scheduled workout days shall receive workout credit for those days.

### 5.0 TESTING PROTOCOL STANDARDS

#### 5.1 TEST REQUESTS

Any handler ready to test must submit a test request form to the governing board prior to testing. The governing board must approve all test requests. Candidates must also be approved by their mentors prior to testing.

#### 5.2 TEST EVALUATOR REQUIREMENTS

- Evaluators must be approved by the governing board prior to the test.
- Test evaluators must have certification in the discipline they are evaluating.
- Tests are double blind and must be set up by a third party not involved in the evaluation. The handler setting up tests may/should be available after the test to consult with the evaluator for clarification and to verify standards are met.
- Evaluators must adhere to the test standards.
- Evaluators must complete and submit the test form to the handler testing and submit a copy to the governing board.

#### 5.3 TEST RESULT REVIEW

Any RMRD member or candidate may request, in writing, the test results to be reviewed by an independent committee of handlers. This committee will consist of:

- A level 1 handler that was not involved in setting up the test.
- One person from the governing board.

- The victim(s) for the test when applicable
- Additional level 1 handler if needed to give the committee an odd number of members.

If the victim(s) is/are not handlers they will be asked questions to verify that the testing procedures and standards are being met, but they will not have a vote on the committee. The results will be sent to the member or candidate with a copy placed in their file.

## 6.0 TEST STANDARDS

### 6.1. OPERATIONAL AIR SCENT/AREA TEST

#### Purpose

The operational air scent/area test demonstrates the ability of a handler and their canine partner to effectively locate two hidden subjects in a defined area within a prescribed time period. This test shall demonstrate the ability of the canine to search, to perform a trained final response, and for the handler to correctly read the behavior of their canine partner. It shall also demonstrate the ability of the handler to plan and follow an appropriate search strategy, download and upload GPS data and execute appropriate area coverage.

#### Prerequisites

1. Candidate/handler in good standing
2. Request to test operational air scent/area form approved by governing board
3. Complete necessary checklist
4. Attendance at a minimum of two (2) searches
5. Training logs for air scent/area problems consistent with the level of training necessary to pass the test
6. Proof of canine successfully completing a nationally recognized obedience evaluation which meets or exceeds the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test.
7. Minimum of 6 months as a RMRD candidate
8. Proof of completion of Incident Command System (ICS)/Incident Management System (IMS) course, ICS-200, modules 1-6 or higher level course, NIMS IS-700 course and IS-800b, or higher
9. Haz-Mat awareness class (NFPA 472/CFR 291910.120 Part Q or equivalent)
10. Bloodborne pathogens class (29CFR1910 or equivalent)
11. Crime scene preservation class (2 hour minimum course taught by law enforcement, crime scene technicians or equivalent)

#### Test Criteria

1. The test consists of two (2) subjects hidden in moderate terrain, within 160 acres. The team has three (3) hours to find the subjects. The test shall be conducted during daylight hours.
2. The handler shall describe their dog's alerts, indications and trained final response prior to the start of the test. The canine must locate and alert on the subject independent of

direction from the handler.

3. The team shall upload the search area from a computer to their GPS prior to the test and download the GPS track log to the computer upon completion and discuss coverage and strategy with the evaluator.

#### General Guidelines

1. The subjects shall be placed at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the test. The subjects shall remain in one location during the entire test and should be instructed not to respond to the dog. Care should be taken to prevent dogs from being able track the subjects to their locations.
2. The subjects must not be anyone that the dog has repeatedly trained on in any live-find discipline (trailing, area or avalanche); nor anyone that regularly associates with the dog (i.e. family, teammates, etc.); nor anyone who has recently (within 90 days) been used as a training subject for the dog. The subjects should preferably be someone that the dog has never trained on before.
3. The evaluator shall conduct a briefing in which the handler shall be given pertinent information about the search scenario and answer any questions the handler might have. The evaluator (who is not the candidate's mentor) shall follow to evaluate the handler and dog's endurance, strategy and navigational skills. The evaluator shall not know the location of the subjects (double blind). Re-certifying teams may opt to be unaccompanied.
4. The handler shall be responsible for formulating and articulating their search strategy. Changes in search strategy are permissible, however the handler must communicate their reasoning to the evaluator.
5. In the event that the handler sees a subject prior to dog's alert/indication, he/she shall inform the evaluator. The team shall continue their search until the dog alerts/indicates to the handler that they have found the subject and the dog demonstrates its final response without encouragement. The handler must continue his/her search strategy and must not lead the dog to the subject in any way.
6. Once the dog has located the subjects, the dog shall demonstrate its final response. The handler shall mark the location of the subjects on his/her GPS.
7. At the conclusion of the test, the evaluator shall be responsible to complete the appropriate evaluation form and debrief the handler on their performance.

