

STATE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM

A Component of the Federal Response Plan
Emergency Support Function 9



DISASTER RECOVERY CANINE READINESS EVALUATION PROCESS

May, 2012

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of this State Urban Search and Rescue (SUSAR) Document is to assist State US&R Member Agencies in the acquisition, training, certification and maintenance of Canine Recovery Specialist Teams as a resource for the National Urban Search & Rescue Response System.

Document and Contact Information:

Interpretation and clarification of this document shall be made to the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee. Any system maintenance issues shall be received by the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee.

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Use of the SUSAR Name or SUSAR Logo must be approved by the SUSAR Board of Directors.

STATE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

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Emergency Support Function 9



SECTION I – DISASTER RECOVERY CANINE READINESS EVALUATION AND RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

May, 2012

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INTRODUCTION

Objectives:

The objectives for developing a standardized Disaster Recovery Canine Evaluation Process are to:

- Provide uniform methods to determine the current operational readiness levels of all Recovery Canine Search Specialists and canines in the SUSAR National US&R Response System.
- Use the results of the assessment process to identify major strengths and shortfalls for the Recovery Canine Search Specialist and their canine for targeted improvement.
- Use the review process as an opportunity to share techniques and ideas between Recovery Canine Search Specialists from different member agencies on how to address various demands and issues identified during the assessment process.
- Develop a fair and objective process that can be conducted through SUSAR in association with SUSAR member agencies to determine canine readiness levels.
- Provide feedback to the respective member agency and handlers regarding the strengths and weaknesses of their current state of canine recovery readiness and to provide score sheets to the respective member agencies. This information would then translate into a comprehensive plan of action for further recovery team development and improvement. (It is expected that the respective Search Team Managers will be involved in the process.)
- Develop a dynamic process where member agency handlers can have their evaluation updated to reflect subsequent attainment of previously identified shortfalls and provide a current, accurate readiness assessment of evaluated Canine Recovery Specialists and their canines.
- Maintain a current roster of certified Canine Recovery Specialist Teams.

Equivalency Statement:

- Agencies, organizations or groups wishing to use the SUSAR canine recovery standard for testing and/or certification and claiming “SUSAR Equivalency” must adopt and use the most current standard revision verbatim. This includes, but is not limited to all testing performance requirements, instructor requirements and evaluator qualification requirements.

Evaluation Documents:

To facilitate the member agency assessment, the following documents have been developed:

- Disaster Recovery Canine Readiness Evaluation Process
- Type II - Element Descriptions (Unit II)
- Type II - Performance Criteria and Evaluation Form Guidelines (Unit II)
- Type I - Element Descriptions (Unit III)
- Type I - Performance Criteria and Evaluation Form Guidelines (Unit III)
- Type II - Canine Readiness Evaluation Procedures (Unit IV)
- Type I - Canine Readiness Evaluator Pre-Requisites (Unit V)
- Appendices (Unit VI)
- Scene Safety Establishment Checklist – Appendix A
- US &R Code of Conduct – Appendix B
- Type I Certification Evaluation Mapping Example – Appendix C
- Appeal Process – Appendix D

Definitions:

- **CERTIFICATION PREPARATION (CP)**
 - A practice evaluation in preparation for taking the SUSAR Type I evaluation.
- **CERTIFIED TEAM**
 - A Disaster Recovery Canine Team is comprised of a canine and a handler who have successfully demonstrated the performance skills required by the Disaster Recovery Canine Readiness Evaluation (DRCRE), which includes successful completion of the Type II or the Type I Certification Recovery Evaluation
- **DISTRACTION**
 - Anything placed or located within in the testing area that might cause a diversion from the dog's directed task.
- **ELICITING**
 - To cause a dog to alert or indicate by a handler's voice or overt body action
- **EVENT**
 - A training, testing or instructional program offered by a SUSAR member agency
 - A "Sanctioned Event" is an evaluation or training class hosted by a SUSAR affiliated member agency in which SUSAR rostered evaluators/Instructors officiate. Certificates are issued through SUSAR at the event. The DSCREP and DRCEP are used in its entirety. An appeals process is through SUSAR. If the event is funded through SUSAR grant funds, it is then mandatory the event be sanctioned.
- **HUMAN REMAINS**
 - Source material consists of a minimum of 30 grams of bone and soft tissue or soft tissue only. Pseudo scent, bone only and human remains scented objects are not acceptable.
- **HOSTING AGENCY**
 - A SUSAR Member Agency that sponsors (authorizes, recognizes and supports) a canine event.
- **PRE-TEST**
 - A pre-test of basic skill to assess the team's potential to successfully complete the Type II Recovery Evaluation. A pre-test format should be established within each member agency and should be executed within six month of sending teams to be evaluated.
- **SUSAR**
 - State Urban Search and Rescue – non DHS/FEMA Urban Search and Rescue teams capable of National or International disaster response.
- **SUSAR TYPE I DISASTER RECOVERY CERTIFICATION**
 - A SUSAR evaluation of a team's skills and readiness to operate at an advanced level in a disaster environment. A Type I SUSAR Recovery Certification is valid for three years from date of passing.
- **SUSAR TYPE II DISASTER RECOVERY CERTIFICATION**
 - Successful completion of the criteria for a SUSAR Type II Recovery evaluation. The Type II Certification is valid for two years from date of passing. During that time, a canine team may take the SUSAR Type I Recovery evaluation.
- **TASK FORCE**
 - A National US&R Response System Task Force is defined as a 70 person team specifically trained and equipped for large or complex urban search and rescue operations. The multidiscipline organization provides functional elements that include command, search, rescue, medical, planning, logistics and weapons of mass destruction/HAZMAT specialists.

PROCESS / IMPLEMENTATION:

- The Canine Recovery Specialist must be at least 21 years of age and meet all SUSAR personnel qualification requirements and be rostered on a SUSAR affiliated agency.
- Priority will be given to Canine Recovery Specialists/candidates that are currently rostered on a SUSAR affiliated agency or have a letter of intent on file from a SUSAR affiliated agency to roster them upon certification.
- The disaster recovery canine shall be a minimum of 18 months of age before beginning the SUSAR Disaster Recovery Canine Readiness Evaluation Process.
- Within the SUSAR testing system, a disaster canine may test only for live-find or recovery – not both.
- The SUSAR Disaster Recovery Canine Readiness Evaluation Process (DRCREP) is divided into two parts:
 - Type II
 - Type I
- Within six (6) months prior to taking a nationally administered SUSAR Type II Disaster Recovery Canine Readiness Evaluation, the canine/handler team should first satisfactorily complete a pre-test assessment. A pre-test assessment is satisfactory completion of the five (5) elements of the SUSAR Recovery Type II.
- It is recommended that the team attend a Type I certification preparation event prior to participating in a SUSAR Recovery Type I certification evaluation.
- The Hosting Agency will contact the SUSAR Evaluator Coordinator who will use the SUSAR Evaluator Roster to select a cadre of evaluators who meet the evaluator criteria.
- SUSAR evaluations will be coordinated through the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee
- Site requirements for both levels have been determined and are listed in the Type II and Type I Disaster Recovery Canine Evaluation Readiness Evaluations (Units II and III).

SUSAR / US&R CODE OF ETHICS:

- All participants in the evaluation process must conduct themselves in an honest and professional manner.
- Physical, verbal or mental abuse of the canine is not acceptable at any time.

Violation of the Code of Ethics may result in loss of certification, loss of evaluator status and/or referral to the appropriate authorities.

Policy on Aggression:

Each member agency shall be responsible for ensuring that aggressive behavior is modified or the canine shall not be eligible to participate in events.

Definition

- Canine aggression is an attempted or actual unprovoked attack on another canine or person. A canine may also be evaluated as aggressive if it exhibits significant warning signs of imminent unprovoked attack (continuous growling, snarling, fear-barking, etc.).

Policy

- Canine aggression toward people and/or other canines is not acceptable.

Repercussions

In the event a canine demonstrates aggressive behavior at any SUSAR event, the following procedures will be followed:

- Canine attacks a person
 - Upon an unprovoked attack, the canine will be removed from the event. An evaluator will forward an account of the attack to the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee, who will notify the member agency of the incident and forward the findings at the conclusion of the review process. The canine will not be allowed to participate in any SUSAR event during the review process.
- Canine attacks another canine
 - If a canine attacks another canine at a SUSAR event, the Lead or Chief Evaluator or Lead Instructor shall immediately review the incident and determine if the canine will be allowed to continue. The canine team's sponsoring agency, the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee and the hosting agency's representative will be immediately notified.
- Reinstatement Policy
 - A sponsoring agency may petition the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee to have a canine re-evaluated upon documentation that behavior modification has been successful.

