



Kansas Search & Rescue Response System

CANINE SEARCH SPECIALIST

Position Description

The Canine Search Specialist is primarily responsible for supporting the Search function with the canine resource. He/she is also responsible for the care and welfare of the canine during mission deployment. The Canine Search Specialist reports to the Search Team Manager, or other supervisor as assigned.

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
- The care and welfare of their canine, including assisting the Medical Team in the canine's medical care
- Adhering to all safety procedures
- 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 the Kansas Search & Rescue Response System. 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 the disaster environment.

Required Training

The Canine Search Specialist shall:

- Meet all administrative and general training requirements
- Have current certification as a FEMA National US&R Response System Canine Search Specialist Team member; SUSAR Type 1 certification standard; or equivalent certification
- Complete the FEMA National US&R Response System Canine Search Specialist course or equivalent
- Complete the FEMA National US&R Response System GPS Awareness Level course or equivalent
- Complete the Technical Rescue Skill Sets

Recommended Training

The Canine Search Specialist should:

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