#### Evaluation Criteria

1. Team is adequately attired and has adequate supplies, equipment and water for the team.
2. The handler plans and executes a good search strategy based on a correct analysis of the situation, the conditions and the detection capabilities of the canine.
3. The handler and canine demonstrate good working stamina for the complete duration of the test.
4. The canine demonstrates good focus on the task at hand. The canine avoids wildlife interaction, responds to the handler's corrections/commands and readily returns to work after distractions.
5. The handler recognizes and correctly interprets the behavior of the canine.

6. The canine demonstrates the ability to detect human scent and the persistence to work the scent from the point of detection to the scent source (the subject).
7. The canine demonstrates an easily identifiable, trained final response of a find (i.e. bark alert or recall/refind)

#### Recertification

Recertification is required every two (2) years.

### 6.2 OPERATIONAL HRD LAND-CADAVER TEST

#### Purpose

The HRD land-cadaver test demonstrates the ability of a handler and their canine partner to effectively locate large quantities of human remains, simulating as much as possible deceased bodies, in a defined area within a prescribed time period. This test shall demonstrate the ability of the canine to search for and recognize the scent of human remains, to perform a trained final response, and for the handler to correctly read the behavior of their canine partner. It shall also demonstrate the ability of the handler to plan and follow an appropriate search strategy, download and upload GPS data and execute appropriate area coverage.

#### Prerequisites

1. Candidate/handler in good standing
2. Request to test HRD land-cadaver form approved by the governing board
3. Completed necessary checklist
4. Attendance at a minimum of two (2) searches
5. Training logs for HRD land-cadaver consistent with the level of training necessary to pass the test.
6. Proof of canine successfully completing a nationally recognized obedience evaluation which meets or exceeds the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test.
7. Minimum of 6 months as a RMRD candidate
8. Proof of completion of Incident Command System (ICS)/Incident Management System (IMS) course, ICS-200, modules 1-6 or higher level course, NIMS IS-700 course and IS-800b, or higher
9. Haz-Mat awareness class (NFPA 472/CFR 291910.120 Part Q or equivalent)
10. Bloodborne pathogens class (29CFR1910 or equivalent)
11. Crime scene preservation class (2 hour minimum course taught by law enforcement, crime scene technicians or equivalent)

#### Test Criteria

1. The test consists of two (2) sources hidden in moderate terrain in a 40-acre area. The sources should be elevated (not more than 6 feet) and on the surface. The sources shall be concealed: covered with boards, leaves, branches, rocks etc. to allow airflow.

2. The team has two (2) hours to complete the test. The handler must place a flag and/or GPS waypoint within a three-foot radius of the source. If the source is elevated, the handler must place the flag and/or GPS waypoint within a radius equal to 1 ½ times the height; i.e. a 4 foot high source must be flagged/marked with in a 6 foot radius.
3. Upon interpreting the dog's final response, the handler shall advise the evaluator and mark the location with a flag/GPS waypoint. Any identified (flagged and/or GPS marked) final response that is incorrect shall constitute a fail. The test can be repeated once in a different location if conditions and time permit. If the team fails a second time, the test must be repeated at a later date after proof of the completion of more training to remedy the problem.
4. The team shall upload the search area from a computer to their GPS prior to the test and download the GPS track log to the computer upon completion and discuss coverage and strategy with the evaluator.