Evaluation Guidelines:

- Each team shall be allowed seven attempts at each level (Type II and Type I). Upon failure of these seven attempts the team shall be prohibited from further testing. Note: Each day of a two-day test is considered a separate attempt.
- Type II testing may be administered in a single day or multi-day format at the discretion of the hosting agency.
- The member agency has the option to select the method of administering the Type II evaluation elements one (1) through four (4) on a single day. Element five (5) may be administered on a different day but must be within six months of the original test of elements one (1) through four (4).
- A disaster canine recovery team that has passed elements one (1) through four (4) within the previous six months at a SUSAR Type II test may attempt element five (5) one additional time, if offered, at a subsequent SUSAR Type II test. This must be with the documented approval of the canine handler's member agency. A disaster canine recovery team that fails element five (5) a total of two times must retake the entire test to be considered certified.
- The disaster canine recovery team must successfully complete all required skills in elements one (1) through five (5). In the obedience element, a team may fail one of the following skills: heeling, emergency stop or long down/wait. A single opportunity to re-attempt the failed skill will be permitted on the same day. This skill must be re-tested and successfully completed prior to allowing the team to proceed to the rubble portion.
- The team must also complete five (5) of the six (6) obstacles listed in the agility element, including the four (4) mandatory obstacles.
- The evaluators must reach a majority consensus for the Type II or Type I evaluations.
- Evaluations will be recorded on the Disaster Canine Performance Evaluation Form using the developed evaluator guidelines.
- At the conclusion of the process, the evaluation and the comments will be reviewed with the respective canine recovery specialist.
- Copies of the completed evaluations will be forwarded to the respective member agency and the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee's evaluation coordinator.
- Completed evaluation forms forwarded to the member agency should be directed to the canine coordinator and/or search team manager for review.
- The canine coordinator/search team manager should develop a remediation plan to address any cited shortfall.

Re-certification:

- Once a disaster recovery canine team has passed the SUSAR Type II evaluation, it is eligible to take the SUSAR Type I disaster evaluation at the first available opportunity.
- The team must either pass the SUSAR Type I evaluation or be re-certified at the SUSAR Type II level within two years. If a team fails the SUSAR Type II re-certification, it will be removed from the certification roster.
- After a disaster recovery canine team has passed the SUSAR Type I evaluation, it will be required to re-certify within three years of its original SUSAR Type I certification. If the team fails the SUSAR Type I re-certification, it will revert to the SUSAR Type II level of certification if that certification remains valid and may re-take the SUSAR Type I test at the first available opportunity. If the SUSAR Type II certification is no longer valid, the team must start the process over by taking the SUSAR Type II evaluation.
- If a team does not re-certify within three months of their due date, they shall submit a written explanation, no later than their re-certification date, to the SUSAR Canine Sub-committee. The explanation shall include the intentions for the future and the team's plan to rectify the situation. Failure to comply with the above will result in the team being automatically dropped from the roster.
- If the team fails the second SUSAR Type I re-certification attempt, the team must start over by taking the SUSAR Type II evaluation and progressing to the SUSAR Type I.
- Within six months of application for a SUSAR Type II certification, the team should complete and pass a pre-test. Prior to applying for a SUSAR Type I evaluation, the team shall complete and pass a SUSAR Type II evaluation.

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SECTION II – TYPE II DISASTER RECOVERY CANINE READINESS EVALUATION AND RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

May, 2012

Type II Canine Evaluation

Ground Rules:

- The handler is required to follow all ground rules.
- No training aids (balls, food, toys, etc.) except where specified.
- A toy or food reward is allowed on the rubble and the indication station.
- No collars or search vests on agility or rubble pile.
- Muzzles are not permitted in any phase of the evaluation process.
- No short lead, traffic lead, training tab or other weighted object may be attached to the collar at any time.
- No prong, choke, martingale, head halter or electronic collars.
- No practice on any element before the test.
- The handler must maintain continual control of the canine.
- Abuse (physical, mental, verbal, etc.) of the canine is not acceptable at any time.
- The handler is responsible for the care and safety of the canine at all times.
- Safety gear and procedures should be addressed continually. The handler is required to wear the following safety gear on the rubble site: helmet, gloves, eye protection, long sleeve shirt, long pants, safety toe/steel shank boots. Knee protection is recommended.
- Aggression will not be tolerated at any time.
- The disaster recovery canine team must successfully complete all required skills in elements one (1) through five (5). In the obedience element, a team may fail one of the following skills: heeling, emergency stop or long down/wait. A single opportunity to re-attempt the failed skill will be permitted on the same day. This skill must be re-tested and successfully completed prior to allowing the team to proceed to the rubble.
- Any accident/injury shall be reported immediately to the IC, chief or lead evaluator or their designee.

Evaluation Procedures:

- The evaluators and the IC shall determine the testing area.
- It is recommended that a non-testing, Type II certified canine team pre-test all elements of the Type II test and that a non-testing, Type I certified canine team pre-test all elements of the Type I test.
- Rescue and medical capabilities must be readily available.

Element 1 – Obedience:

Rationale:

- The canine must be under the control of the handler at all times, capable of heeling through crowds and non-aggressive to both people and other canines. The canine, for its safety must be responsive to an emergency stop command. The long wait evaluates the reliability and calmness of the canine when the handler is not in sight.

Required Skills:

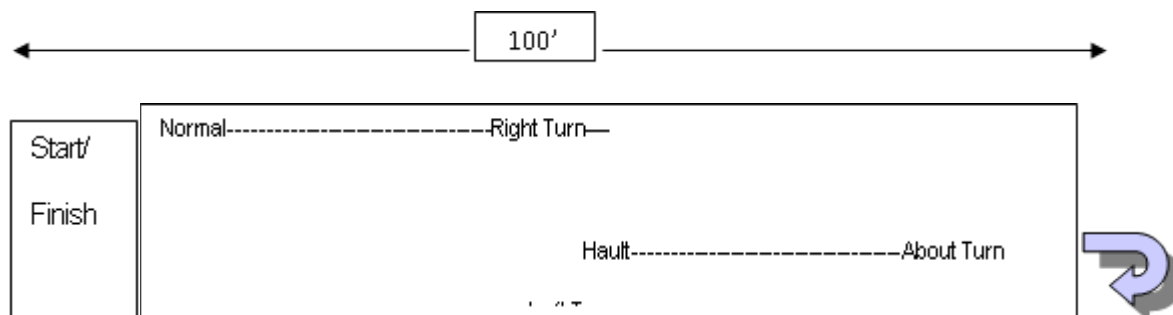
- Non-aggressive to stranger
- Non-aggressive to canine on figure-8
- Heels through a crowd with turns and changes of pace
- Emergency stop
- Stay on long down/wait for five minutes

Aggression Testing:

- Handler ties the canine and leaves it unattended. Handler proceeds to a designated area out of the canine's sight. After a minimum of one (1) minute out of sight, a stranger unties the canine and returns the canine to the handler
- A canine recovery team completes a figure-8 on a loose lead around two testing team handlers with their canines (post teams) sitting at their side and spaced about eight (8) feet apart. The testing team shall complete the pattern, which will include a reverse change in direction, passing within two feet of each of the post teams. During the exercise all three dogs will be evaluated for aggression.

Heeling:

- The team must perform the following commands as directed while heeling off lead through a group of not less than five (5) milling people. Heeling is defined as the canine maintaining position at either side of the handler so as to be attentive to the handler and under his control at all times. Additional or repetitive commands are acceptable.
 - Right turn
 - Left turn
 - About turn
 - Halt
 - Change of pace (normal, fast, slow)



5 walking millers spaced at 15' intervals

Emergency Stop:

- The dog shall be placed on a stay command 25 yards from the handler and the evaluator. Upon direction from the evaluator, the handler shall call their dog. The handler will then stop the dog when directed by the evaluator. Once the stop command has been given, an immediate change in gait is required and the canine must then come to a stop. The dog may drop, sit or stand and will be judged by the quickness of its response. The handler may give multiple commands. The dog shall remain stationary until released or recalled by the handler at the direction of the evaluator.

