



Designation: F3070 – 14 (Reapproved 2022)

Standard Guide for Evaluating Area Search Dog Crews or Teams¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F3070; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide defines the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for a dog crew or team to perform an area search.

1.2 Area search dog crews or teams perform searches on the surface of the land, including open urban or wilderness areas, as well as mountainous terrain and alpine environments.

1.2.1 Additional training shall be required for area search dog crews or teams that search in mountainous terrain, alpine environments, or underground.

1.3 This guide does not include the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to search in partially or fully collapsed structures, confined spaces, or on bodies of water, inland or oceanic.

1.4 Area search dog crews or teams trained to meet the requirements of this guide may operate in urban and disaster areas that may be isolated or have lost their infrastructure.

1.5 Area search dog crews or teams must work under qualified supervision deemed appropriate by the AHJ.

1.6 This guide does not provide a theoretical basis for how an area search dog crew or team functions.

1.7 Search dog crews or teams are eligible to be members of Type I and II SAR crews or teams of the following Kinds, as defined in Classification **F1993**:

- 1.7.1 Kind A (Wilderness),
- 1.7.2 Kind B (Urban),
- 1.7.3 Kind C (Mountainous),
- 1.7.4 Kind G (Cave),
- 1.7.5 Kind H (Mine),
- 1.7.6 Kind I (Avalanche),
- 1.7.7 Kind K (Aircraft), and
- 1.7.8 Kind L (Unclassified).

1.8 Further training may be required before an area search dog crew or team can fully participate on a particular Type and Kind of team or crew, based on specific local needs, regulations, or policies.

1.9 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.10 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

F1633 [Guide for Techniques in Land Search](#) (Withdrawn 2017)³

F1847 [Guide for Minimum Training of Search Dog Crews or Teams](#)

F1848 [Classification System for Canine Search Resources](#)

F1879 [Guide for Demonstrating Obedience and Agility in Search and Rescue Dogs](#)

F1993 [Classification System of Human Land Search and Rescue Resources](#)

F2209 [Guide for Training of Land Search Team Member](#)

F2685 [Guide for Training of a Land Search Team Leader \(STL\)](#)

F3068 [Guide for Contents and Use of a Position Task Book \(PTB\)](#)

F3072 [Guide for Intermediate Wilderness GPS/GNSS Use \(GPS/GNSS-IIW\) Endorsement](#)

2.2 Other References:

SWGDOG SC1 [Terminology](#)

[Work Capacity Testing for Wildland Firefighters, The United States Department of Agriculture \(March 2002\)](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **F32** on Search and Rescue and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **F32.02** on Management and Operations.

Current edition approved July 1, 2022. Published July 2022. Originally approved in 2014. Last previous edition approved in 2014 as F3070 – 14. DOI: 10.1520/F3070-14R22.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

3.1.1 *air scent dog*, *n*—a search dog trained to detect human scent by air scenting.

3.1.2 *air scenting*, *v*—a search dog action whereby a dog attempts to detect the presence of human scent in air currents and, if found, follow that airborne scent to its source.

3.1.3 *area search*, *v*—the act of using a dog to search a designated area for a target odor.

3.1.4 *decoy*, *n*—a person in the search area who does not match the target odor.

3.1.5 *scent*, *v*—the act of providing the odor or smell of the search subject to a scent-discriminating search dog.

3.1.6 *search dog team (search dog crew)*, *n*—a single dog and handler (and support personnel if used) that operate in the field as a single resource.

3.1.7 *trail*, *n*—a manmade footpath used for hiking, walking, biking, etc. that traverses a non-urban area of land.

3.1.8 *training log*, *n*—a search dog handler’s written record which documents all personal and canine training, including exercises and missions.

3.2 Terminology not defined in this classification, but included in this guide, may be found in Guide **F1847** and Reference SWGDOG SC1.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 An area search dog crew or team is required to have, at a minimum, the knowledge, skills, and abilities outlined within this document.

4.1.1 An area search dog crew or team which meets the requirements in this guide is a Canine Search Resource of the category Area Search Dog as defined in Classification **F1848** for Canine Search Resources.

4.1.2 Additional differentiation of the specific Canine Search Resource is defined in Classification **F1848** for Canine Search Resources.

4.2 This guide only establishes the minimum knowledge, skills, and abilities required for an area search dog crew or team to perform area searches. No other skills are included or implied.

4.3 This guide is an outline of the topics required for training or evaluating an area search dog team or crew, and may be used to assist in the development of a training document or program.

4.4 This guide can be used to evaluate a document to determine if its content includes the topics necessary for training area search dog crews or teams. Likewise, this guide can be used to evaluate an existing training program to see if it meets the requirements in this guide.

4.5 The knowledge, skills, and abilities presented in this guide are not in any particular order and do not represent a training sequence.

4.6 Though this guide establishes minimum training requirements, it does not imply that an area search dog team or crew is a “trainee,” “probationary,” or other similarly termed part of an organization.

4.6.1 The AHJ is responsible for determining the requirements and qualifications for its member ratings.

4.7 An area search dog crew or team shall document training by completion of a position task book, compliant with Guide **F3068**, or by field demonstration under qualified supervision. Where proficiency in a skill or ability must be demonstrated, unless stated otherwise it shall be demonstrated for initial qualification, and then as often as required by the AHJ.

5. General Knowledge

5.1 The handler and the canine members of a search dog crew or team shall meet the requirements of Guide **F1847** for Minimum Training of Search Dog Crews or Teams.

5.2 The canine member of a search dog crew or team shall meet the requirements of Guide **F1879** for Demonstrating Obedience and Agility in Search and Rescue Dogs.

5.3 The canine handler shall have a Guide **F3072** for Intermediate Wilderness GPS/GNSS Use (GPS/GNSS-IIW) Endorsement.

6. Handler-Specific Area Search Skills and Abilities

6.1 The handler shall be competent in the application of common effectors of air scent dynamics to area search, including but not limited to:

6.1.1 Weather,

6.1.2 Topography,

6.1.3 Time of day,

6.1.4 Season, and

6.1.5 Scent source duration, that is, the amount of time the subject has been in place.

6.2 The handler shall be competent in the recognition and prediction of air scent movement through topography and the local flora for the operational area that the dog team typically works.

6.3 The handler shall be able to develop an effective strategy to search the area based on topography, environment, and the overall mission goals.

6.4 The AHJ shall determine the physical performance requirements for dog teams’ members and develop appropriate performance measurements.

6.4.1 The recommended minimum physical performance requirements for canine handlers fielding as a member of an Area Search Dog Crew or Team is the “Moderate” level as defined in “Work Capacity Testing for Wildland Firefighters” (**Appendix X2**), or meet the fitness requirements specified by the AHJ.

6.5 The handler shall be competent in debriefing relative to the Area Search Dog Crew’s or Team’s performance during their operational period.

7. Specific Skills and Abilities for Area Search Dog Crews or Teams

7.1 Area search dog crew or team shall demonstrate the ability to operate safely, effectively, and efficiently for the