#### General Guidelines

1. The HRD material, referred to as "source", shall be at least 300 grams of human blood, bone and/or tissue, simulating as much as possible a deceased body. The sources shall be contained in such a way that no dog or handler shall come into direct contact with them.
2. The area should be moderate terrain and have shrubs or trees present so that an elevated target could be hidden in them. Each corner of the area shall be identified with GPS coordinates.
3. The sources should be placed one to six hours prior to the start of the search. The search area shall be contaminated with human scent to prevent the canine from trailing to the source. One to two people in addition to the evaluator should walk in the search area after the sources are placed.
4. Distractions shall be present in the test area. These may be animal remains, animal scat or other naturally occurring distractions.
5. The evaluator shall conduct a briefing in which the handler shall be given pertinent information about the search scenario and answer any questions the handler might have. The evaluator (who is not the candidate's mentor) should not know the location of the sources (double blind test) and should have another qualified handler place the sources.
6. The handler shall be responsible for formulating and articulating their search strategy and providing the evaluator with a description of their dog's final response. The canine should give a recognizable change in behavior when it initially detects scent and follow it to identify the location of the actual source. Changes in search strategy are permissible, however they must communicate their reasoning to the evaluator.
7. Dogs must be under the handlers control at all times. If the dog mouths, picks up or begins to move the source, the dog must immediately stop at the command of the handler.
8. Once the dog locates the source, the dog shall demonstrate its final response. The Handler is not permitted to physically search for the source before calling the final response.
9. At the conclusion of the test, the evaluator shall be responsible to complete the appropriate evaluation form and debrief the handler on their performance.

#### Evaluation Criteria

1. Team is adequately attired and has adequate supplies, equipment and water for the team.
2. The handler plans and executes a good search strategy based on a correct analysis of the situation, the conditions and the detection capabilities of the canine.
3. The handler and canine demonstrate good working stamina for the complete duration of the test.
4. The canine demonstrates good focus on the task at hand. The canine avoids wildlife interaction, responds to the handler's corrections/commands and readily returns to work after distractions.
5. The handler recognizes and correctly interprets the behavior of the canine.
6. The canine demonstrates the ability to detect human scent and the persistence to work the scent from the point of detection to the scent source.
7. The canine locates the sources within the allotted time and performs easily identifiable, trained final responses.
8. The handler marks the sources within the allowable distance from the source.
9. No false alert is given by the dog and called by the handler.

#### Recertification

Recertification is required every two (2) years.

### 6.3 WILDERNESS TRACKING/TRAILING TEST

#### Purpose

The wilderness tracking/trailing test demonstrates the ability of a handler and their canine partner to detect and follow a specific human scent along the ground to that subject. This test shall demonstrate the ability of the team to select the correct scent, to navigate conditions of the area, to perform a trained final response and for the handler to correctly read the behavior of their canine partner.

#### Prerequisites

1. Operational handler in good standing
2. Request to test wilderness tracking/trailing form approved by the governing board.
3. Completed necessary checklist
4. Attendance at a minimum of four (4) searches
5. Training logs for tracking/trailing consistent with the level of training necessary to pass the test.

#### Test Criteria

The handler may choose Option one or Option two with the following test conditions:

##### Option 1:

1. This test consists of .25 to .33 mile long track on a soft surface in an uncontaminated area. There shall be one (1) turn and one (1) surface change or two (2) turns.

2. A masker shall lay a cross track within 30 minutes after the trail has been laid. The cross track should be perpendicular to the track and cross somewhere before the halfway point.
3. The track shall age overnight between ten (10) and sixteen (16) hours.
4. The team has thirty (30) minutes to complete the test and find the subject. The test shall be conducted during daylight hours.

#### Option 2:

1. This test consists of .50 to .75 mile long track on a soft surface in an uncontaminated area. There shall be at least one (1) surface change and two (2) turns.
2. A masker shall lay a cross track within 30 minutes after the trail has been laid. The cross track should be perpendicular to the track and cross somewhere before the halfway point.
3. The track shall age between two (2) and four (4) hours.
4. The team has one (1) hour to complete the test and find the subject. The test shall be conducted during daylight hours.

