

National Search Dog Alliance (NSDA)

Disciplines Prerequisites Test Study Guide

This guide outlines the topics covered by the NSDA Disciplines Prerequisite Written Exam and presents useful references. Please note that this is not an exhaustive or exclusive listing of available reference materials.

The Disciplines Prerequisite Test covers the broad scope of Search and Rescue and is intended to evaluate the handler's understanding of Search and Rescue Operations as well as subjects specifically related to SAR Dogs.

It is recommended that the handler complete the following general prerequisites before taking the NSDA online Disciplines Prerequisite Test:

- Haz-Mat Awareness Class
- Blood Borne Pathogens Class
- Crime Scene Preservation Class
- ICS 200-*Basic NIMS ICS for Operational First Responders*
- Basic First Aid Class
- CPR Certification

In addition to the subject matter covered by the prerequisites listed above, the General Written Exam also covers the following:

- **Dog First Aid**
 - Bleeding
 - Broken bones
 - Poisoning
 - Hypothermia
 - Heat exhaustion
 - Porcupine quills
 - Dehydration
- **Scent Theory**
 - Creation of scent
 - Scent dispersal
 - Dogs' scenting ability x
- **Weather**
 - Factors influencing the strength and direction of air movement
 - Important flow patterns
- **Map Reading, Compass and GPS**
 - Map types
 - Scale o Distance
 - Magnetic Declination
 - Contour lines and topography
 - Coordinate systems
 - Using a compass
 - Using a GPS o Map datum
- **Lost Person Behavior**
 - Awareness of common behavior patterns and their use in Search and Rescue, such as Dementia, toddlers, autism, campers, mushroom pickers, hunters, etc
- **Land Search Operations and theory**
 - Responsibilities of dog handlers
 - Dog types, training and deployment
 - Probability of Detection and similar terminology
 - Understanding the National Incident Command System