

MASSACHUSETTS CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE DOG FEDERATION

CODE OF ETHICS

Effective September 19, 1999; as amended December 13, 2009.

Effective _____, 200__

I, _____, being a member in good-standing with _____, which is a Qualified SAR Organization participating in the Massachusetts Canine Search and Rescue Dog Federation (MASSARDF), do hereby personally pledge my support and efforts to the locating of any lost person in and around the northeastern United States and to those agencies and organizations responsible for searches.

Toward that end, I pledge that I will:

- Will train to the highest level of standard (if any) established by MASSARDF for the particular search specialty for which I wish to deploy within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and will maintain that standard at all times;
- Will not deploy within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts without first having certified under the applicable MASSARDF standards for my particular search specialty (if any), as the MASSARDF standard is intended to define the minimum performance requirements necessary for any volunteer SAR canine team used in SAR situations within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;
- Will perform to the best of my ability the assignments directed to me and in the manner prescribed;
- Will maintain my physical condition and that of my canine partner (if any) to enable me to carry out my assignments in an efficient and professional manner;
- Do hereby accept to work under the concepts of the "Incident Command System" and the responsibilities and restrictions that go along with it;
- Will not respond to any search unless I or my team have been called out by a responsible agency;
- Will accurately identify myself when communicating to the coordinating agency having jurisdiction over the search;
- Will not openly or publicly disagree with any aspect of a search and will only offer positive and constructive advice during official critiques of searches that I have participated in;
- Will remember that a search for a lost or missing person is considered a potential criminal investigation until resolved and that the inadvertent or intentional disclosure of information could adversely impact or jeopardize any resulting criminal prosecution;
- Will adhere to strict operational security measures when participating in a search and will not divulge information relating to the search to any individual not participating in the search without first clearing the need for, and scope of, such disclosure with the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over said search;
- Will place a courtesy call to the coordinating agency having jurisdiction over a suspended, but not yet resolved, search if I or my team wish to train in any such search areas;
- Will agree to debrief the coordinating agency having jurisdiction over a suspended, but not yet resolved, search at the completion of any training in such search areas; and
- Will agree to abide by all applicable state and/or local laws and regulations governing my conduct while responding to, and participating in, a search operation including, but not limited to, adherence to motor vehicle laws and any activation protocol.

My signature attached to this document certifies that I will responsibly discharge these obligations.

Signature: _____

Date: _____