#### General Guidelines

1. The handler shall describe their dog's alerts, indications and trained final response prior to the start of the test. The canine must locate and alert on the subject independent of direction from the handler.
2. The dog shall wear a GPS collar (Astro) and the track shall be laid with a GPS and the track saved for evaluation. After the test, the handler shall upload the collar data to the computer to be used in the evaluation.
3. The handler shall be given a point last seen (PLS) to begin the test. The handler may be given an uncontaminated scent article or may be asked to collect their own scent article or scent the dog off of an uncontaminated stationary object.
4. The team shall have a Level 1 evaluator who is not their mentor following to evaluate handler and dog. The evaluator shall not know the location of the subject or the track (double blind).
5. The subject must not be someone that the dog has repeatedly trained on in any live-find discipline (trailing, area or avalanche); nor someone that regularly associates with the dog (i.e. family, teammates, etc.); nor someone who has recently (within 90 days) been used as a training subject for the dog. The subject should preferably be someone that the dog has never trained on before.
6. The masker shall not be left in the test area and if possible shall be available at the start of the test for a scent inventory at the handler's request. Anyone that is not a visual distraction to the dog that has been in the area may be available at the start for elimination.
7. The subject shall remain unresponsive until the dog has identified the subject. Once the dog has located the subject, the dog shall demonstrate its final response.
8. Every effort should be made in all tracking/trailing tests to avoid the possibility of the victim being air scented for at least the first half of the track.
9. The dog must find the subject by tracking for a majority of the route. The test shall be conducted during daylight hours.
10. At the conclusion of the test, the evaluator shall be responsible to complete the appropriate evaluation form and debrief the handler on their performance.

### Evaluation Criteria

1. Team is adequately attired and has adequate supplies, equipment and water for the team.
2. Team demonstrates the dogs ability to follow the trail and avoid distractions and cross tracks and find the subject.
3. The handler and canine demonstrate good working stamina for the complete duration of the test.
4. The canine demonstrates good focus on the task at hand. The canine avoids wildlife interaction, responds to the handler's corrections/commands and readily returns to work after distractions.
5. The handler recognizes and correctly interprets the behavior of the canine.
6. The canine demonstrates an easily identifiable, trained indication of a find (i.e. bark alert or recall/refind).

### Recertification

Recertification is required every two (2) years.

## 6.4 URBAN TRAILING TEST

### Purpose

The Specialized Operational Wilderness Tracking/Trailing test demonstrates the ability of a handler and their canine partner to detect and follow a specific human scent along the ground to that subject in an urban/city environment. This test shall demonstrate the ability of the team to select the correct scent, to navigate conditions of the area, to perform a trained final response and for the handler to correctly read the behavior of their canine partner.

### Prerequisites

1. Operational handler in good standing
2. Request to test urban tracking/trailing form approved by the governing board.
3. Completed necessary checklist
4. Attendance at a minimum of four (4) searches
5. Training logs for tracking/trailing consistent with the level of training necessary to pass the test.

### Test Criteria

1. This test consists of an approximately .25 mile long track in a commercial and/or residential environment. There shall be a minimum of two (2) intersections and one (1) road crossing.
2. The track shall not be aged less than one and a half (1-½) or greater than two and a half (2-½) hours. Fifty (50) to seventy-five (75) percent of the track should be on hard surfaces (asphalt or concrete).
3. The team has thirty (30) minutes to complete the test and find the subject. The dog must find the subject by tracking for a majority of the route. The test shall be conducted during daylight hours.

### General Guidelines

1. The handler shall describe their dog's alerts, indications and trained final response prior to the start of the test. The canine must locate and alert on the subject independent of direction from the handler.
2. The dog shall wear a GPS collar (Astro/Alpha) and the track shall be laid with a GPS and the track saved for evaluation. After the test, the handler shall upload the collar data to the computer to be used in the evaluation.
3. The handler shall be given a point last seen (PLS) to begin the test. The handler may be given an uncontaminated scent article or may be asked to collect their own scent article or to scent the dog off of an uncontaminated stationary object.
4. The team shall have a Level 1 evaluator who is not their mentor following to evaluate handler and dog. The evaluator shall not know the location of the subject or the track (double blind).
5. The subject must not be someone that the dog has repeatedly trained on in any live-find discipline (trailing, area or avalanche); nor someone that regularly associates with the dog (i.e. family, teammates, etc.); nor someone who has recently (within 90 days) been used as a training subject for the dog. The subject should preferably be someone that the dog has never trained on before.
6. The subject may or may not be concealed but if not concealed must do something that blends in with the environment. The subject shall remain unresponsive until the dog has identified the subject. Once the dog has located the subject, the dog shall demonstrate its final response.
7. Every effort should be made in all tracking/trailing tests to avoid the possibility of the victim being air scented for at least the first half of the track.
8. At the conclusion of the test, the evaluator shall be responsible to complete the appropriate evaluation form and debrief the handler on their performance.

