UPWDA Human Remains Certification

This test is to determine the team's ability to detect the presence of human remains. This test is conducted on a pass or fail basis.

The canine team may certify on land or water or combination of both.
The testing materials used will be actual human remains, tissue and bone, no pseudo training aids are allowed in evaluation.

Land Search Area consists of the following:

Land certifications will require a team to locate at least four (4) finds. At minimum one (1) find must be primarily bone and one (1) that is primarily tissue. The acceptable distance from source will be determined by the Master Trainer. The set time will be at a minimum of 30 minutes but may be longer at the discretion of the Master Trainer.

Note: A minimum of 2 search areas is required to be utilized for certification.

Search areas:

- Brush piles
- Open field buried with blank holes dug as distractors
- Building material, collapse or destroyed buildings
- Surface concealed with leaves and or brush
- Above ground (must be concealed)
- Trail or roadway

Water Search Areas consist of the following:

Water certifications will require a team to locate at least four (4) finds. At minimum one (1) find must be primarily bone and one (1) that is primarily tissue. At least one find must be completely submerged in water. The acceptable distance from source will be determined by the Master Trainer. The set time will be at a minimum of 30 minutes but may be longer at the discretion of the Master Trainer.

Note: A minimum of 2 search areas is required to be utilized for certification.

Search areas:

- Open water (search from a boat)
- Shore line
- Creek or river
- Dock or Pier

Land / Water combination consists of the following:

The water portion will require two (2) finds. At least one (1) find must be completely submerged in water. The land portion will require two (2) finds. At least one (1) find must be buried and distraction holes dug. The acceptable distance from source will be determined by the Master Trainer. The set time will be at a minimum of 30 minutes but may be longer at the discretion of the Master Trainer.

Note: The search areas for the Land / Water combination will be selected from the prior defined search areas.

Certification Requirements

The Master Trainer will define the search area and notify the handler if he/she works outside of the designated search area.

- No more than 2 finds may be used in any area searched.
- No more than 2 false responses are allowed in the entire evaluation.
- No more than 1 miss will be allowed in the entire evaluation.
- The Master trainer will plant at minimum one (1) animal remains distractor at his/her discretion. If an alert is called on the animal remains the dog team fails.
- A total of 4 alerts must be made and at least 2 search areas utilized.