

K9 RESPONSE COMMITTEE

Arkansas Department of Emergency Management

Minimum Requirements for Canine State Call Out

For the purpose of this document, canine response teams may consist of volunteer search teams and handlers, as well as professional law enforcement/state agency canine response teams. Search teams and handlers must be recognized by the State Search and Rescue Committee as having met the following approved minimum standards before being eligible for state call out. *Professional canine response teams must meet state certification minimum standards for law enforcement (if applicable) and adhere to their agency/department standards and procedures.*

Purpose

To ensure qualified and credible canine response, the committee has established minimum requirements for both the search and rescue handler and canine. While the committee provides coordination for professional canine response teams, for the purpose of this document, the committee will refer to their specific agency/department standards and procedures. To the extent possible, the committee strives to use existing standards set forth by multiple nationally recognized certification programs as reflected within this document.

Search & Rescue K9 Response

As required by the State Search and Rescue Committee, for a handler and canine team (handler & canine must be certified & train together as a team) to be represented on the State K9 Resource Call Out list, the team must meet, at a minimum, the requirements outlined in this document. Required certifications and trainings must be current and on file with the search and rescue team lead and available for review by the State K9 Coordinator and/or State Search and Rescue Committee. Once determined that the minimum requirements have been met, the handler and canine may be represented on a State K9 Resource Call Out list. When a request for a K9 team is called into ADEM, the on call K9 Mission Coordinator and/or the State K9 Coordinator will determine availability, expertise and subsequent notification for deployment based on the State K9 Resource Call Out list.

Minimum Requirements

Wilderness SAR (Canine):

- Canine Specialties - Area Search Live Find; Area Search Scent Discriminating; Scent Discriminating Man Trailer; Land Human Remains Detection (HRD); Water HRD;
- Minimum age of Canine: 12 months

Canine must be:

- Certified through an AKC Canine Good Citizen Course or the equivalent; and
- Certified to the minimum standards of at least one of the following Nationally Accepted Canine Organizations:

National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR); International Police Work Dog Association; North American Police Work Dog Association; National Search Dog Alliance (NSDA); Alliance for Emergency Response Examiners and Instructors (AERIE); American Rescue Dog Association; Search & Rescue Dogs of the United States; National Police Bloodhound Association

Wilderness SAR (Handler):

Handler must have completed the following:

- Hazardous Materials Awareness Level (Minimum)
- Blood Borne Pathogens Training that meets or exceeds 29 CFR 1910
- National Incident Command System Courses
 - 100, 200; 700; 800; 809 (Minimum)
 - 300 & 400 (Recommended)
 - Current CPR Certification (Nationally Approved)
 - Current American Red Cross Equivalent Basic First Aid Course or higher medical training
 - Crime Scene Preservation Course
 - SAR Tech II certification or equivalent (equivalent must be approved by the K9 Response Committee)

Disaster SAR (Canine):

- Canine Specialties - Live Find; Human Remains Detection
- Minimum of 18 months old

Canine must be:

- Certified to minimum of at least one of the following Nationally accepted Disaster Certification Organization:

NASAR; AERIE; State Urban Search and Rescue (SUSAR); FEMA Disaster Dog Type I Certification

Disaster SAR (Handler):

Handler must have completed the following:

- Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Course (Minimum)
- Blood Borne Pathogens Training (must meet or exceed 29 CFR 1910)
- National Incident Command System Courses
 - 100, 200, 700, 800, 809 (Minimum)

- 300 & 400 (Recommended)
- Current CPR Certification (Nationally Approved)
- Current American Red Cross Equivalent Basic First Aid Course or higher medical training
- Crime Scene Preservation Course
 - SAR Tech II certification or equivalent (equivalent must be approved by the K9 Response Committee)

State Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) TF 1:

To be considered for State Call Out for a State Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), the Canine and Handler must:

- Meet the minimum certifications mandated by SUSAR Type II
- Be a current member of one of the State identified USAR teams

Disaster USAR (Handler):

A Disaster USAR Handler must have completed the following:

- Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Course (Minimum)
- Blood Borne Pathogens Training (Must meet or exceed 29 CFR 1910)
- National Incident Command System Courses
 - 100, 200; 700; 800; 809 (Minimum)
 - 300 & 400 (Recommended)
- Current CPR Certification (Nationally Approved)
- Current American Red Cross Equivalent Basic First Aid Course or higher medical training
- Crime Scene Preservation Course
 - SAR Tech II certification or equivalent (equivalent must be approved by the K9 Response Committee)

State Agency Tracking/Trailing K9 Team:

- Certified through Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training
- Certified through American Correctional Association
- Teams must respond in accordance to their perspective agency's canine response standards and procedures.

Explosives Detection K9 Team:

A Police Canine Team must consist of a commissioned law enforcement officer, working a Police Canine for a law enforcement agency, with the responsibilities and duties of locating explosive devices. Teams must respond in accordance to their perspective department's canine response standards and procedures.

Law Enforcement Patrol K9 Team:

A Police Canine Team must consist of a paid full time law enforcement officer or corrections officer either local, state, federal working a Police Canine for a law enforcement agency. Teams must respond in accordance to their perspective department's canine response standards and procedures.

Law Enforcement Narcotics K9 Team:

A police canine team must consist of a law enforcement officer, part time or reserve officer, working a police canine for a law enforcement agency, with the responsibilities and duties of locating narcotics. Teams must respond in accordance to their perspective department's canine response standards and procedures.

General Guidelines

- All required documents and certifications will be maintained by the Team Lead and available to the State SAR Committee and State K9 Coordinator
- Handlers must submit the required information to their Team Lead for review by the State SAR K9 Coordinator
- All certifications and training must be current
- State K9 Coordinator/State K9 Response Committee will ensure that Handlers and Canines meet the requirements set forth by the State SAR Committee and detailed in this document
- State K9 Coordinator will compile a State K9 Resource Call Out list of the above mentioned Handlers and Canines
- Only those identified on the list will be utilized for Canine Call Out through ADEM
- Handlers/Canines will only be requested for call out within their perspective discipline/training
- For the purposes of this document, a canine team (handler & canine) must train/certify together.
- Recommend National Incident Command System Courses 300/400 for Team Lead Commanders.