

Mobilisation of Canine Teams

All Fire and Rescue Service search dog teams are registered as national USAR resources and are coordinated by the Fire and Rescue Service National Coordination Centre (FRSNCC) in West Yorkshire.

A request for mobilisation may originate from a FRS with or without a dog team resource and, in each case there is a slightly different protocol.

FRS with a dog team resource	The FRS may alert and mobilise a local dog team and task them to a local incident. The FRSNCC must be informed of the change of status of the dog team as soon as practicable. In the event that further dog teams are required at the same incident, FRSNCC will coordinate the additional resources required.
FRS without a dog team resource	Requests for attendance of search dog teams, including the initial attendance, will go through FRSNCC, who will mobilise and coordinate the nearest available dog team(s) to the incident.

Deployment of Dog Teams

When deploying to an incident, each search dog team must be attached to the USAR assets attending. The dog teams do not operate independently. They require support from the organisation with primacy at an incident, to function safely and effectively.

To be effective, dog teams should be requested and tasked at the earliest opportunity.

Resourcing Incidents

Collapsed Structure Searches

A minimum of two dog teams is required for any single collapsed structure incident. This is in order to confirm the outcomes of the first dog's search results.

Immediate Area / Building Searches

One dog team is sufficient for small searches, but large areas could require a number of dog teams. The handler will be able to support the Incident Commander with this advice.

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Examples:

- Major transport incident and/or large surrounding area needing to be searched
- Missing person with request for assistance from police¹

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¹ Provision is at the discretion of the individual FRS

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