Long Down/Wait:

- The canine may be placed next to the handler's pack and at least five (5) feet away from any other canine. A minimum of three (3) canines must be utilized. The lead must be removed from the canine and may not be placed in front of the canine. Upon direction from the evaluator the handler shall give the canine the 'wait' command and the handler will proceed to a designated area out of the canine's sight. The canine must be under the supervision of a monitor. Time starts when the evaluator states 'leave your dog'. The canine may sit, stand or shift position but shall not move more than a body length in any direction from where the canine was placed until the handler returns to the canine. After five (5) minutes, the evaluator will direct the handler to return to the canine. The handler may signal the canine to stay, if needed, while returning. The handler may not give the dog any verbal commands while returning. The exercise is complete when all handlers have returned to their canines and the evaluator states 'exercise complete'. No release will be allowed by any team until the 'exercise complete' command is issued.

Suggested Course Layout:

- The course shall consist of an appropriately sized area to perform the identified exercise and shall be as free of distractions as possible and has been cleared of hazards to the canine. The designated handler area must be established to permit the efficient return when summoned.

Element 2 – Indication Station:

Rationale:

- The purpose of this station is to ensure that the canine will independently recognize and independently indicate on the odor of human remains.

Required Handler Skills

- The handler will describe to the evaluator what the canine's indication will be.

Required Canine Skills

- For the purpose of this station, an indication is defined as a "trained behavior by which the canine remains at the scent source and communicates a find to the handler". Such indication must be consistent throughout the Certification Testing Process and must be easily recognizable by someone other than the handler (i.e., the evaluator).
- Canine must have a trained indication that does not cause damage to the remains and which is consistent with the disaster environment in which the canine is to work.
- Given the inherent instability of collapsed structures and the difficulties of keeping a canine within visual in confined space situations, the bark indication is the preferred indication but a passive sit or down at source is acceptable. A recall-refind is not acceptable.
- The canine stays at the scent source until the ten (10) second time frame or the 3 bark indication is complete.
- Urination or defecation on the scent source will result in a failure.

Handler Information

- The handler will remove the canine's collar and start the canine from any area outside the search area.
- The canine must go to the location of the scent source and give the indication specified by the handler. If the canine does not go directly to source, the handler may use additional commands, as necessary, to direct the canine to the source location but once the canine makes a commitment to the scent source (i.e., the canine's behavior indicates to the evaluators that the canine has recognized the scent and approached the scent source), the handler may not talk or signal the canine in any way and the canine must independently perform its trained indication.
- The handler must not enter the search area, but may move around the perimeter, as necessary, until the canine commits to, and indicates, the find. The phrase "commits to, and indicates the find" is defined as performing its trained indication for at least ten (10) seconds for a passive indication or 3 barks for a bark indication. The time allotted for the canine to search for and independently commit to and indicate the find is 5 minutes.
- There will be two official timers. One timer will start timing the exercise as soon as the handler sends the canine. The second timer will time the 10 second alert for passive indications or the time frame for the 3 barks. The handler will be told when he or she may go to the canine. At that time, the handler may approach and praise the canine and reward with a toy or food, then leash the canine and quickly leave the area.

Site Setup

- The Evaluators will approve the site.
- One (1) scent source will be placed in the center of a clear open area that is 25 yards by 25 yards. The perimeter of the search area will be clearly marked with cones at the corners or flagging tape.
- Evaluators must have a clear view of the canine's work.
- There shall be no known distractions placed in the search area.

Scent Source Placement

- The location of the scent source will be readily visible to both canine and handler.
- The source should be secured in a Pelican (model 1450) container (or container of similar construction and size). The container should have ten (10) ½ inch holes drilled in the flat, top section of the container. The holes should be a minimum of 2 inches apart.
- Scent sources must be in place a minimum of ten (10) minutes.

Scent Source Material

- Scent source material must consist of at least 30 grams of bone and soft tissue or soft tissue. Bone only and pseudo aids are not acceptable.
- Scent sources must be identified on the Evaluation Sheet indicating description and weight of material.

Element 3 – Direction and Control:

Rationale:

- In order to search areas that the handler may not access or to avoid hazardous area, the canine must demonstrate the ability to be directed and controlled by the handler. The canine should respond to audible and/or visual signals.

Required Skills:

- Goes up on each required elevation at the direction of the handler.
- Waits on elevation until directed by the handler.

Handler Information:

- The handler will remove the canine's leash before the exercise begins.
- The handler is responsible for counting the five (5) seconds the dog must remain on the target obstacle. The evaluator may intervene to 'help' at his/her discretion. If the dog is anticipating the 'off' command, the evaluator will not intervene. If the dog is showing an overall lack of control, the evaluator will not intervene.

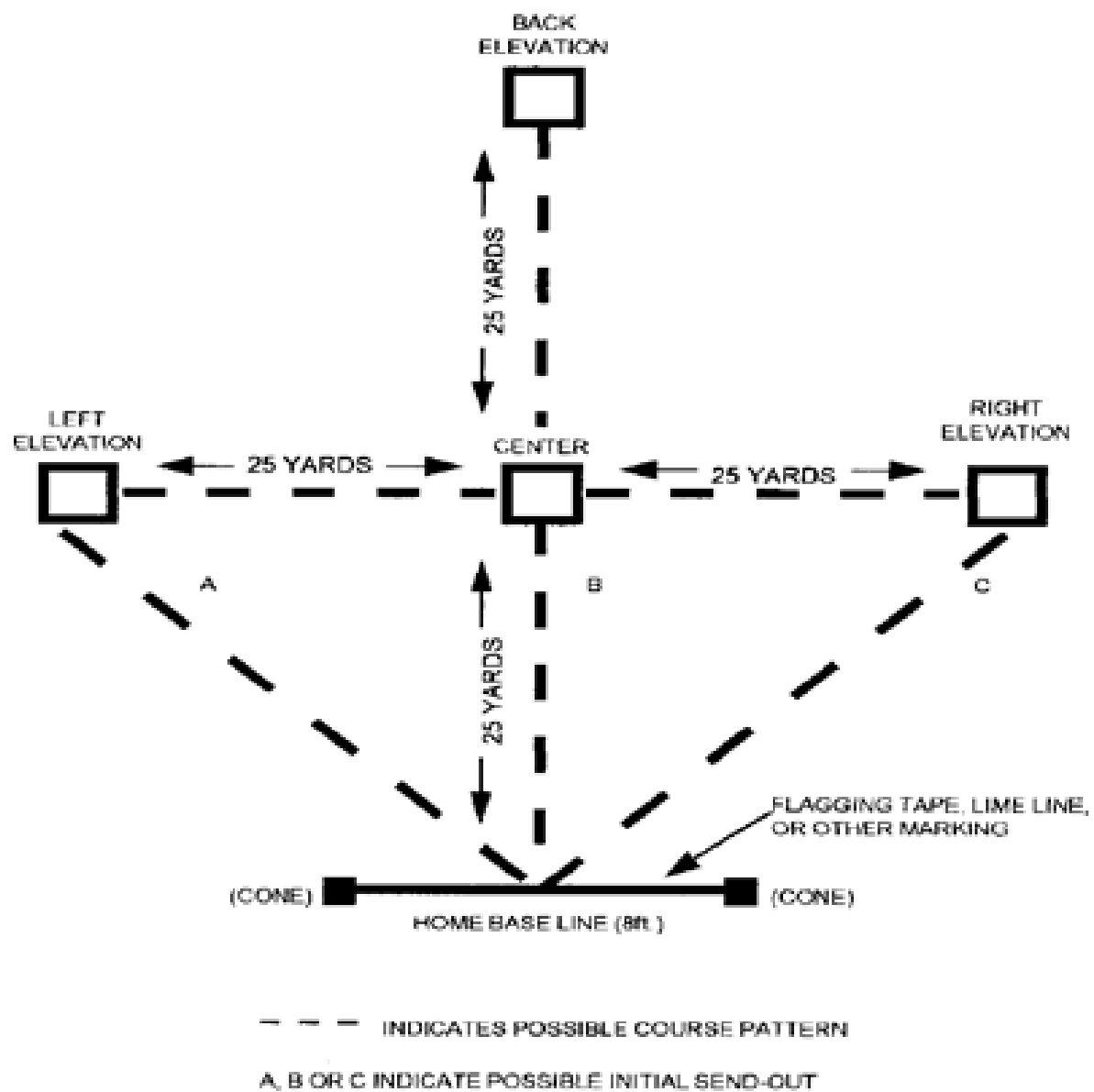
Directability:

- On the first go-out, the canine must go up onto a specified elevation without getting onto any other elevation. The handler may stop the canine and redirect or recall the canine and restart as many times as time allows. If the canine goes up on the incorrect elevation first, the canine must be recalled and restarted. This applies to the first direction only. After beginning the course, if the dog returns to the handler and crosses the start line or is touched by the handler, he must start over. If the canine goes to the wrong elevation at any time after the first go-out, the dog must go back to the last correct elevation before proceeding.
- The team will have three (3) minutes to complete the course. The evaluators will designate which elevation the canine shall be sent to (right, left or center). The handler will direct the canine to a series of elevations. The pattern will include a go-out, a right, left, go-back and recall. The canine must go up onto these elevations and stay there for five (5) seconds. The canine may sit, stand or lie down. The handler may give multiple commands.
- The elevations may consist of two or three different types of objects or they may be uniform.
- The canine will be directed to five designated elevations and stay for five (5) seconds on each elevation, ending the exercise with a recall to the handler. (See the canine directability diagram) Diagonals will only be used to and from the starting position.

