

CANINE SEARCH SPECIALIST

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Specific Requirements:

The Canine Search Specialist is primarily responsible for supporting the Search function with the canine resource. They are responsible for the care and welfare of the canine during mission deployment. The Canine Search Specialist reports to the Search Team Manager.

Description of Duties:

The Canine Search Specialist is responsible for:

- Searching disaster environments and locations indicated in the mission assignment, using appropriate canine search equipment and techniques
- Documenting results of the canine search, including locations of alerts, and routing them appropriately
- Understanding and accurately interpreting canine's behavior, including knowledge of the capabilities and limitations of search canines
- Care and welfare of their canine, including assisting the Medical Team in the canine's medical care
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned

Position Requirements and Criteria:

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to deploy as a Canine Search Specialist in support of Resource's activities. The intent of these requirements is to provide canine teams capable of using the search techniques and tactics required to support the Search function with the canine resource in various disaster environments.

Required Training:

The Canine Search Specialist shall:

1. Complete all General Training requirements.
2. Have current certification as a FEMA National US&R Response System Canine Search Specialist Team member, SUSAR Type I canine certification standard, or equivalent certification.
3. Complete the FEMA National US&R Response System Canine Search Specialist course, or equivalent.
4. Complete the FEMA National US&R Response System GPS Awareness Level course, or equivalent.
5. Complete the required Technical Rescue Skill Sets.

Recommended Training:

The Canine Search Specialist should:

1. Complete the FEMA National US&R Response System Technical Search Specialist course or equivalent.
2. Complete FEMA National US&R Response System GPS Operations Level course or equivalent
3. Complete a canine emergency field care course
4. Complete a wide area search course