### Evaluation Criteria

1. Team is adequately attired and has adequate supplies, equipment and water for the team.
2. Team demonstrates the dog's ability to follow the trail and avoid distractions and cross tracks and find the subject.
3. The handler and canine demonstrate good working stamina for the complete duration of the test.
4. The canine demonstrates good focus on the task at hand. The canine avoids wildlife interaction, responds to the handler's corrections/commands and readily returns to work after distractions.
5. The handler recognizes and correctly interprets the behavior of the canine.
6. The canine demonstrates an easily identifiable, trained indication of a find (i.e. bark alert or recall/refind).

### Recertification

Recertification is required every two (2) years.

## 6.5 HRD LAND-EVIDENCE TEST

### Purpose

The land HRD - evidence test demonstrates the ability of a handler and their canine partner to locate small quantities of human remains in a variety of land search situations. This test shall demonstrate the ability of the canine to search for and recognize the scent of human remains, to perform a trained final response, and for the handler to correctly read the behavior of their canine partner.

### Prerequisites

1. Operational handler in good standing
2. Request to test land HRD-evidence form approved by governing board
3. Completed necessary checklist
4. Attendance at a minimum of four (4) searches
5. Training Logs for Land HRD-Evidence consistent with the level of training necessary to pass the test.

### Test Criteria

1. The test consists 2 sections. Section one - four (4) one (1) acre areas; one buried source (6 to 12 inches), one elevated source (4 to 6 feet), one surface source and one blank area (no source present) with all sources shall be concealed. Each corner of each station shall be identified with flagging and/or GPS coordinates. Section two – one (1) one acre area with human bone scatter with in a 3 foot radius in an area with animal bone present.
2. The team has 30 minutes to complete each station. The handler must flag/GPS mark the buried and surface source with in a three-foot radius of the source. The handler must flag/GPS mark the elevated source within a radius equal to 1-½ times the height; i.e. a 4-foot high source must be flagged/GPS marked with in a 6-foot radius. The handler must identify the blank area as clear. The dog must identify human bones and disregard the animal bones.
3. Upon interpreting the dog's final response, the handler shall advise the evaluator and mark the location with a flag. Any identified (flagged) final response that is incorrect shall constitute as a fail of that station. If the team fails one station, that station maybe retested during the same testing event. If the team fails two or more stations, the entire test must be repeated at a later date after proof of the completion of more training to remedy the problem. If the team fails the blank station, the whole test is considered a fail and the team must be repeated. The bone section shall be a separate test. This test if failed may be repeated once in the testing event.

### General Guidelines

1. The HRD material, referred to as "source", shall be 15-30 grams of human blood, bone and/or tissue. The source shall be contained in such a way that no dog or handler shall come into direct contact with it.
2. Each area should be open but have shrubs or trees present so that elevated targets can be hidden in them. Neither trees nor shrubs may be so dense that the handler or evaluator would easily lose sight of the dog at any time. Care must be taken to prevent contamination from other evaluation areas.

3. The source should be placed one to six hours prior to the start of each search. The search areas shall be contaminated with human scent to prevent the canine from tracking to the source. One to two people in addition to the evaluator should walk in the search area after the source is placed.
4. Distractions shall be present in the test areas. These may be animal remains, false holes (dug with an uncontaminated shovel), animal scat or other naturally occurring distractions.
5. The evaluator shall conduct a briefing in which the handler shall be given pertinent information about the search scenario and answer any questions the handler might have. The evaluator, whenever possible, should not know the location of the sources (double blind test) and should have another qualified handler place the sources. If the evaluator sets up the test he/she cannot follow the team but shall watch from the outside of the search area.
6. The handler shall be responsible for formulating and articulating their search strategy and providing the evaluator with a description of their dog's final response. The canine should give a recognizable change in behavior when it initially detects scent and follow it to identify the location of the actual source. Changes in search strategy are permissible, however the handler must communicate their reasoning to the evaluator.
7. Dogs must be under the handlers control at all times. If the dog mouths, picks up or begins to move the source, the dog must immediately stop at the command of the handler.
8. Once the dog locates the source, the dog shall demonstrate its final response. The handler is not permitted to physically search for the source before calling the final response.
9. At the conclusion of the test, the evaluator shall be responsible to complete the appropriate evaluation form and debrief the handler on their performance.