Suggested Course Construction:

- The course will be laid out in a diamond shape. The area should be uncluttered, as clear as possible (approximately 75 yards clear). The start shall be an 8' base line or starting line that is clearly marked: See diagram.
- The center elevation shall be 25 yards from the base of starting line. All the other elevations shall be 25 yards from the center elevation.
- The elevations should be clearly visible to the canine. Elevations should be approximately 36" X 24" in size, 15" to 30" high, and stable. The intention is to provide simple, stable, distraction-free targets to demonstrate directability skills.
- The elevations may consist of two or three different types of objects or they may be uniform.

CANINE DIRECTABILITY



Element 4 – Agility:

Rationale:

- In order to safely search the rubble for victims, the canine must acquire certain specific skills and overcome some of its natural instincts. It may be dangerous to jump off moving objects. The canine must learn it is possible to balance or gain control of a moving object by using its body weight and gravity. In order to maintain traction on slippery surfaces, the canine must learn to spread its toes and not dig in with its toenails. It is very important that the canine learn to place each foot deliberately and independently on the rubble. Agility training will give the canine confidence on the rubble. The canine should be able to search the rubble without being overly concerned about its safety.

Required Skills:

- Completes five (5) or six (6) obstacles, including the four (4) mandatory obstacles.
- Demonstrates stop and turn on any elevated obstacle (not the support section of the element).
- Canine precedes handler on each obstacle.

Handler Information:

- This will include the following obstacles: ladder, elevated plank, unsteady/wobbly surface, tunnel.
- The team shall have five (5) minutes to complete the agility course.
- The handler will be directed to the clearly marked beginning of the course. The handler shall remove the canine's collar and leash before starting. The course should be run in the sequence as numbered. However, if a canine refuses an obstacle, at the handler's discretion, the team may complete the course and re-attempt the obstacle in the remaining time. The canine should work as independently as possible following the handler's direction. Multiple commands are permitted.
- The canine should negotiate the obstacles confidently and carefully.
- The canine should negotiate the obstacles under handler control.
- Once the canine has started an obstacle, the handler should remain as stationary as possible.
- If the handler precedes the canine, the evaluator will instruct the handler to restart the canine on the obstacle. The handler may lift the canine off the obstacle or turn it around to restart.
- The handler may slow, stop or encourage the canine as needed and may assist the canine if needed for safety reasons. Any physical assistance will require a restart of the obstacle.
- The handler shall demonstrate his ability to command the canine to stop and turn, which will be performed any elevated obstacle (not the support) and in full view of the evaluators (not the tunnel).
- The handler is responsible for the safety and welfare of his canine. If this ground rule is compromised the evaluator(s) may intercede with a warning and/or termination of the element or the evaluation for that team. The handler should not use an unreasonable number of attempts when the dog is obviously unable or unwilling to comply. The canine should be willing to negotiate unfamiliar obstacles based on his training and his confidence with his handler.
- The canine will be judged on negotiating the ladder in the up direction only.
- The goal is to demonstrate the canine's ability to perform the required skills as well as the canine's obedience to the handler and willingness to undertake unfamiliar agility obstacles.

Obstacles (* = mandatory completion):

- *The 'Little Giant' ladder extended to 8.5 feet, secured at an approximate 45-degree angle.
- *A plank elevated at least six (6) feet and no more than 8 feet off the ground (the 12" wide by 12' long plank is to be stable).
- *3-foot (approximate height) unsteady, wobbly surface constructed by using four (4) sawhorses covered with a 4' x 8' sheet of 5/8' plywood. Different debris items to be placed on top not to exceed two (2) feet in height, constructed to provide access to the dog either by walking up an incline or by jumping no more than three (3) feet high.
- *A dark, narrow tunnel/passageway containing at least one right-angle turn. The canine should not be able to see through the tunnel to the end. Partial covering of the exit is permitted. The canine should fit into the tunnel without crawling.
- A seesaw (16' long by 12" wide plank on a 55-gallon drum).
- A slick, slippery/unpleasant surface.
- A moving plank suspended on two barrels (12' long by 12" wide).
- Object that requires the canine to crawl on its belly (must be adjusted to approximately one-half the height at the withers of each canine).

Course Construction:

- The course shall be constructed to include six obstacles out of the listed obstacles.
- The course may be set up as six separately constructed obstacles or as a combination. If two or more obstacles are combined, the canine must have the opportunity to pass each of the obstacles independently.
- The obstacles must be designed to test the canine on the elements described.
- The course should be designed in such a way that the canine can precede the handler.
- Obstacles should be clearly numbered.
- The following obstacles must be included in the course:
 - Little Giant ladder
 - Elevated plank
 - Unsteady, wobbly surface
 - Tunnel

Element 5 – Rubble Site

Rationale:

- The rubble search demonstrates the ability of the team to integrate all the previously evaluated elements in a realistic, simulated disaster environment, into an effective search tool.

Required Skills:

- Establish scene safety
- Responsiveness to handler direction and control
- Canine searches independently
- Canine shows commitment to each scent source
- Focused indication on two human remains scent sources with no false indications
- Informs evaluators of canine's alert/location of each scent source
- Canine agility
- Handler agility – the ability to negotiate the rubble in a safe manner and without the assistance of other personnel
- Canine alerts independently of handler
- Handler demonstrates appropriate canine care, safety and welfare

Handler Information:

- The handler will remove the canine's collar and leash
- The handler will describe to the evaluator what the canine's indication will be
- Handler establishes scene safety
- Scene safety interview may include the following:
 - What time did the structure collapse?
 - What type of occupancy was the structure (school, office, apartment building, etc.)?
 - What is the number of suspected missing persons?
 - Has a structural engineer checked the structure?
 - Has this structure been searched before?
 - What were the findings?
 - Is it safe to enter?
 - Are blueprints available?
 - Has HazMat checked the building?
 - What were the findings?
 - Have the utilities been secured?
 - How and by whom?
 - Gas?
 - Water?
 - Electric?
 - Is heavy rescue available?
 - Is medical available?
 - Is there a veterinarian available?
- There should be a five (5) minutes briefing/interview process. The team shall be allowed 15 minutes to search the rubble for two human scent sources. The handler should inform the evaluators of the search strategy. Evaluators may be positioned on the site while the canine is searching. The handler may not access the rubble site in any areas identified as inaccessible. The handler shall direct the canine to search the area.
- One evaluator will do the handler briefing. The evaluator team will be in attendance during the briefing. Evaluators will then proceed to predetermined locations to view the rubble work before the team's 15-minute time starts.

- The handler will remove the canine's collar and leash.
- The handler may direct the canine to search but shall not encourage the canine's alert.
- The handler will have physical access to 60% of the pile, with visual access to the remaining 40%. The accessible and inaccessible areas will be clearly marked with flagging tape. The handler may access the inaccessible area only to mark an indication and reward the canine. Once the canine has re-started the search, the handler must return to the accessible area.
- The canine team must locate and correctly identify two (2) human remains scent sources.
- The handler may not touch any evaluation props or move any debris in the search area.
- The handler may not access any area of the pile identified as off-limits. If the canine enters these areas, the handler must immediately direct the canine out of these areas.
- The handler may direct the canine to search but shall not command or excessively cue the canine's indication.
- If the canine has a bark indication, the canine must bark 3 times before the handler can encourage the canine. If the canine has a passive indication, the handler must wait until the canine has indicated using its trained indication behavior for ten (10) seconds before encouraging the canine. If the handler communicates with his/her canine between the first and third bark, or during the 10 second passive indication behavior, the team loses that scent source.
- The handler shall notify the evaluator of the canine's indication and flag/mark the scent source location as indicated by the canine, except if the handler is declaring a false indication. Once an indication is flagged, it is final.
- The handler may reward the canine with a toy or food reward on the rubble pile; however care must be taken not to contaminate the evaluation site with food.
- Excessive urinating/defecating to mark areas will result in a failure.

