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|  | MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE | 22-01 | |
| | Special Operations Standard Operating Guidelines | Page 1 of 3 | |
| | | Issued: | 11/28/2017 |
| | Live Find and Human Remains Canine Incident Response | Revised: | 02/08/2022 |
| | Reviewed: | | |

SECTION 1. Purpose:


To provide guidance for incident responses requiring the use of live-find and human remains detection canine search assets at the location of building collapses, water, or land based wide area searches. These guidelines are intended to assist personnel in the safe, efficient, and successful planning, execution and mitigation of a canine search request.

SECTION 2. Applicability:

This guideline will be used for any live find or human remains detection canine search request for incidents within Montgomery County and any outside jurisdiction with approval from the Special Operations Chief or designee.

SECTION 3. Definitions:

- a. **Canine Handler:** The handler must have training equivalent to FEMA Canine Search Specialist Completion of FEMA Technical Search Specialist training is recommended.
- b. **Canine Search Team:** A certified live-find or human remains detection canine and handler.
- c. **Canine Search Team-Human Remains Detection (CST-HRD):** A certified CST-HRD is comprised of a search canine and handler who have successfully attained FEMA CST-HR Certification.
- d. **Canine Search Team-Live Find (CST-LF):** A certified CST-LF is comprised of a search canine and handler who have successfully attained FEMA CST-LF Certification.
- e. **Certification Evaluation (CE):** An evaluation of the minimal skills identified as necessary for a team to operate in disaster environments.
- f. **Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA):** An assessment of the basic disaster search skills that is used to determine the team's next step in the evaluation process.
- g. **Foundation Skills Assessment -Human Remains Detection (FSA-HRD):** An FSA-HRD is comprised of a search canine and handler who have who have successfully completed a FEMA FSA. This is the minimum level of certification required for a canine response.
- h. **Foundation Skills Assessment-Live Find Team (FSA-LF):** An FSA-LF is comprised of a search canine and handler who have who have successfully completed a FEMA FSA. This is the minimum level of certification required for a canine response.
- i. **Human Remains Detection (HRD) Canine:** A FEMA FSA qualified or FEMA certified canine trained to indicate with a bark alert in the area of human remains.
- j. **Live Find Canine (LF):** A FEMA FSA qualified or FEMA certified canine trained to indicate with a bark alert in the area of live human scent.

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k. **Search Liaison:** The liaison must be a uniformed Montgomery County Fire and Rescue employee at the rank of Master Firefighter or above. The Liaison must have training in search techniques and GPS use. The liaison should have training equivalent to FEMA Canine Search Specialist and FEMA Technical Search Specialist .


SECTION 4. Policy Statement:

Description of Duties:

- a. **Search Liaison-** The search liaison will be in charge of the search team and ensure all notifications are made as directed by checklist. Upon arrival, they will make contact with the incident commander and obtain additional information to develop a safe and effective search plan, also conduct a safety evaluation of the incident site with the canine handler. At the end of the search the they will report the findings to the incident commander and will ensure all notifications and reports are completed.
- b. **Canine handler-** The canine handler will ensure the safety and wellbeing of the canine while conducting a search of a given area. A safety evaluation will be conducted by the handler with the search liaison prior to starting the search. A map will be completed by the canine handler at the end of the search.

SECTION 5. Procedure:

- a. **Receiving Information**
 - 1. ECC will be contacted with the request.
 - 2. ECC will contact the Special Operations Chief or designee.
 - 3. The Special Operations Chief will contact a search liaison following the call down sheet.
 - 4. The search liaison will contact the requesting agency for further information.
 - A. What type of canine is needed.
 - B. Additional resources needed.
 - C. Confirm the address of the incident location.
 - D. What we are searching for and the size of the area.
 - E. Confirm canines are available.
 - F. Call the Special Operations Chief with a go/no-go recommendation.
- b. **Coordinating the Response**
 - 1. Notify the Duty Operations Chief.

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2. Create a CAD incident and assign SU771 or another unit to the incident.
3. The Search Liaison coordinates the response.
4. Report as directed to either the Special Operations Warehouse, designated MCFRS Station, or the scene.

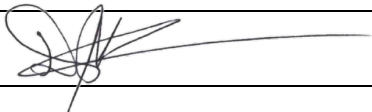
c. Scene Actions

1. Arrive at the incident scene.
2. The search liaison meets with the incident commander and any other on-site search capabilities.
3. Collects additional information and confirms hazard control.
4. Search liaison and canine handler complete a site safety survey.
5. Develop a search plan.
6. Initiate the search, document with GPS and photographs.
7. Search liaison will relay findings to the incident commander.
8. Canine handler will complete a search map.

d. Demobilization

1. Complete decon and rehab for canine search team.
2. Provide any requested documentation to requesting jurisdiction.
3. Report the search disposition to the Special Operations Chief or designee.
4. Return to departure location.
5. Complete Fire App report.
6. Ensure all GPS and photographs of search are uploaded to the designated Digital Media Evidence repository.
7. Complete significant incident report as appropriate.

Attachments: Canine Call-Out Checklist

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