#### Evaluation Criteria

1. The team is adequately attired and has adequate supplies/water for the team.
2. The canine locates sources within the allotted time and performs the final response.
3. The canine demonstrates good focus on the task at hand. The canine avoids wildlife interaction, responds to the handler's corrections/commands and readily returns to work after distractions.
4. The handler marks the sources within the allowable distance from the source.
5. No false alert is given by the dog and called by the Handler.

#### Recertification

Recertification is required every two (2) years.

### 6.6 HRD WATER TEST

#### Purpose

The Water HRD Test demonstrates the ability of a handler and their canine partner to locate the scent of human remains coming from under water from the shoreline and on open water from a boat. This test shall demonstrate the ability of the canine to search for and recognize the scent of human remains, to perform a trained final response, and for the handler to correctly read the behavior of their canine partner.

### Prerequisites

1. Operational handler in good standing
2. Request to test water HRD form approved by governing board
3. Complete necessary checklist
4. Attendance at a minimum of four (4) searches
5. Training Logs for water HRD consistent with the level of training necessary to pass the test.

### Test Criteria

1. The test consists of two stations; a shoreline search along approximately 300 feet of shoreline on a body of water with a current of less than one knot and an open water search from a boat in an area of 2 to 3 acres on a body of water with a current of less than one knot. Boundaries of each station shall be identified with flagging and/or GPS coordinates.
2. The team has 30 minutes to complete the shoreline station and 45 minutes to complete the open water station.
3. On the shoreline station, the handler must mark with a GPS their final location within two times the distance the source is from the shore (e.g. if the source is 10 feet from the water's edge, the GPS location must be within 20 feet of the source on either side).
4. On the open water station, the handler must mark with a GPS their final location within 100 feet of the source.
5. Upon interpreting the dog's final response, the handler shall advise the evaluator and mark the location on a GPS. Any identified (GPS'd) final response that is incorrect shall constitute as a fail of that station. If the team fails one station, that station maybe retested at the same testing event or within 45 days of passing the other station. If both tests are not taken at the same testing event, they must be passed within 45 days of each other. If the team fails both stations, the entire test must be repeated at a later date after proof of the completion of more training to remedy the problem.

### General Guidelines

1. The HRD material, referred to as "source", shall be 200 - 500 grams of human bone and/or tissue. The source shall be contained in such a way that no particulate matter can enter the water, but it shall still allow scent to escape. Care must be taken to prevent contamination from other evaluation areas.
2. The source should be placed a minimum of one to hour prior to the start of the search to allow the scent to rise. The shoreline source shall be placed no closer than 10 feet or farther than 20 feet from the bank and shall be between 3 feet and 10 feet below the surface of the water. The open water source shall be between 10 feet and 20 feet below the surface of the water. No buoys should be used in the testing area.
3. The evaluator shall conduct a briefing in which the handler shall be given pertinent information about the search scenario and answer any questions the handler might have. The evaluator shall not know the location of the sources (double blind test) and should have another qualified handler place the sources.
4. The handler shall be responsible for formulating and articulating their search strategy and providing the evaluator with a description of their dog's final response. The canine should give

a recognizable change in behavior when it initially detects scent and follow it to identify the location of the actual source. Changes in search strategy are permissible, however the handler must communicate their reasoning to the evaluator. Once the dog locates the source, the dog shall demonstrate its final response.

5. The boat shall be safe for the body of water being utilized and rated to carry both the dog and people necessary to conduct the evaluation. Everyone aboard the boat shall wear approved PFD's at all times. The boat shall contain at least 2 paddles or oars. The dog must be under the handler's control at all times. The dog must be able to load calmly and safely into the boat and obey basic commands while on board.
6. At the conclusion of the test, the evaluator shall be responsible to complete the appropriate evaluation form and debrief the handler on their performance. GPS's locations shall be reviewed and analyzed along with currents, winds, source depths and other factors to determine the results of the test. Verification with a certified dog to clarify scent location is permissible.

#### Evaluation Criteria

1. Team is adequately attired and has adequate supplies, equipment and water for the team.
2. Dog locates sources within the allotted time and performs the final response.
3. Handler marks the sources within the allowable distance from the source.
4. No false alert is given by the dog and called by the handler.