Course Construction:

- The rubble site shall have a minimum average height of 10 feet and consist of an area of 3500 to 5000 square feet. It should consist predominantly of concrete or a mixture of materials common to disaster sites. Banner tape is to be used to reduce the search area when larger rubble sites are being used.
- No distractions will be purposely placed within the search area.
- Evaluators must have a clear view of the canine's work.

Human Cadaver Scent Source Placement:

- The scent sources shall be well concealed from both handler and canine.
- The hiding areas shall be carefully constructed to prevent canines from accessing the scent sources.
- The human remains material shall be buried in the debris so that the scent is contained and is rising to the surface.
- Depth of scent source shall be six (6) inches to three (3) feet depending on the type of debris.
- The evaluator will place scent sources and the locations will be separated by a minimum of 20 feet.
- The scent sources must be in place 30 minutes before the canine is sent.

Human Cadaver Scent Source Material:

- Scent source material must consist of bone and tissue or tissue. The permissible weight range of scent source material is a minimum of 30 grams and a maximum of 300 grams.
- Bone only or pseudo aids are not acceptable.
- Scent sources must be legally acquired and be identified on the screening or evaluation sheet, indicating description and weight of materials.

Performance Criteria and Evaluation Form Guidelines:

The evaluators shall consider the following list of key skills in determining the team's success for each of the elements.

Ground Rules:

- Handler is required to follow all ground rules
 - Did not complete Handler did not follow all ground rules
 - Completed Handler did follow all ground rules

Obedience:

- Non aggressive to stranger in absence of handler
 - Did not complete Canine demonstrates aggression
 - Completed Canine does not demonstrate aggression
- Non aggressive to canine on Figure-8 pattern
 - Did not complete Canine demonstrates aggression
 - Completed Canine does not demonstrate aggression
- Heels through crowd, with turns and change of pace
 - Did not complete Canine doesn't maintain heel, distracted
 - Completed Maintains heel, attentive to handler
- Emergency stop
 - Did not complete Does not show immediate change in gait or stop immediately
 - Completed Shows immediate change in gait and stops immediately
- Long Down/Wait (5 minutes)
 - Did not complete Canine does not stay within the designated area
 - Completed Canine stays within the designated area

Indication/Alert Behavior:

- Barks a minimum of 3 barks or performs a passive indication for 10 seconds
 - Did not complete Doesn't perform 3 bark minimum or passive 10 seconds
 - Completed Does 3 bark minimum or passive 10 seconds
- Stays at scent source or indication box after indication of scent
 - Did not complete Leaves after indication
 - Completed Remains after indication
- Handler does not communicate with the canine during required indication behavior
 - Did not complete Handler communicates during required indication behavior
 - Completed Handler does not communicate during indication behavior

Direction and Control:

- Goes upon elevation
 - Did not complete Does not go up on elevation
 - Completed Goes up on elevation
- Waits on elevation until directed by handler
 - Did not complete Does not wait until directed
 - Completed Leaves elevation when directed

Agility:

- Completes required obstacles under handler control
 - Did not complete Doesn't complete five obstacles (including 4 required)
 - Completed Completes five of six obstacles (including 4 required)
- Demonstrates 'stop' and 'turn' on any elevated obstacle (not support)
 - Did not complete Doesn't demonstrate behavior
 - Completed Demonstrates behavior

- Canine precedes handler
 - Did not complete Handler precedes the canine
 - Completed Without preceding, handler directs canine

Rubble Site:

- Handler establishes scene safety
 - Did not complete Doesn't complete scene safety
 - Completed Completes scene safety
- Responsive to handler direction and control
 - Did not complete Does not respond to commands
 - Completed Canine responsive to commands
- Canine searches independently
 - Did not complete Canine doesn't search independently
 - Completed Canine searches independently
- Bark or Passive indication on two human scent sources with no false alerts
 - Did not complete Doesn't perform bark or passive indication or false alerts
 - Completed Does perform bark or passive indication at human scent source
- Canine shows focused commitment to each human scent source
 - Did not complete Loses interest in scent source and leaves
 - Completed Maintains interest in scent source
- Canine indicates independently of handler
 - Did not complete Doesn't indicate independently of handler
 - Completed Does indicate independently of handler
- Handler informs evaluators of canine's indication/ location of each human scent source
 - Did not complete Doesn't recognize indication/identify location of scent source
 - Completed Recognizes indication/identifies location of scent source
- Canine agility / ability to negotiate rubble
 - Did not complete Does not negotiate rubble in a safe manner
 - Completed Negotiates the rubble in a safe manner
- Handler agility / ability to negotiate rubble
 - Did not complete Does not negotiate rubble in a safe manner without assistance
 - Completed Negotiates rubble in a safe manner without assistance

STATE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM

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SECTION III – TYPE I DISASTER RECOVERY CANINE READINESS EVALUATION AND RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

May, 2012

Type I Canine Evaluation

Ground Rules:

- No collars or vests on canine while searching
- Muzzles are not permitted in any phase of the evaluation process
- Abuse (physical, mental, verbal, etc.) of the canine is not acceptable at any time
- No access to the search sites after set-up of test
- Handler is responsible for care and safety of the canine at all times
- Safety procedures will be followed
- The following safety gear is required for the rubble site:
 - Helmet
 - Gloves
 - Long pants / long sleeve shirt
 - Eye protection
 - Safety toe, steel shank safety boots
 - Knee protection
- Aggression will not be tolerated at any time
- Excessive urinating/defecating to mark areas will result in a failure
- The canine may not compromise the scent material at any time. Compromise is defined as picking up, eating, rolling in, urinating/defecating on, or similar actions involving the scent source. If the canine compromises the scent source during any part of the evaluation, it is grounds for automatic failure.

Evaluation Procedures:

- The Lead (< six (6) testing teams) or Chief Evaluator and IC shall determine the testing area
- Rescue and medical capabilities must be readily available
- It is recommended that non-testing, Type I certified canines pre-test search sites
- Any accident/injury shall be reported immediately to the IC, lead/chief evaluator or their designee

Element Description

Rationale:

- The canine recovery specialist team works together in disaster recovery operations to detect human remains. The handler will be evaluated on his ability to function as a Canine Recovery Specialist. The canine will be evaluated on its ability to search independently. The canine must indicate by barking or performing a passive behavior in order to enable the handler to mark the area of indication of human remains.

Required Skills:

- Canine
 - Searches, detects and indicates human remains by barking a minimum of 3 barks or performing a passive indication for 10 seconds
 - Works through food, noise and/or animal distractions
- Handler
 - Correctly identifies the area of indication of human remains

- Handler will describe to the evaluator what the canine's indication will be
- Maintains control of canine
- Team
 - No false alerts
 - No more than one missed human scent source

Additional Handler Skills:

- Site assessment and search plan
 - Handler completes site assessment
 - Handler establishes an initial search strategy
- Flagging/marking indication location
 - Handler correctly flags/marks canine's indication location
- Search markings/victim markings
 - Handler draws search markings and victim markings according to the current standard
- Site sketch map
 - Handler draws an accurate map according to the guidelines given under 'search procedures' herein.
- Debrief
 - Site sketch/map (full access site)
 - Search/victim markings (either site)
 - Follow-up search recommendations (both sites)

Handler Information:

- The Type I will consist of one element – canine disaster search
- To successfully complete the evaluation, the team must search each site, locate and identify the areas of human remains with a total of no more than one miss, have no false alerts, complete the required skills and comply with the pass/fail ground rules.
- The objective of the limited access pile is to test the canine's ability to search and alert independently of the handler.
- The objective of the full access pile is to test how the handler and canine work as a team when the opportunity to work in close proximity is offered.

