

Evaluator Guidelines

The article search field qualification test demonstrates the ability of the dog team to locate articles recently touched by humans.

Teams must be field qualified in area search or trailing prior to taking the article search field qualification test. Teams shall have completed the article search preliminary requirements before taking the test.

The evaluation shall be conducted by a primary evaluator and another primary or associate evaluator as the co-evaluator.

The search area shall be approximately 60 feet by 60 feet with marked boundaries. The search terrain should consist of a mixture of open areas, trees, brush, rocks, etc. The area must be contaminated (walked) by at least two people and one dog immediately after the articles are placed. The evaluators should have a clear view of the dog's work. The search area shall have three scent sources. One shall be a group of ten spent shells. The other two shall be selected from objects made of the following materials:

- Metal
- Leather
- Fabric
- Plastic

The articles shall be held in the clenched fist for at least 30 seconds prior to placement. Scent material will be placed in the search area at least one-half hour prior to the test.

The evaluators shall brief the team and point out the boundaries. The search time will start after the briefing. The team will be allowed to search for a maximum of one-half hour.

Only one dog can be tested in a search area per day. Evaluators must be aware of any previous tests given in the search area.

To pass the test, the team must find all three items. The handler must correctly interpret the dog's behavior and must indicate to the evaluators where the articles are located.

This test shall also serve as the re-certification test, which must be taken every two years, according to the re-certification policy.

Southwest Search Dogs (SWSD) Article Search Field Qualification Test

Handler _____ Dog _____ Location _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____