

The following list of skill requirements is to be completed before certification testing. Logbooks, physical fitness, CPR, and first aid must be kept current at all times, even after the team becomes certified. Requirements must be signed off by SWSD primary evaluators.

1. Log Book

The handler shall maintain a current log book documenting the training the dog and handler team has undertaken. The log book shall be checked prior to testing, and must contain at least six months of current training records. This requirement may also be met by the team database.

2. Physical Fitness

The handler will complete the physical fitness evaluation as defined in the policies and procedures.

3. First Aid Certification

The handler must obtain and maintain current certification in the American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid training class, a Board-approved equivalent, or a more advanced level of emergency response certification.

4. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification

The handler must obtain and maintain current CPR certification in American Red Cross CPR for the Professional Rescuer, the American Heart Association CPR for the Health Care Provider, or a Board-approved equivalent.

5. Radio Communication Class

The handler shall attend a radio communication class that includes legal requirements by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as well as radio protocol and operations. The handler shall demonstrate proper radio use including communicating appropriate information, using appropriate ID/address, and not cutting off transmissions.

6. Packs and Equipment

The handler shall attend an equipment class. The handler is responsible for carrying equipment appropriate to the assignment, keeping in mind possible changing conditions and weather forecasts. Additional equipment may be needed for particular assignments or conditions.

7.1 Land Navigation – Map and Compass

The handler shall explain and demonstrate the following skills:

- Explain declination
- Explain the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) system
- Explain Geographic Coordinate system (Latitude/Longitude)
- Explain the distance scale and contour scale on a map
- Demonstrate orienting a map and compass to the terrain
- Demonstrate obtaining and following a simple compass bearing, including how to follow a bearing in low visibility with a partner
- Estimate an area of 40 acres on the map
- Explain what objects cause an erroneous compass reading (bolts in a picnic table, electrical transmission towers, etc.)
- Demonstrate relating a specific compass bearing to the map
- Demonstrate relating a map direction to a specific compass bearing.
- Demonstrate point-to-point navigation with compass
- Communicate position with with map/compass, following accepted radio communication and navigation protocols
- Demonstrate route finding with map/compass

National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR) SAR Tech II certification will meet the map and compass portion of this requirement. However, GPS skills must still be demonstrated before these skills are signed off.

7.2 Land Navigation – GPS

The handler shall explain and demonstrate the following skills:

- Demonstrate point-to-point navigation with Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Communicate position with GPS, following accepted radio communication and navigation protocols
- Demonstrate route finding with GPS
- Mark a waypoint with the GPS and create a waypoint from map coordinates
- Demonstrate changing between Lat/Long and UTM, as well as feet and meters, with the GPS

8. Ropes Skills

The handler shall demonstrate basic knot tying and rescue skills using rope or webbing:

- Overhand bend/water knot
- Figure eight
- Figure eight on a bight
- Figure eight follow through
- Improvised hasty seat harness

NASAR SAR Tech II certification will meet this requirement.

9. Man-tracking

The handler shall demonstrate his or her skills and understanding of man-tracking fundamentals by successfully performing the following exercises:

- Describe and document the track.
- Demonstrate the use of a tracking stick.
- Demonstrate the labeling of tracks.
- Describe the importance of light, and techniques for dealing with adverse light conditions (i.e. high sun angle, cloudy days).
- Demonstrate the process of man-tracking for a collection of eight to ten contiguous steps. The steps should be laid in an area that provides both complete and partial prints, such as a dusty trail.
- Discuss the following terms and concepts:
 - Sign and sign-cutting
 - Jump tracking
 - Step-by-step tracking
 - Track trap
 - Preservation or protection of sign

NASAR SAR Tech II certification will meet this requirement.

10. Knowledge of a Crime Scene

The handler shall have knowledge and understanding of how to respond to and protect a possible crime scene. The handler shall discuss or define the following items:

- Chain of evidence
- Protection of a crime scene
- Documentation of a crime scene

11.1. Knowledge of Scent – Scent Articles

The handler shall demonstrate knowledge of scent articles. The interview shall include the following items of discussion:

- Techniques for collecting a scent article.
- How to instruct a lay-person to collect a scent article; including cautions about clothes hampers, shared closets, etc.
- Techniques for collecting scent from a car seat using sterile gauze pads.
- Appropriate containers for storing a scent article.
- The handler will collect a scent article from a scene provided by the evaluator, using accepted practices.

11.2. Knowledge of Scent – Scent Theory and Behavior

The handler shall demonstrate knowledge of scent behavior. The interview shall include the following items of discussion:

- Adverse impact of car exhaust and road flares on scene.
- Scent behavior near edge of lakes, streams, steep slopes, and conditions that lead to inversion layers.
- Factors that will tend to extend or attenuate the scent such as sunlight, wind, humidity etc.
- Factors that will lead to chimney effect.
- Factors that will lead to discontinuous scent from the subject.
- Factors that will lead to looping scent from the subject.
- Strategies for placing area search dogs on ridges/canyon floors to detect subject.

12. Dog First Aid

The handler shall have basic knowledge of dog first aid.

13. Helicopter Safety Class

The handler is required to attend a lecture regarding procedures for safely entering, traveling in, and exiting a helicopter and appropriate dog handling near and in a helicopter.

14. Knowledge of Incident Command System (ICS)

The handler must be familiar with ICS. The handler may complete on-line courses (IS 100, IS 200, IS 700)..

15. Outdoor Skills

The handler shall have knowledge of the following:

- Survival attitude
- Minimum gear
- Food/water issues
- Clothing
- Shelter building
- Dog needs

Handler Skills Sign-Off Sheet

Handler _____ **SWSD #** _____

Instructions: It is the handler's responsibility to have each of the skill requirements listed signed and dated by a primary evaluator.

1. Log Book Date _____ Signature _____

2. Physical Fitness Date _____ Signature _____

3. First Aid Certification Date _____ Signature _____

4. CPR Certification Date _____ Signature _____

5. Radio Communication Class Date _____ Signature _____

6. Packs and Equipment Date _____ Signature _____

7.1. Land Navigation Map/Compass Date _____ Signature _____

7.2. Land Navigation GPS Date _____ Signature _____

8. Ropes Skills Date _____ Signature _____

9. Man-tracking Date _____ Signature _____

10. Knowledge of Crime Scene Date _____ Signature _____

11.1. Knowledge of Scent Articles Date _____ Signature _____

11.2. Knowledge of Scent Theory Date _____ Signature _____

12. Dog First Aid Date _____ Signature _____

13. Helicopter Safety Class Date _____ Signature _____

14. Knowledge of ICS Date _____ Signature _____

15. Outdoor Skills Date _____ Signature _____

Handler has completed all requirements

Date _____ Signature _____