

## Human Remains Detection-Land

The Human Remains Detection (HRD) certification test will consist of an odor recognition/obedience test and the certification evaluation. Successful completion of the odor recognition test (ORT) and the obedience test will be required to advance to the certification evaluation.

### Prerequisites:

- Crime Scene Preservation Class
- Bloodborne Pathogens and Hazmat Awareness Classes (may be combined)
- Training records or other proof that training records which meet the industry standards are being maintained for the previous 6 months
- Dog and handler must be in sufficient health to complete the evaluation.
- Dog must be a minimum of 12 months of age; handler is preferred to be a minimum of 18 years old.

### Obedience Test:

- Recall to handler on command from a distance of approximately 25 yards.
- Travel off leash with the handler for a distance of at least 25 yards along a predetermined path.
- Emergency Stop on command while the dog is in motion. Command given by the handler from a distance of at least 25 yards away. The dog shall remain stopped in position while the handler approaches and hooks a leash onto the collar.
- The above-mentioned obedience exercises will be performed off leash. An electronic collar (e-collar) may be worn by the dog, however, no electrical stimulation will be permitted.
- Greeting a neutral person while on leash. The handler will greet and shake hands with the individual. The dog shall not make contact with the individual during the greeting. A correctional collar will be allowed so long as it may be worn during an operational search. A leash correction to prevent the dog from jumping on the individual will be permitted.
- The evaluator reserves the right to allow a make-up of any one obedience item. Example: after an unsuccessful attempt at the emergency stop, with some additional training, the handler may reattempt the emergency stop.

### Operational- Odor Recognition Test:

The odor recognition test (ORT) and the obedience test must be successfully completed within two weeks of the certification evaluation test and will be a prerequisite for the Certification Evaluation.

#### A successful completion of the ORT consists of the following:

- Once the search command is given, the dog must actively hunt for the target odor. The handler shall remain at a predetermined location outside of the search boundaries, so as not to cue or interfere with the search.
- In each search sector, the dog must successfully locate and conduct a trained final response at target odor within the two-minute time limit. If the dog is unable to complete its trained final response due to an environmental obstruction, a demonstrative alert behavior will satisfy this requirement.
- The handler must correctly communicate the location of the target source to the evaluator.

#### An unsuccessful completion of the ORT consists of the following:

- The dog does not complete the ORT within the two-minute time limit.
- The dog conducts a false alert which is identified and communicated by the handler to the evaluator.

- The dog conducts a trained final response on any distraction/proofing odor and it is communicated to the evaluator by the handler.

#### ORT set-up

- The ORT will consist of three search areas with a minimum approximate size of 144 square feet and not to exceed approximately 625 square feet.
- The test will be administered in an area away from unintended outside distractions such as pedestrian traffic and mechanical noise. Natural occurring distractions will not be mitigated, such as wildlife. The evaluator has the right to re-administer a test due to mitigating or unintended interruption.
- One target odor will be placed in each of the three test areas. A reasonable effort will be made to have the test sectors far enough away from each other so that odor from one sector does not interfere with the target odor or contaminate a distraction/proofing object in another.
- The quantity, exposed surface area, and type of target odor source used will be of an amount for the environment selected and previously located by a certified HRD dog. The target odors will consist of at least one bone, one tissue, and a third target odor selected at the discretion of the evaluator; however, this target odor source shall not consist solely of blood.
- The target odors shall be placed into the test areas 30-minutes prior to the first test.
- Clean distraction/proofing odors will be added to each ORT sector. The distraction/proofing odors will consist of, but not limited to, the following: clean tennis ball, clean latex-vinyl, and/or nitrile gloves, food items, animal remains, and dog odor. The term “clean” is defined as not being contaminated with human remains.

#### **Certification Evaluation:**

The certification evaluation will consist of 6 search stations. The handler will NOT be advised of the exact number of target odors or if any target odors are present within the search station. The search stations will contain 0 to 3 target odors.

The search stations will consist of the following: (2) rural large sized areas (approximately one acre), (2) rural or urban medium sized areas (approximately 1/4 acre), (1) building of any size, and (1) vehicle search area consisting of 3 to 6 vehicles to be searched from the exterior only. One to two test stations will be performed as a double-blind search evaluation. The number and areas are at the discretion of the evaluator, based on the environmental logistics.

Within the 6 search stations, there will be at least one target odor hidden from view at ground level, one target odor buried at a depth of 6-24 inches, one target odor elevated between 4 to 6 feet above ground level, and one blank area. Other target odors may be present and hidden in the same fashion as previously listed or hidden in other realistic scenarios. Animal remains will be present in at least one search station, however, care will be taken to hide the animal remains in a realistic, natural manner as would occur in the natural environment. There is no limit to the number of additional blank search stations. Any of the six search stations can be blank.

The handler will be advised of a specific time limit for the completion of each search station. The time limits will be set as follows:

- 30 minutes each for the large sized rural areas
- 7.5 minutes each for the medium sized rural or urban areas
- 15 minutes for each 1000 square feet of building to be searched
- 1.5 minutes per vehicle (exterior only)

\*The evaluator reserves the right to increase the permitted time limits by 50%, based on the difficulty of the search conditions. Any adjustments in time limits will be determined in advance of the start of the test and will be applied for all test takers at the particular test venue. The target odors will consist of human remains with no pseudo or synthetic odors permitted. The target odors will be placed a minimum of 30 minutes prior to beginning the search of the search station. The target odors used will consist of muscle, adipose, bone, and organ tissues (including any combination) with at least one target odor containing strictly bone and at least one target odor with no bone present. Every effort will be made to include target odors at various levels of decomposition. The weights and amounts of the target odors will be realistic quantities.

Trained final response- The trained final response to target odor must be independent from handler and demonstrative. It should be clear that the dog is exhibiting a particular behavior or combination of behaviors to indicate the presence of the target odor. The trained final response will be described to the evaluator prior to the beginning of the certification evaluation. Within reason, the dog may have multiple variations of its trained final response based on the location of the target odor. For example, the dog may down at low target odor and sit at higher target odors. If the trained final response is NOT able to be performed due to environmental obstructions, the obvious body language indicators exhibited by the dog will suffice. Both passive and aggressive trained final responses are permitted. In the event of an aggressive final response that the evaluator determines would have resulted in the destruction or total elimination of evidence in a real search, the find will be counted as a miss. The evaluation may be stopped at that point out of caution to preserve target odor sources and the search environment.

**The successful completion of the HRD Certification is based on the following:**

- The successful passage of the obedience/odor recognition test within 14 days of the evaluation
- The possession of the required prerequisites
- The successful location and identification of 90% of the target odors by the handler, based on the handler's recognition/interpretation of the dog's behavior. The dog must perform an independent and recognizable trained final response, at the target odor location, based on the evaluator's interpretation of the odor movement and flow. Reasonable variances will be granted to account for the location of the target odor plume, based on the search environment, the type, and size of the target odor used.
  - A false alert which is relayed by the handler to the evaluator, clearly directed to a non-target odor, will constitute a failure of the certification evaluation. Evaluator discretion is permitted under unconfirmed and questionable outcomes.

If the evaluation is failed, it may be retaken after a corrective training plan has been completed. A retest will require that the entire test is retaken. The ORT/Obedience Evaluation will only need to be repeated if the retest occurs after the two-week period following the successful completion of the last odor recognition test. All decisions by the evaluator are final. The evaluator may elect to delay a decision until additional data can be collected. In situations where subjective decisions are required of the evaluator, the evaluator will make every effort to be consistent without bias.

The Human Remains Detection Certification will be valid for a period of one year from the successful completion of the certification evaluation.

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