Course Construction:

- There should be new, unused scent source locations created for the evaluation.
- The evaluators must have a clear view of the canine's work.
- There will be two separate search sites. Each site will be no closer than 20 feet to the other. Ideally the sites should be physical separated. If this is not possible, barriers (e.g. temporary road, box trucks, jersey barriers, etc.) should be used to separate search areas.
- One or more search sites will be contaminated with distractions.
 - There will be zero to three (0-3) placed scent distractions allowed on any one site with a maximum of four (4) total placed scent distractions for the evaluation
 - The scent distractions should be placed to enable the evaluators to determine if the dog is alerting on a scent distraction or human remains scent source.
 - The placed scent distractions may include clothes, animals (dead or alive/caged), clean containers similar to those used for human remains scent sources, and food.
 - The placed scent distractions must be hidden and inaccessible to the canine.
 - Buried distractions should be no closer than 20 feet to any human remains scent source.
 - There may be noise distractions such as running generators, machinery, rescue tools, etc. Noise distractions may be supplied by audiotapes.
- Pre-determined unsafe site specific areas are those which include:

- Real hazards
- Other search site
- The testing handler should not be given a specific route to send the dog.
- Each search site will consist of an area 3,500-5,000 square feet. The intention is to provide criteria to adjust the footprint of the pile based on the complexity and height, with more complex rubble reduced in square footage and less complex rubble increased in square footage.
- The rubble debris should consist of concrete, wood, mixed material, partially or completely collapsed structures. A structure that meets the above criteria and is consistent with a disaster scene can be used as one of the search sites.
- Barriers or banner tape can be used to identify search and/or unsafe areas.
- Human scent source material must be legally obtained and consist of bone and tissue or tissue. Bone only or pseudo aids are not acceptable. The permissible weight range of scent source material is a minimum of 30 grams and a maximum of 300 grams.
- Human remains scent sources will be identified on the screening or evaluation sheet, indicating description and weight of materials.

Human Scent Source Placement:

- There may be up to six (6) human remains scent sources placed with a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of four (4) in any one site.
- Only one evaluator will handle and place the human remains scent sources. A different evaluator will handle and place the distractions.
- The Lead evaluator will select and document the human remains scent sources and the amount to be used.
- Depth of human remains scent sources shall be one (1) to four (4) feet below the surface depending on the type of debris..
- Human remains scent sources shall be placed at least 30 minutes before the evaluation begins.
- All human remains scent sources will be separated by a minimum of 20 feet.
- The human remains scent sources shall be concealed from both handler and canine.
- The hiding areas should be constructed to prevent canines from accessing the human remains scent source.

Search Procedures:

- Search Sites:
 - Full Access
 - Site is completely accessible to the handler
 - Handler may communicate to the canine after the three bark minimum or the 10 second passive indication.
 - Once an alert is marked, it is final
 - Limited Access
 - The handler will have physical access to 60% of the pile, with visual access to the remaining 40%.
 - The accessible and inaccessible areas will be clearly marked with flagging tape.
 - The handler may access the inaccessible area only to mark an indication and reward the canine.
 - Once the handler has re-started the search, the handler must return to the accessible area.
 - Once the handler has re-started the search, the handler has the option to remain within a five-foot radius of the alert location or the nearest safe area as determined by the evaluators or return to the accessible area

- General Rules
 - After the first bark, the handler may not communicate to the canine until the canine has barked three (3) times or performed a ten (10) second passive indication at the same scent source.
 - Barking may be interspersed with digging, scratching or any other attempt to get to the scent source.
 - Canine may reposition itself while alerting at the scent source location.
 - If the canine leaves the scent source location, the alert process (three bark/ten second requirement) starts over.
 - Food or toy rewards may be used.
 - If a handler correctly calls a false alert, there is no penalty.
 - A 5-minute time period will be provided at each site for the handler to establish site assessment and give a search plan. This will be based on the briefing given prior to the start of the evaluation. During this time, the handler will introduce himself, brief the STM as to how his canine operates, determine his access, safe area, hazards and give his search strategy.
 - The team has 20 minutes to search each site. This includes the canine indicating human remains and the handler identifying the area of the canine's indication to the evaluators. Handler must verbally pinpoint each human remains scent source location within the 20 minute search period; however, flagging/marking of the last scent source does not have to fall within the 20 minute search period.
 - Each handler will flag/mark the human remains scent sources as indicated by the canine.
 - The handler shall have 10 minutes to rest and debrief. On the full access site, the handler shall make a site sketch including name/TF/date/time, alerts (and means to identify them (e.g. distance from perimeter, compass reading or GPS coordinates), wind direction, basic shape of site split into quadrants a, b, c and d, areas of interest, areas covered and not covered, hazards, search/victim markings, prominent features and compass orientation (N and S). On each site the handler will give follow-up recommendations (outside of search time) to include additional resources (canine, tech search) and prioritize search areas.
 - The lead evaluator at each site shall be responsible for designating an individual who will be tasked with retrieving the flags/markers.
 - The team will be allowed a pre-determined relocation time between each search site to include a minimum of 10 minutes for evaluator debrief and rest. Travel time between search sites must not exceed 20 minutes.

Successful Evaluation Completion:

- Certification will be based on compliance with the pass/fail ground rules and completing of the required skills, including locating and identifying the areas of human remains scent within the allotted time, with no more than one missed human remains scent source and no false alerts. The additional skills and additional ground rules will be included in the process, but will not cause a team to fail

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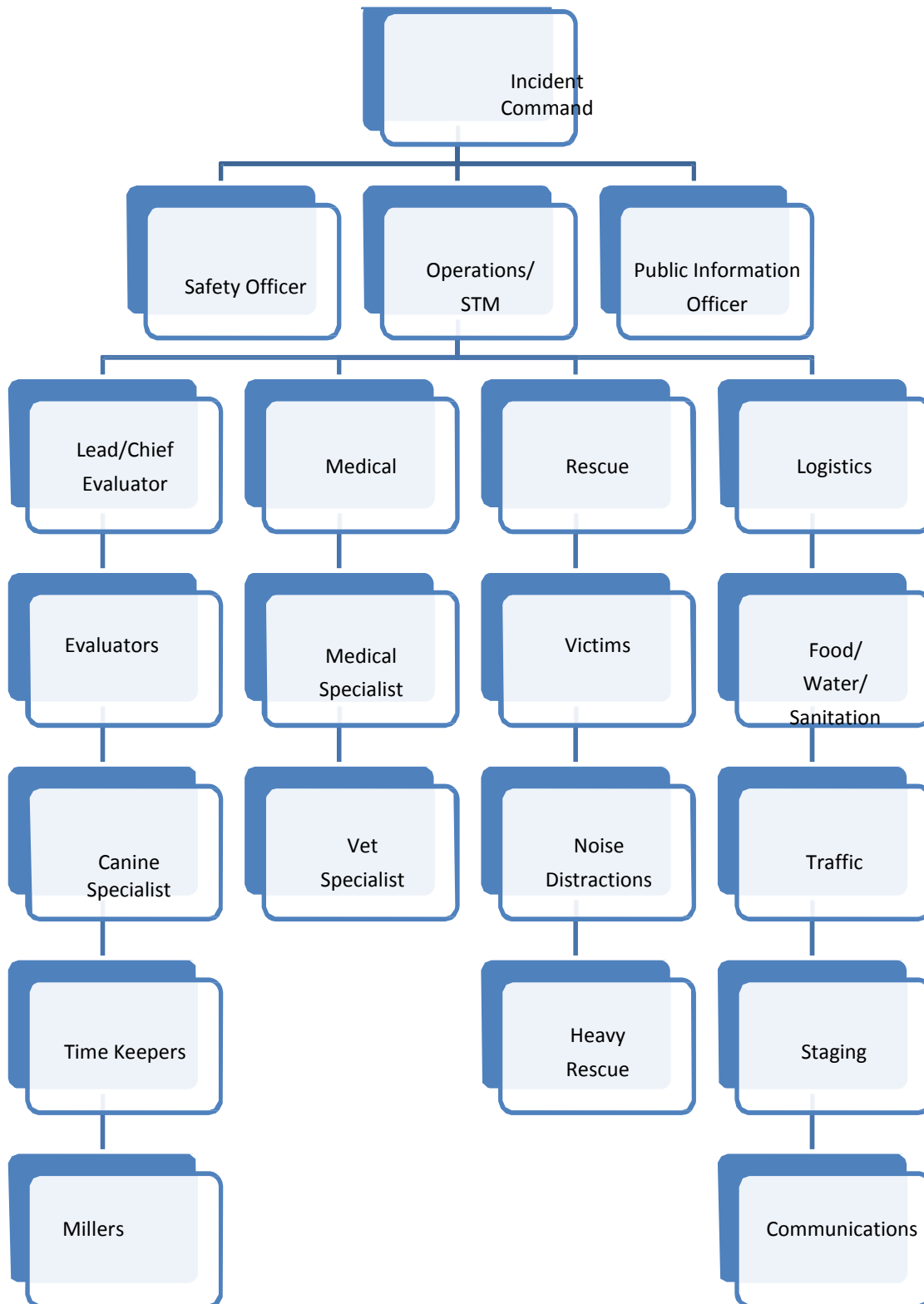
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SECTION IV – EVALUATION PROCEDURES DISASTER RECOVERY CANINE READINESS EVALUATION AND RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

May, 2012

Evaluation Command Structure



Evaluation Planning / Logistics:

The following information describes the flow of events that are required to effectively administer both Type I and Type II Disaster Recovery Canine Readiness Evaluations.

