

K9 Search and Rescue Team Inc.

35 Railroad Avenue, Dolores, CO, 81323 | (970) 882-4746 | Email: k9@k9team.org

Job Description: Field Support Person (Navigator)

The job description herein is not meant to be inclusive nor exclusive but rather broad, general concepts to guide members in their performance. All Team members are expected to be able to do any task as needed for overall team success and to follow all team Bylaws and Policies.

Summary

Team members that are capable of operating on foot over long distances with a handler and dog in wilderness, urban, water, disaster, or snow environments and have training in appropriate search techniques. Must be able to search alone if so assigned. Must be able to perform first aid procedures. New Mexico Field Certification and Civil Air Patrol 101 cards are strongly recommended.

Purpose

To support dog handlers in field assignment. The support person typically handles radio traffic, navigates, carries water, and otherwise assists the handler in the field and at base.

Supervision

The K-9 officer in charge of a given activity. For example, the strike team leader, based on the assignments from the Operations Section Chief, typically assigns search activities. Training is under the direction of the training officer. Business and overall operations are under the direction of the team leader.

Qualifications

Support people must be at least 14 years old (parent permission required 14 – 18), able to meet the physical standard, financially able to purchase the required equipment, and able to donate the time necessary to train to standard and to respond.

Time Frame

Support people must be able to donate the time to train, practice, and perform their assigned tasks. A navigator can expect to spend the same amount of training as a handler. Rarely can a handler depend on a navigator with less than two years experience.

Site

The majority of team activities are in the Four Corners area but response requests can be worldwide.

Benefits and Risks

The team can provide some response equipment such as pagers, radios, GPS, response vehicles, building, etc. The team provides training and training

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opportunities. The team will provide a framework and organization for all activities. Responses provide the opportunity to help others in need and to access restricted areas. Risk exposures include, but are not limited to: accident and/or sickness without readily available medical facilities, pathogens, the forces of nature, travel on the ground, on water and in the air, travel in high alpine terrain involving risks of falls, avalanche, exposure to the elements, exposure to deceased &/or seriously injured persons, strenuous physical work covering periods as long as several days, and the physical and other risks involved in high stress levels and high altitude work.