

# **Illinois Search Dogs**

## **First Responder Disaster Standard**

Dog must have passed ISD obedience test prior to taking this test.

There will be a mandatory agility component to this test. The dog must pass each element of the agility test. If the dog fails any one element of the agility test they may repeat that same element if time permits. If the dog fails two or more elements or fails the retested element the dog will have failed the agility test and will not be allowed to continue to the search test. The entire test may be retaken at a later date.

The team may take the agility test on a prior date before the First Responder Disaster test.

The elements will be

- 1) 90 degree tunnel
- 2) teeter totter
- 3) Unstable surface

The handler must be able to ask all the pertinent questions regarding scene safety per FEMA guidelines. The handler may not use any cheat sheets for the interview.

The handler must wear all appropriate safety gear consisting of approved helmet, steel toe boots and elbow & knee pads.

The dog must be worked off leash during testing.

The K9 must have a consistent and reliable indication (trained final response)  
The handler will demonstrate the K9's indication prior to the testing.

There will be 2 concealed victims. The victims shall remain quite and will be in place at a minimum 20 minutes prior to the testing K9 being sent.

The evaluator's will determine the location that the K9 will be sent from, once the K9 has negotiated to the top of the pile the handler may move anywhere around the perimeter of the pile. However the handler may not access onto the pile until after the dog has indicated the first victim. Once the dog has indicated the first victim, the handler will proceed to the dog's location or return with the dog to the site of indication. The handler will indicate to the evaluator, the location of the

victim. The dog's indication should be within 5 feet of the victim's location. The dog may be rewarded by the handler at this point and then sent to locate victim number 2. The handler will have full access to the pile at this point. The K9 must indicate victim number 2, the handler will then precede to the indication spot and indicate to the evaluator the location of the second victim. The team has 25 minutes to locate both victims. If both victims are not located within the allotted time the team will fail.

After the search is completed, the handler must examine the K9 for injuries or acute illness.

If the dog false indicates the team will fail the test.

There may be distractions placed on the search area. Human cadaver material and blood will not be used. Distractions may consist of food, toys, clothing, and animal cadaver material to name a few.

If the team fails the test they will have to retake the entire search test at a later date.

The search area will consist of material that you would commonly see at a site of a disaster such as tornado damage. The Search area should roughly consist of 3,000 to 5,000 square feet. A typical FEMA style rubble pile may be used for testing purposes.