

ExacTrak Tracking Test Standard (Performance Evaluation)

1. Purpose

The ExacTrak Tracking test evaluates a canine's ability to follow a human scent track with precision, consistency, and environmental adaptability. These standard measures **dog and handler performance**, navigation, ICS knowledge, or tactical decision-making.

2. Test Overview

Component	Requirement	Subjects & Contamination
Total Track Length	Minimum 0.5 mile; recommended 0.5–0.95 miles	At least one subject; additional subjects permitted
Surfacings	Minimum of 4 distinct surface transitions	One or more cross-tracks from additional subjects
Start	Start located within an area approximately 10 ft × 10 ft	Moderate to heavy contamination expected at or near start
Track Width Standard	Dog must remain within 10 ft of the laid track; up to 15 ft deviation allowed on turns	Cross-track scent may fall within or outside width standard
Casting Corners (Urban)	Casting corners in urban environments may exceed the track-width standard and extend into the surrounding area as needed	
Completion Time	Must complete within 1 hour	
Break Allowance	One break, up to 10 minutes, handler-initiated	
Evaluation Type	Canine must be kept safe and in good health at all times. No handler cueing is allowed. Back-tracking is permitted if needed. Handler must state stopping canine from tracking to back up and remain within the testing timeline. A restart from the start area may occur one time if the timeline permits.	Contamination is intentional and part of evaluation conditions

3. Track Design Requirements

3.1 Length

- Total track must be **less than 1 mile**, measured by GPS.
- Recommended range: **0.50–0.95 miles**.

3.2 Surfacing's (4 Required)

Acceptable surfaces include:

- Grass
- Pavement/asphalt
- Concrete
- Mulch
- Gravel
- Dirt
- Sidewalk
- Carpeted indoor flooring
- Tile

Example sequence: Recommend starts on Vegetation/Grass → Asphalt → Mulch → Concrete

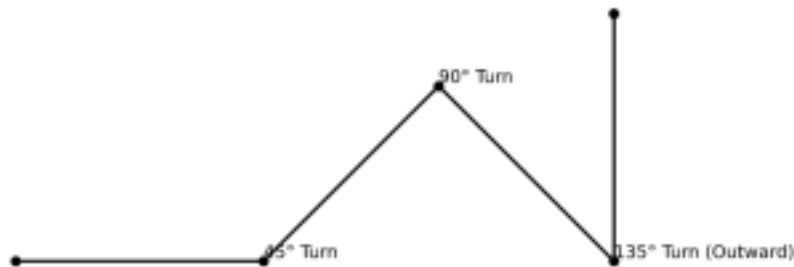
3.3 Start Point

- The dog is shown the **start location within 10 x 10 foot area**). Recommend a vegetation area for start, ie., grass.
- Scent article must be made by subject only, enclosed in airtight bag such as Ziploc, linear, or type of containment where it will not be cross contaminated or touched by another
 - Tracklayer must step off cleanly from the start.Canine and handler are allowed to conduct a scent inventory within the 10 foot area. Their inventory can expand to 40 feet around the projected start location. Once the handler gives the canine the scent article presentation the one hour test time will start. Canines are allowed to go to 30 foot at the start of the track in efforts to obtain their direction of travel.

3.4 Turns

- Minimum of **3 turns**.

Top-Down Diagram of Canine Tracking Turns



- Turns may be:
 - 45°, 90°, or 135 Outward
- 3 turns
- **Track width rule is extended during turns** to allow natural casting.

3.5 Aging

- Track must be aged **30–60 minutes** before the dog begins.

4. Performance

Requirements 4.1 Scent Commitment

The dog must demonstrate:

- Clear engagement with the scent track
- Forward momentum
- Ability to recover after minor loss of track and within distance

Track Layer/Subject:

Subject is to leave an uncontaminated article/glove/cloth of some sort, at the end as a sign of completion of the .50 or .95 mile track. Subject will then walk out and be at least 20 minutes away from any portion of the trail. The subject will not cross over the track on the way out, If the

subject is picked up by a vehicle, that vehicle is not to go within 20 minutes of that track, not to cross that track and not to be around at the time the track is ran.

3

4.2 Track Width Standard

- Dog must remain within **10 feet** of the laid track..

Exceptions:

- Turns
- Brief problem-solving casting if in urban environment and roadway.

4.3 Completion Time

- Entire track must be completed within **1 hour**, including the optional break.

4.4 Break Allowance

- One break allowed, up to **10 minutes**. (10 minute break is not deducted from 1 hour)
- Handler rest the dog.
- Evaluator can stop test at any time for canine safety reasons.

5. Success Criteria

A passing canine must:

- Locate the track start and commit cleanly
- Maintain trailing behavior within the 10-foot standard
- Complete the track within 1 hour
- Locate the tracklayer designated end article

6. Failure Criteria

A canine fails if any of the following occur:

- Leaves the track by more than 10 feet or more than 15 feet on the turns. (Exception to casting in urban environment intersections noted above.)
- Shows no scent commitment at start and refuses to start for over 3 minutes.
- Fails to complete within 1 hour
- Cannot negotiate surface transitions
- Does not locate the tracklayer end article

7. Recommended Difficulty Level

- Trailing certification pass recommended but not mandated prior to ExacTrak test

Mandated courses for NIMS compliance: (Handlers)

Mandatory FEMA/NIMS Courses

Free online through [FEMA's Emergency Management Institute](#):

- **IS-100:** Introduction to Incident Command System.
- **IS-200:** ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents.
- **IS-700:** National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction.
- **IS-800:** National Response Framework, An Introduction.

Medical & Safety Certifications

You must provide proof of current certification in the following "human" skills: • **CPR:**

Current nationally recognized certification. AED recommended not mandated • **First**

Aid: Basic First Aid is the minimum.

- **Bloodborne Pathogens:** A course meeting OSHA 29CFR1910 standards.
- **Hazardous Materials:** NFPA 472/CFR 291910.120 Part Q (Awareness Level).