#### Recertification

Recertification is required every two (2) years.

### 6.7 AVALANCHE TEST

#### Purpose

The avalanche test demonstrates the ability of a handler and their canine partner to locate hidden subjects buried in an avalanche situation. This test shall demonstrate the ability of the team to navigate conditions to the search area, locate multiple buried subjects, to perform a trained final response and for the handler to correctly read the behavior of their canine partner.

#### Prerequisites

1. Operational handler in good standing
2. Request to Test Avalanche form approved by the Governing Board
3. Attendance at a minimum of four (4) searches
4. Training logs for avalanche searches consistent with the level of training necessary to pass the test.
5. Completed necessary checklist
6. Proof of successful completion of one of the following Avalanche Awareness course (40 hour course): American Avalanche Association Level I or II; National Ski Patrol Avalanche Level I or II; American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) Level I or II, or equivalent.

7. Take avalanche awareness refresher course every 3 years after passing above. Refresher course shall include beacon search drills, probe line search method, back country travel, route selection, hasty snow pit evaluation, mountain weather and the effects on avalanche conditions.
8. Pass RMRD Avalanche Transceiver (Beacon) test annually.
9. Show basic proficiency in some type of winter travel (snowshoes or skis).

#### Test Criteria

1. The test consists of a one (1) acre area, approximately 70 yards x 70 yards. The corners shall be marked by flagging. There shall be 2 subjects buried 3 to 5 feet under the snow.
2. Where possible, the team must complete a .25 mile navigation to the search site on skis, snowshoes, or by foot.
3. The team has twenty (20) minutes to complete the test and find all the subjects.
4. The team shall be evaluated on handler and dog endurance, strategy and navigational skills. The evaluator shall not know the location of the subjects (double blind).
5. The handler shall describe their dog's alerts, indications and trained final response prior to the start of the test. The canine must locate and alert/indicate on the subjects independent of direction from the handler.
6. Upon interpreting the dog's final response, the handler shall advise the evaluator and mark the location with a flag. Any identified (flagged and/or GPS marked) final response that is incorrect shall constitute a fail. The test can be repeated once in a different location if conditions and time permit. If the team fails a second time, the test must be repeated at a later date after proof of the completion of more training to remedy the problem.

#### General Guidelines

1. The handler shall be responsible for formulating and articulating their search strategy and providing the evaluator with a description of their dog's final response. Changes in search strategy are permissible, however the handler must communicate their reasoning to the evaluator. Once the dog locates the subject, the dog shall demonstrate its final response.
2. The evaluator shall conduct a briefing in which the handler shall be given pertinent information about the search scenario and shall answer questions that the handler may have.
3. The entire area shall be uniformly disturbed and provide no visual cues to the testing team. Distractions such as rescue equipment, shovels, probes, etc., may be left in the search area but must be visible – no completely buried items. No more than 3 teams shall test with subjects in the same holes. Once subjects have been removed from the tubes/caves, those holes shall remain open for the following tests.
4. All handlers being evaluated are required to wear snowshoes or skis while in the test area. They must also wear avalanche beacons but may not use them to look for their subjects. They may not probe for the subjects.
5. At the conclusion of the test, the evaluator shall be responsible to complete the appropriate evaluation form and debrief the handler on their performance.
6. All tests shall be conducted in accordance with the Avalanche Safety Guidelines in this document.

7. The subjects must not be someone that the dog has repeatedly trained on in any live-find discipline (trailing, area or avalanche); nor someone that regularly associates with the dog (i.e. family etc.); nor someone who has recently (within 90 days) been used as a training subject for the dog. The subjects should preferably be someone that the dog has never trained on before.

#### Evaluation Criteria

1. Team is adequately attired and has adequate supplies, equipment (avalanche probe, beacon, snow shoes or skis, shovel) and water for the team.
2. The handler plans and executes a good search strategy based on a correct analysis of the situation, the conditions and the detection capabilities of the canine.
3. The handler and canine demonstrate good working stamina for the complete duration of the test.
4. The handler recognizes and correctly interprets the behavior of the canine.
5. The canine demonstrates the ability to detect human scent and the persistence to work the scent from the point of detection to the scent source (the subject).
6. The canine demonstrates good focus on the task at hand. The canine avoids wildlife interaction, responds to the handler's corrections/commands and readily returns to work after distractions.
7. The team will be evaluated on handler's pattern, use of wind, control of the dog and the dog's interest, indication, ranging and digging response.
8. The canine demonstrates an easily identifiable, trained indication of a find (e.g., bark alert or recall/refind).

