High Desert Police K9 Association - Standards & Training

Scent Detection-Explosive Certification

A minimum of two Certifying Officials are required for certification.

K-9 Team must locate at least nine (9) out of the ten (10) finds to certify. This results in a success of 90 percent minimum score for certification.

Canine’s alert must be obvious to the Certifying Officials.

Certifying Officials may terminate certification at their discretion at any time during the certification.

Dog will wear only on duty equipment.

Certifying Officials must be notified of any protest at the conclusion of the certification. If the protest cannot be resolved it must be put in writing and submitted to the chairman of the standards committee within 48 hours of the resolution.

If K-9 Team fails certification the team must wait 1 day before attempting certify again.

Search:

Search shall consist of four (4) indoor rooms and five (5) vehicles, 15-20 items of luggage/parcels/packages and an open area (1000’-2500’ square feet) with a total of ten (10) finds.

Time on searches is twelve (12) minutes for indoor searches and ten (10) minutes for vehicle searches, six (6) minutes for luggage/parcel/package searches and ten (10) minutes for open area search. A one (1) minute warning at the request of the handler prior to the end of the search may be given. Time begins when the handler begins the search and time ends when the handler calls time or upon expiration of time. Handler may call finds by calling time or after time has expired.

Indoor Search: Shall consist of four (4) indoor rooms and three (3) finds.

Each room shall be at least 380 sq. ft., but no more than 600 sq. ft.

(Exceptions may be made according to the Certifying Officials).

No more than one (1) find will be concealed in a room. (Therefore, no find will be concealed in one (1) of the four (4) rooms).

Vehicle Search: Shall consist of five (5) vehicles and three (3) finds.

No Explosive finds may be concealed in the interior of the vehicles.

No more than one (1) find may be concealed on a vehicle. (Therefore, no find will be concealed on two (2) of the five (5) vehicles).

Due to the numerous makes and models of vehicles available to departments, the decision upon what types of vehicles to be used is the Certifying Officials’ discretion.

Luggage/Parcel/Packages: Search shall consist of a minimum of fifteen (15) items up to a maximum of twenty (20) items with a total of three (3) finds.

No explosive finds may be concealed side by side. A minimum distance between each item shall be two (2) feet. Search will laid out in a row of four (4) to five (5) items depending on the number of items to be searched.

Area Search: Shall consist of an open field approximately 1000’-2500’ feet in size with one (1) find concealed amongst natural landscape, debris or vegetation.

Finds:

A total of ten (10) different finds consisting of commercial/militarymanufactured odors from powders, plastics, gels and liquid based materials will be used.

Six (6) different odors will be selected from the high explosives group and four (4) different odors from the low explosives group.

High explosives odors suggested from the following:

RDX base: i.e.: C-4, data sheet, dynamite, flex-x, semtex, etc.

PETN base: i.e.: det cord, semtex,

TNT: commercial, military, tetryl

Ammonium nitrate base: i.e.: Kine-stik, kine-pak, Anfo, emulsions, slurries

Chlorates & Nitrates: i.e.: potassium, ammonium, sodium

Low explosives odors suggested from the following:

Black Powder, Black Powder Substitutes, Smokeless

Powder, Pyrodex, and Flash Powder

All finds will be planted a minimum of 30 minutes prior to testing. Finds shall be concealed by a Certifying Official or another person directed by a Certifying Official. Three (3) finds shall be concealed in the indoor rooms consisting of odors from the above list.

Three (3) finds shall be concealed on the vehicles consisting of odors from the above list. Three (3) finds shall be concealed in the luggage/parcel/packages consisting of odors from the above list. One (1) find shall be concealed in the open area consisting of odors from the above list. All finds shall not weigh less than ¼ pound or more than one (1) pound. Except: Minimum of 8 feet of Det Cord will be used.

No finds shall be concealed higher than eight (8) feet from the floor level and no deeper than six (6) inches buried (open area). All finds shall be concealed from view in a manner that the canine cannot retrieve said finds. All search areas must be contaminated and finds proofed by a canine prior to search, if available.

K9 Teams must not have any other scent training or certification other than Gun.