

The basic disaster dog certification is intended to encourage field qualified area search or trailing teams to develop skills required for searching disaster areas. In the event of a major disaster, these skills would increase SWSD’s value to local, regional, and national public safety organizations. The evaluation shall be conducted by a primary evaluator and another primary or associate evaluator as the co-evaluator.

Prerequisites

The team shall be field qualified in area search or trailing before taking this test. The handler must also participate in disaster awareness training or lecture before taking this test. To remain SWSD certified in basic disaster, the team must maintain SWSD area search or trailing field certification.

All dogs must take the disaster test off-lead, ideally not even wearing a collar, as this may be required on an actual disaster. All dogs must pass all area search obedience and agility requirements prior to disaster testing (Area Search Preliminary Requirements 1 through 5).

Skill	Date	Signature
Disaster awareness		
Area search obedience/agility complete		

Evaluator Guidelines

The test shall consist of searching a single site for two live subjects. The team will have up to 20 minutes to find both subjects. The test area shall be approximately one quarter acre (10,000 square feet), or one or more buildings. The test site may consist of concrete, wood, building(s), boxes, or mixed elements The subjects shall be concealed, inaccessible to the dog, and unresponsive during the test. The handler may not know the locations of the subjects. The subjects shall be placed a minimum of 25 feet apart, and with consideration for scent conditions (to allow for scent flow from closed rooms, for example, by keeping the doors cracked). The handler must wear a helmet, gloves, long sleeved shirt and long pants, and sturdy boots. Evaluators shall not deliberately place or include distractions to the dog on the test pile. The dog may indicate the location of the subjects in any manner that the handler can accurately read. The team must correctly indicate the location of both subjects (before opening doors or boxes, etc.)_ to pass the test.

Southwest Search Dogs (SWSD) Basic Disaster Dog Field Qualification Test

Handler _____ **Dog** _____ **Date** _____

Location _____ **Subject #1** _____ **Subject #2** _____

Evaluators’ Signatures #1 _____ **#2** _____