#### Recertification

Recertification is required every two (2) years.

#### Avalanche Safety Guidelines

Handler, dogs and participants in avalanche rescue shall encounter inherent risks working on steep and difficult slopes in inclement weather. The training and testing may be conducted in part, on or near active avalanche paths, which involve the risk of being caught in avalanches. Fieldwork may be conducted outside of avalanche control areas, and may involve locations from which evacuation of injured participants would be long and difficult. RMRD members and candidates must accept the risk attendant with this fieldwork in avalanche rescue. All aspects of snow cave construction, subject burial duration and shoveler responsibility shall be performed as designated below.

1. RMRD members and candidates must carry a shovel, radio, probe and working avalanche transceiver (beacon) when participating in any avalanche work, including practice or actual rescue missions.
2. Everyone participating in avalanche work shall pass the Avalanche Transceiver (Beacon) Test prior to beginning training and/or testing.
3. Two (2) shovelers with shovels shall be located at each burial site.
4. At the end of any testing/training exercise, the snow caves or avalanche tube holes must be collapsed and the area filled in and returned to a skiable or safe condition.
5. If at any time the buried volunteer feels uncomfortable or claustrophobic, the volunteer shall request extraction and shall be dug out immediately – without exception.

6. Any non-RMRD member is required to sign a release of liability consent form before participating in any avalanche related training/testing that is conducted by RMRD.
7. Testing site shall be in a low avalanche hazard area. Slopes of more than thirty (30) degrees shall not be used.
8. The volunteer to be buried shall not assist in digging the holes for the avalanche tubes. They shall be dressed warmly and shall lie on insulating material.
9. The volunteer shall have a tested two-way radio and an avalanche beacon set on transmit and shall be instructed in their use prior to entering the tube/cave. The volunteer should keep the radio and their hands close to their face.
10. The shoveler should maintain frequent radio contact with the volunteer until notified of the approach of the dog team. If for any reason the volunteer desires extrication before the test is completed, they shall request it by radio and they shall be dug out immediately.
11. The shovelers shall remain close to the avalanche tube/snow cave. They should be able to reach the tube/cave within ten (10) seconds. If the shoveler fails to get a response from the subject on the radio, they shall immediately try again. If no response is received after 3 calls on the radio, the shovelers shall immediately dig the volunteer out, unless verbal (radio or otherwise) contact is made prior to complete extraction.
12. No volunteer shall be buried for longer than 45 minutes.

#### Avalanche Transceiver (Beacon) Test

1. The avalanche transceiver (beacon) test shall be conducted in a designated area, approximately 100 feet by 100 feet, uniformly disturbed and clearly designated by visible flagging.
2. An operational, activated beacon set on transmit or send shall be placed three (3) to four (4) feet below the surface of the snow. A two (2) foot by two (2) foot plywood board shall be placed over the beacon and the hole shall be backfilled.
3. The person testing has five (5) minutes to search for the transmitting beacon and strike the board with their probe pole.

#### Snow Cave Construction

If using a snow cave rather than an avalanche tube, these guidelines shall apply.

1. The cave should be constructed in snow that has been compacted by boot, ski or machine unless naturally compacted prior to digging the cave. The cave should be constructed with a curved (arched) roof for strength and should have a minimum of two and a half (2 ½) feet of snow on top of the roof.
2. An extra evaluator not conducting the test shall assess all caves for safety before anyone is allowed to enter. The cave must bear the weight of a person on skis or snowshoes walking across and standing on the roof. If the roof fails the safety test, the cave should be dug out as an open trench and covered with half-inch plywood or similar material and covered with no more than one and a half (1 ½) foot of snow. The safety test should be repeated. If the roof of the trench fails again, that location must be aborted and a new hole dug in a different area.
3. The cave may be constructed as a full body cave where the volunteer is free to move about or as a half cave where the cover snow is in contact with the volunteer's legs. In no event shall cover snow be in contact with the buried person at any point above the waist. Cave location must be marked with a small pine bow tree branch or other visual means (no shovels).

