

# Water HRD Written Test ..... Study Guide

This guide outlines topics covered by NSDA's written exam for Water HRD, which is pre-requisite to the Water HRD Field Test and a required component of the certification process K9 Water HRD.

Handlers are required to successfully complete NSDA's Disciplines Prerequisite Exam prior to taking the written exam for Water HRD. A study guide for the Disciplines Prerequisite Exam is available on the NSDA web site.

Handlers wanting to certify for Water HRD should be knowledgeable in the following topics:

- **Processes and stages of human decomposition**
  - Disarticulation, putrefaction, Livor mortis, Liquefaction, Autolysis
- **Compounds created by human decomposition**
  - Adipocere, putrescine, cadaverine
- **Relationships between environmental variables, decomposition and search strategies**
  - Water temperature
  - salt water vs fresh water
  - rivers vs lakes
  - intact vs punctured torsos
- **Operational aspects of a Search**
  - Search area definition and strategies
    - "Wet" vs "Dry" drowning
    - Streams and Rivers vs Lakes
    - current and wind impacts on search efficiency
    - K9 behavior on a water search vs a land search
- **Scent dispersal as related to weather and water conditions**
- **Safety precautions**

## Reference

Cadaver Dog Handbook by Andrew Rebman, et al, 2000