- Preliminary
 - Contact SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee to receive the required information package
 - Confirm the evaluation date, time and location with the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee
 - Develop an Incident Action Plan (IAP) including a site safety plan
- Personnel
 - Identify the Incident Commander (separate from the evaluators) from hosting member agency
 - Evaluator teams consist of:
 - Pre-test – peer review consisting of at least two (2) canine handlers, search team managers or other designated personnel. This evaluation should be completed within six (6) months of taking the Type II evaluation.
 - Type II – two (2) rostered SUSAR evaluators will conduct the evaluation
 - Type I:
 - ✓ Five (5) testing teams or less – three (3) rostered SUSAR evaluators; one (1) of whom will be considered the Lead evaluator
 - ✓ Six (6) or more testing teams – seven (7) rostered SUSAR evaluators, including one (1) Lead evaluator per site and one (1) Chief evaluator. Each site will consist of three (3) evaluators. The Chief evaluator is the primary liaison to the hosting member agency and overall leader of the evaluator cadre. The Chief evaluator will not be tied to a site but will rove overseeing the entire evaluation. Each site shall have a mix of member agency affiliations.
 - Evaluators may not test and evaluate at the same test.
- Chief or Lead (if less than six (6) testing teams) Evaluator Role and Responsibilities
 - Establish contact with hosting member agency and the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee
 - Evaluator phone conference prior to the test.
 - On site, plan test site lay-out and brief other evaluators and site personnel regarding site set-up and suitability, timelines, evaluation order, protocols and other matters related to the conduct of the evaluation.
 - Coordinate with Incident Commander (IC) who will be in charge of concerns regarding site safety, transportation, site control, procurement, briefing and transport of victim and other matter related to logistics.
 - Coordinate with other evaluators and Safety Officer to make final selection, approval and pre-testing of selected victim placement locations.
 - Ensure that all evaluators adhere to established testing procedures.
 - Facilitate a consensus agreement as needed to resolve issues regarding scoring.
 - Delegate responsibility for the evaluator candidates to an experienced evaluator or evaluator candidate mentor.
 - Forward an evaluator candidate report directly to SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee
 - Ensure that the Peer Reviews are collected and forwarded to the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee for inclusion in the After Action Report (AAR). Peer Reviews are optional for testing handlers but mandatory for all participating evaluators and evaluator candidates.

- Ensure that all paperwork is complete and consistent. Forward completed evaluation package directly to the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee Secretary, the canine team's sponsoring agency and the disaster search canine candidate team.
 - Complete and distribute the After Action Report to the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee Secretary and the hosting member agency.
- SUSAR evaluations will utilize an Evaluator Process as established by SUSAR
 - All SUSAR evaluations will utilize eligible evaluators from the SUSAR Evaluator Roster
 - An evaluator must evaluate at least once every two years to remain rostered. This includes any SUSAR event but does not include pre-test assessments.
 - The current rotation roster of qualified evaluators is maintained by the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee.
 - To ensure the participation of appropriate Lead Evaluators, opportunities for new evaluators and to avoid the potential for conflicts of interest, the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee will review the list prior to the evaluation.
- Conflict of Interest
 - While the honesty of all evaluators is presumed, the integrity of the National US&R Disaster Search Canine Program is primary and must be above criticism. To avoid the possibility of a perception of subjectivity, for or against a testing team, no more than one of the evaluators per pile may come from the (included but not limited to) list below:
 - A member of the testing team's primary training group
 - A member of the testing team's member agency
 - A business partner or employee of the testing team
 - The primary trainer of the testing team or an employee (paid or unpaid) of the team being evaluated.
 - No evaluator may evaluate a spouse, ex-spouse, parent, sister, brother or significant other.
- Identify support personnel
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Safety Officer
 - Logistics Officer
 - Staging Officer
 - Timers
 - Victims
 - Communication Officer
 - Milling people
 - Food Services
 - Runners/Assistants
 - Parking Manager
 - Recorder/Statistician
 - Rescue
 - Veterinary Services
- Evaluation Site
 - Site selection and availability
 - Course Construction
 - Use of a GPS to determine site square footage

- Type II Criteria Element Descriptions
 - There should be new, unused scent source locations created for the evaluation. The evaluators must have a clear view of the canine's work.
 - The rubble site shall have a minimum average height of 10 feet and consist of an area of 3500 to 5000 square feet. It should consist predominantly of concrete or a mixture of materials common to disaster sites. Banner tape is to be used to reduce the search area when larger rubble sites are being used.
- Type I Criteria Element Descriptions
 - There will be two (2) separate search sites.
 - Each site will be no closer than 20 feet to the other
 - Each search site will consist of an area 3,500-5,000 square feet, with a minimum average height of 6 to 10 feet. The intention is to provide criteria to adjust the footprint of the pile based on complexity and height, with more complex rubble reduced in square footage and less complex rubble increased in square footage. The rubble debris should consist of concrete, wood, mixed material, partially or completely collapsed structure. A structure that meets the above criteria and is consistent with a disaster scene can be used as one of the two search sites. Banner tape is to be used to reduce the search area when larger rubble sites are being used.
 - Facilities
 - Sanitation considerations (human and canine)
 - Staging area
 - Parking area
 - Canteen area
 - Hand washing station
- Briefing / Housekeeping
 - Evaluators
 - Pre-incident briefing/evaluation process
 - Site review
 - Rotation schedule development
 - Support personnel
 - Assignments
 - Recorder/statistician
 - Collects and compiles evaluations at the end of each individual evaluation and summarizes results
 - Handlers
 - Rotation schedule/assignment
 - Postings in staging area
 - Rules and regulations
 - Rotation schedule
 - Conduct field operations
 - Evaluator meetings
 - Correlate scores and results
 - Complete paperwork
 - Evaluator/handler meetings
 - Debrief
 - Critique
 - Clean-up/Breakdown
 - Site restoration
 - Release of personnel
 - Final critique

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SECTION V – EVALUATOR PREREQUISITES DISASTER RECOVERY CANINE READINESS EVALUATION AND RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

May, 2012

Type II Canine Evaluator Prerequisites

Canine Handler

- Must be a member of a State US&R Task Force actively working with canine teams in US&R and must attend a minimum of six (6) scheduled disaster canine trainings annually.
- Successful completion of the SUSAR Canine Search Specialist Training Course
- Successful completion of the SUSAR Recovery Type II or SUSAR Recovery Type I evaluation.
- Three (3) years of experience as a service/task force canine trainer/handler
- Shadow evaluates at least two (2) Type II SUSAR Recovery evaluations with a minimum total of four (4) testing teams.
- Assist in administering a pre-test.

Non-Canine Handler

- Must be a search team manager (STM) or task force leader (TFL) who was previously a search team manager
- Must have been a member of the State US&R Task Force for a minimum of three (3) years
- Must be a member of a State US&R Task Force actively working with canine teams in US&R and must attend a minimum of six (6) scheduled disaster canine trainings annually.
- Successful completion of the SUSAR Canine Search Specialist Training Course
- Shadow evaluates a minimum of six (6) Type II SUSAR Recovery evaluations with a minimum total of eight (8) testing teams.
- Assist in administering a pre-test.

Type I Canine Evaluator Prerequisites

Canine Handler

- Must be a member of a State US&R Task Force actively working with canine teams in US&R and must attend a minimum of six scheduled disaster canine trainings annually.
- Successful completion of the SUSAR Recovery Type I.
- Three (3) years of experience as a service/task force canine trainer/handler.
- Rostered SUSAR Recovery Type II Evaluator and performed at least two (2) Recovery Type II evaluations with a minimum total of four (4) testing teams.
- Shadow evaluate at least two (2) SUSAR Recovery Type I evaluations and observe a minimum total of four (4) testing teams.
- Request and complete a Type I evaluator application and forward the completed document to the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee Secretary.

