

**A NATIONAL STANDARD:
CERTIFICATION OF AVALANCHE SEARCH AND RESCUE DOG TEAMS,
THE CANADIAN PERSPECTIVE**

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ABSTRACT: Search and rescue in Canada is the responsibility of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. However operational needs of the RCMP and geographic challenges often mean that an avalanche certified police dog and handler are not always available for immediate SAR response. In conjunction with the Federal Parks and the Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association, the RCMP has developed an avalanche rescue dog validation standard. An operational search dog team must meet this standard yearly. This standard allows for close interagency cooperation both with training and operational needs. By having one National standard the quality of a search dog team can be guaranteed.

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