

Sacramento Police Department  
SWAT & K9 Interior and Area Searches  
Course Hours: 2

**Statement of Purpose:** The purpose of this course is to enhance an officer's knowledge and comfortability with K9 searches on interior structures and open areas.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course the student will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to work around K9 handlers and their partners while using a K9 to search both interior structures and open areas safely.
2. Demonstrate knowledge on components of a contact team and department policy on use of force and medical aid.

**I. Introductions / Safety Briefing**

- a. Instructor and Student introductions
- b. Course schedule
- c. Review of Course Safety Policy
- d. K9 Familiarization
- e. General rules and expectations
- f. Safety check of student's equipment
  - i. Empty duty belt
  - ii. NO Firearms/NO Ammunition
  - iii. No OC
  - iv. NO Taser Cartridges
  - v. NO Knives/Sharp/Poking/Stabbing Instruments

**II. Equipment Needs**

- a. Binder – Lesson Plan
- b. Binder – Safety plan
- c. First aid kit
- d. Cell phone
- e. Blue guns
- f. Bite sleeve OR Bite suit

**III. Law and policy review regarding use of force**

- a. Instructors will lead a group discussion regarding department Policy to include use of K9, use of force, and medical aid.
- b. Instructors will gauge student comprehension of applicable case law by asking relatable questions to the group

**IV. K9 Familiarization**

- a. Handler presentation
  - i. K9 Placement & Usage
  - ii. K9 walk arounds
  - iii. K9 Lifts
  - iv. Muzzle devices

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- v. K9 alerts

**V. Contact Teams**

- a. Instructors will demonstrate the components of a contact team and discuss options with limited personnel
- b. Instructors will discuss the importance of organizing force options and identify contingencies with limited personnel or complex areas
- c. Instructors will demonstrate contact teams incorporated with K9 in open areas and interior structures

**VI. Open area searches**

- a. Instructors will demonstrate the use of K9 in open area searches and apprehensions
  - i. Officers will demonstrate proficiency in communicating with K9 handlers to identify areas that need to be searched
  - ii. Officers will demonstrate the ability to move systematically and safely through open areas with the use of K9
  - iii. Officers will demonstrate the ability to make concise and safe decisions when handling a K9 apprehension
    - 1. Contact team movements
    - 2. Clearing area for K9 to take off bite
    - 3. Coordinating and confirming roles of a contact team before approach

**VII. Interior Structure Searches**

- a. Instructors will demonstrate the use of K9 in interior structure searches and apprehensions
  - i. Officers will demonstrate proficiency in communicating with K9 handlers to identify areas that need to be searched
  - ii. Officers will demonstrate the ability to move systematically and safely through buildings with the use of K9
  - iii. Officers will demonstrate the ability to make concise and safe decisions when handling a K9 apprehension
    - 1. Contact team movements
    - 2. Clearing area for K9 to take off bite
    - 3. Coordinating and confirming roles of a contact team before approach

**VIII. Scenarios**

- a. Students will participate in scenarios within a team of 2-6 officers
  - i. Students will develop contact teams and coordinate positioning and

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discuss approach plans with K9

- ii. Students will coordinate searches in both interior structures and open areas with their contact teams and K9
  - 1. Students will have to find positions of cover and concealment
  - 2. Students will have to make safe movements to confirm cleared areas by K9 and reassess before continuing to search

**IX. Debrief**

- a. Instructors will lead a debrief regarding the information and techniques learned during the class to include takeaways, areas of improvement, and assess any injuries
- b. Ensure sign in on a roster to track officer attendance