Non-Canine Handler

- Must be a search team manager (STM) or task force leader (TFL) who was previously a search team manager.
- Must have been a member of the State US&R Task Force for a minimum of three (3) years.
- Must be a member of a State US&R Task Force actively working with canine teams in US&R and must attend a minimum of six (6) scheduled disaster canine trainings annually.
- Rostered SUSAR Recovery Type II Evaluator and performed at least two (2) Type II evaluations with a minimum total of four (4) testing teams.

- Shadow evaluate at least six (6) SUSAR Recovery Type I evaluations with a minimum total of eight (8) testing teams.
- Request and complete a Type I evaluator application and forward the completed document to the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee Secretary.

Other

Lead Evaluator

- The Lead Evaluator is an experienced individual capable of organizing and coordinating a disaster canine evaluation. Strong leadership qualities and proven ability in conflict resolution are strongly recommended.
- Lead Evaluators oversee a group of evaluators at an evaluation event
- To qualify as a SUSAR Lead Evaluator, the individual must have evaluated a minimum of six (6) SUSAR Recovery evaluations as a rostered SUSAR Recovery evaluator
- Lead evaluator applications will be reviewed by the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee

Chief Evaluator

- The Chief Evaluator is an experienced individual capable of organizing and coordinating a disaster canine evaluation. Strong leadership qualities and proven ability in conflict resolution are strongly recommended, as demonstrated in observable behavior in actual evaluations; i.e. consistently taking a decision making role in resolving set-up, personnel or evaluation issues.
- Chief Evaluators oversee Lead Evaluators at an evaluation event
- To qualify as a Chief Evaluator:
 - Meet all the requirements listed above for Type II, Type I and Lead Evaluator status
 - Submit, to the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee evidence of having evaluated as a qualified Lead Evaluator
 - Submit, to the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee, a written statement from the candidate's Task Force Leader or Program Manager in support of the application to become a Chief Evaluator. The statement should include information on the ability to resolve conflicts, manage large groups of people and provide leadership in complex circumstances.
 - Shadow and assist another Chief Evaluator in conducting an evaluation

Application Process to Become a SUSAR Canine Evaluator

- Submit the application to the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee Secretary
- The SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee reviews the application and based on established criteria and an opening in the evaluator roster recommends the prospective applicant for approval to shadow.
- Upon approval, notification is then sent to the evaluator candidate
- The evaluator candidate contacts the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee Secretary to apply to shadow a specific event
- The SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee has the responsibility to maintain the database of the pool of evaluator candidates
- The evaluator candidate must complete the required shadow evaluations within 24 months of initial application approval date
- Shadow experiences must be at separate evaluations (two-day tests for the same certification level constitute one shadow experience). Shadow experiences for different

certification levels at multi-day tests count for one experience at each level shadowed. Each shadow experience should include at least four (4) testing teams.

- A shadow evaluation experience consists of the successful monitoring of all elements of the canine evaluation. Each evaluator candidate is required to participate in all aspects of the canine evaluation from initial set-up to debriefing and tear-down.
- Maximum shadow opportunities available
 - SUSAR Type I certifications limited to two (2) evaluator candidates per rubble site
 - SUSAR Type II certifications limited to a maximum of five (5) evaluator candidates per shadow mentor. A shadow mentor must be assigned when three (3) or more evaluator candidates are in attendance.
- Notes
 - Evaluator candidates are strongly encouraged to observe and assist the other days of multi-day canine evaluations
 - Evaluator candidates shall complete the prerequisites to fulfill the shadow requirement.
 - Evaluator candidates are encouraged to complete their shadow experiences at different locations whenever possible
 - The evaluator candidate is required to submit all documentation at the end of the same day as the canine evaluation
 - Following the required shadow experiences, the mentor/lead evaluator will recommend to the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee the evaluator candidate by completing the evaluator candidate critique form and forwarding it to the committee
 - Upon receiving the evaluator candidate critique form, the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee will make a recommendation. If the recommendation includes further training or shadow experience, justification and improvement suggestions must be provided to the evaluator candidate
 - The SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee will consider and make final recommendations to the SUSAR Board of Directors. Based on these recommendations, SUSAR may roster newly qualified disaster search canine evaluators for Type II or Type I.
 - While SUSAR evaluators are free to participate in and evaluate at non-SUSAR testing opportunities, SUSAR evaluators may not use their SUSAR Evaluator credentialing to promote or participate in any evaluation not sanctioned or approved by SUSAR.
- Maintaining Evaluator Status
 - Type II
 - Participate in at least two (2) recovery pre-tests every two (2) years
 - Evaluate at least one (1) Recovery Type II every two (2) years
 - Subject to annual review by the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee
 - Attend a minimum of six (6) scheduled canine training sessions annually
 - Type I
 - Evaluate at least one (1) Recovery Type II and one (1) Recovery Type I every two (2) years
 - Subject to annual review by the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee
 - Attend a minimum of six (6) scheduled canine training sessions annually

- Evaluators will have 72 hours in which to respond to a request to evaluate at a test; if no response is received within that time, it will be assumed the evaluator is unavailable.
- Evaluators who refuse two (2) testing assignments in a row will need to submit a written explanation for the refusal and must accept the next request in order to maintain evaluator status.

STATE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM

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SECTION VI – APPENDICES CANINE READINESS EVALUATION AND RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

May, 2012

STATE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM

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Emergency Support Function 9**



SECTION II – APPENDIX A SCENE SAFETY ESTABLISHMENT CHECK LIST

May, 2012

APPENDIX A

CHECKLIST: SCENE SAFETY ESTABLISHMENT CHECKLIST

Time of the collapse: Type of Occupancy Number of Suspected Missing Searched Before? Checked by Structural Engineer? Findings? Safe to enter? Prints available? Haz Mat checked? Findings? Utilities: Who & How secured? Gas Electric Water Heavy Rescue Available Medical Available? Veterinary Available?	<div style="text-align: center;"> Date/Time Task Force out <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> Date/time Hazards </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> In Victims #L/#D </div> </div> <p>● = incomplete search</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; top: 0; bottom: 0; left: 0; right: 0; border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black;"></div> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 5px; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; top: 0; bottom: 0; left: 0; right: 0; border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black;"></div> <div style="position: absolute; top: 0; bottom: 0; left: 0; right: 0; border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black;"></div> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">SAFE TO SOME DO NOT ENTER HAZARDS ENTER</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> V <small>Suspected VICTIM</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; line-height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;">V</div> <small>Confirmed LIVE</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; line-height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;">V</div> <small>Confirmed DEAD</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; line-height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;">V</div> <small>Removed VICTIM</small> </div> </div> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Put number of victims below V</p>
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NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM

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SECTION II – APPENDIX B CODE OF CONDUCT

February, 2012

SUSAR CODE OF CONDUCT

The US&R Response System Code of Conduct can be found in the US&R Operations Manual.

Below is a quick reference list. Consult a current copy of the US&R Operations Manual for the latest revision.

- No transportation/use of illegal drugs or alcohol
- No firearms allowed
- Normal radio protocol used – traffic kept to a minimum
- Know your chain of command and who you report to
- Limit procurement of equipment
- Do not take things without authorization
- Act professionally
- Remain ready even when unassigned
- Recreation limited to unassigned hours
- Maintain/wear safety gear/clothing
- Wear proper uniform
- Your actions reflect on your organization and SUSAR

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SECTION II – APPENDIX C TYPE I EVALUATION MAPPING EXAMPLE

February, 2012

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SECTION II – APPENDIX D APPEALS PROCESS

May, 2012

APPENDIX D: APPEAL PROCESS

- Appeal/Grievance filed by the program manager with the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee regional representative, the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee Secretary and the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee Chairperson
- The SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee Chairperson will recommend to the SUSAR Board of Directors whether or not a fact-finding mission is warranted
- If fact-finding is warranted
 - Interviewer recommended by the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee (disinterested party)
 - SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee will submit a list of interested parties to be interviewed
 - Interviewer will work with the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee to develop a list of questions to be asked
 - Interviewer is not limited to the submitted questions during the fact-finding process
 - Interviewer individually contacts all interested parties and documents the discussions
 - A timeline will be set for the interviews, responses, fact-finding report to the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee.
 - The SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee will submit the final report to the SUSAR Board of Directors prior to sending it on to the grieved party's program manager within the predetermined timeline
 - Any action items as a result of the fact-finding mission to be noted by the SUSAR Canine Sub-Committee Secretary
 - Action items as a result of the fact-finding mission should be resolved