

Section 308a

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – Avalanche Mission-Ready Criteria

Section 308a outlines the skills avalanche dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series.

1.	The dog will demonstrate a reliable and readable alert on live subjects and articles located under the snow.
2.	The dog demonstrates a willingness to work for an extended period of time.
3.	The dog can be re-directed to work after distraction whether intentional or unintentional.
4.	The dog responds to handler's commands both verbal and nonverbal.
5.	The dog searches independently and ranges appropriately.
6.	The dog has the agility and strength to handle the terrain.
7.	The dog has the health and stamina to complete the task.
8.	The dog can be directed to conduct a fine search following the handler's finger, pointer or other tool.
9.	The handler is able to identify and describe the alert and body language their dog exhibits.
10.	The handler does not prompt the dog for alerts.
11.	The handler gathers initial information, articulates a search plan, implements the plan, and makes appropriate adjustments to any search strategy based on a variety of variables including: search area, terrain, weather, resources, etc..
12.	The handler demonstrates care for the safety and well-being of the dog. e.g. watering, resting, and praising dog appropriately.
13.	The handler is "clue" conscious and reports the presence of clues in the search area whether intentional or unintentional.
14.	The handler will work effectively when in a stressful situation with appropriate behaviors.
15.	The handler is proficient with avalanche recovery tools such as avalanche transceivers, probes, shovels, RECCO detector, etc.
16.	The handler has the health and stamina to complete the task.
17.	The handler has appropriate equipment and/or a twenty-four (24) hour ready pack.
18.	Dog Handler will understand and demonstrate the practice of Probability of Detection (POD).
19.	The dog team will locate subject(s) / articles(s).

Section 308b

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – Avalanche Mission-Ready Evaluation Series

Purpose: Section 308b outlines the skills that will demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency and reliability for ASARD dog teams used in avalanche search and rescue. ASARD dog teams must complete the following Mission-Ready Evaluation Series with an average combined score of 3.0. A dog team will not pass the Mission Ready Evaluation Series if any one criteria has an average score less than or equal to 2.0. Articles used in the avalanche evaluations shall be of large or moderate size (sweatshirt, jacket, pants, etc.) and be well saturated with human scent. Subjects used in the evaluation shall be unfamiliar to the dog and buried in accordance with ASARD's Avalanche Training Policy and safety practices. Distractions will occur and the handler will demonstrate proficient use of avalanche transceivers, probes, and shovels throughout the evaluation series.

Additional Pre-requisite Item: Handler shall have attended an approved avalanche hazard and evaluation course, have a working knowledge of avalanche safety practices, and be able to minimize their risk navigating through mountainous avalanche terrain. The handler can proficiently use avalanche transceivers, probes, and shovels.

Avalanche Transceiver Test: Handler will demonstrate the ability to locate at least two avalanche transceivers buried at a depth of two and three feet in a 30yrd x 30yrd area within six minutes. The transceivers will be put in a large duffle bag and be probed within the time allotted. The area used should be a flat to moderate slope and should have the consistency of avalanche debris. The Easy Searcher Unit system may be substituted for buried duffle bags.

Evaluation 8.1 – Detection and Alert: The purpose of this test is for the dog to demonstrate its ability to detect and communicate the location of human scent in the snowpack.

Description	A suitable snow berm or snow field, 35 x35 yards, shall be utilized and the area shall be well disturbed. Three articles shall be buried about 12 inches deep, 30-60 minutes prior to the start of the evaluation. The dog team has twenty minutes to conduct the search.
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Evaluation 8.2 – Search Endurance: The purpose of this test is to demonstrate the dog's ability to detect and communicate the location of human scent in the snowpack after searching for sixty minutes.

Description	A suitable snow berm or snow field shall be utilized to allow a dog team to search for sixty minutes. The areas to be searched may or may not have scent sources throughout. At sixty minutes, the dog team will be directed into a smaller, well disturbed area where a large sized, well scented article is located. The article will be buried twelve inches deep, about one hour prior to the start of the evaluation. The dog team will have twenty minutes to search for the last article.
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Evaluation 8.3 – Large Area Search w/clues: The purpose of this test is to detect and communicate the location of a person buried 3 feet in the snowpack with the utilization of clues.

Description	A suitable snow field 70 x70 yards with a 10-20 degree slope angle shall be utilized and the area shall be well disturbed. An unfamiliar subject will be buried just prior to the start of the evaluation and the area shall have multiple (relevant) useful clues placed about (skis, packs, clothing, etc). The dog team has twenty minutes to conduct the search.
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Evaluation 8.4 – Large Area Search w/out clues: The purpose of this test is to gather pertinent information, plan a search, and then detect and communicate the location of a person buried 3 feet in the snowpack when no clues are available.

Description	A suitable snow field 70 x70 yards with a 10-20 degree slope angle shall be utilized and the area shall be well disturbed. An unfamiliar subject will be buried just prior to the start of the evaluation and the area shall have multiple items placed about (skis, packs, clothing, etc). These items will not be relevant to the location of the subject. The dog team has twenty minutes to conduct the search.
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Section 308c

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – Avalanche Mission-Ready Evaluations Series Score Card

Section 308c outlines the skills avalanche dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series with a completed and combined average of 3.0. Scores from the four evaluations will be averaged together and the combined average will be used as the final score. A dog team will not pass the Mission Ready Evaluation Series if any one criteria has an average score less than or equal to 2.0.

4 – Outstanding 3 – Good 2 – Fair 1 – Poor 0 – Very Poor ND – Not Demonstrated

CRITERIA CHECKLIST			
DOG		HANDLER	
1. Demonstrates readable dog alert.		9. Interprets alert and/or body language accurately.	
2. Demonstrates willingness and drive to work.		10. Handler does not prompt dog for alert.	
3. Dog can be re-directed to work after distraction.		11. Plans and implements effective search strategy.	
4. Takes directions and commands.		12. Demonstrates proper care of dog.	
5. Searches independently and ranges appropriately.		13. Reports the presence of clue's.	
6. Dog can handle the terrain		14. Works effectively with stressful situations.	
7. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.		15. Demonstrates use of avalanche recovery tools.	
8. Dog can be directed by finger / pointer.		16. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.	
		17. Appropriate equipment / 24 hour pack.	
		18. Handler articulates appropriate POD.	
		19. Team Locates Article(s) / Subject(s) <small>grade on scale</small>	
	Combined Score		Combined Score

Overall test comments, performance and narrative.

AREAS OF STRENGTH OBSERVED:
AREAS OF WEAKNESS OBSERVED:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / CONTINUED TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Evaluation:	Dog:	Location:	Participants: (E) evaluators, (S) subjects
Handler:	Dog Age:	Weather:	
			Date:

