



Australian Government

PUAFIR005 Observe fire from an aircraft

Release: 1

PUAFIR005 Observe fire from an aircraft

Modification History

Release 1.0 This is the first release of this unit of competency in the PUA Public Safety Training Package.

Application

This unit of competency involves the skills and knowledge required to observe a fire or prescribed burn from an aircraft and to collect intelligence relating to fire location and behaviour including fuel loads, terrain, rate of spread, threats and progress of strategies and tactics. It includes working safely as an air observation team member, preparing for air observation mission, planning flight route, preparing for flight, validating flight path en route to mission area, collecting and recording incident intelligence, reacting to changed conditions and emergencies and concluding air observation mission.

The unit is applicable to personnel responsible for collecting incident intelligence from either a fixed wing or rotary wing aircraft or from the ground using remotely piloted aircraft.

Authorisation to perform this role is subject to organisational policies and procedures.

The fire sector is those sections of government departments, statutory authorities or agencies that have responsibility under jurisdictional arrangements for the delivery of firefighting and fire management services.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

It is essential that the prerequisite units listed below are obtained prior to the issuance of this unit to individuals within the fire sector or the units contributing to the attainment of a fire qualification.

PUAFIR017 Work safely around aircraft

PUAFIR303 Suppress wildfire

PUAOPE013 Operate communications systems and equipment

PUAOPE014 Navigate to an incident

Competency Field

Fire

Unit Sector

Fire

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

1 Work safely as air observation team member

- 1.1 Team Resource Management (TRM) principles are applied during air observation mission
- 1.2 Compliance is maintained with relevant legislation, regulations and organisational policies and procedures
- 1.3 Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements for air operations are implemented
- 1.4 Job hazards are identified and action is taken to eliminate, minimise or control them

2 Prepare for air observation mission

- 2.1 Briefing on air observation mission is obtained from task supervisor
- 2.2 Mission information is collated
- 2.3 Maps, navigation equipment and personal protective clothing and equipment for mission are prepared

3 Plan flight route

- 3.1 Mission aircraft, its performance capability and fuel range are confirmed with task supervisor
- 3.2 Pre-flight plan is prepared using available information including known terrain, hazards, mission requirements, weather forecast and expected time duration
- 3.3 Alternative landing areas in flight area are identified in consultation with pilot
- 3.4 Flight plan and communication arrangements for mission are confirmed with pilot
- 3.5 Flight following and search and rescue arrangements are confirmed

4 Prepare for flight

- 4.1 Pilot is briefed on mission

- 4.2** Briefing from pilot is received on aircraft safety and emergency procedures
 - 4.3** Communication equipment is tested for correct frequencies and functionality
 - 4.4** Satellite navigation equipment, where required, for the mission is checked for correct programming and operability
- 5 Validate flight path en route to mission area**
 - 5.1** Communication is maintained with pilot to ensure planned route is followed and mission objectives are achieved
 - 5.2** Flight following protocols are established and maintained
 - 5.3** Flight route is followed on map and/or using satellite navigation technology and location is confirmed through identification of ground features
 - 5.4** En route, diversion and arrival reporting information is transmitted in accordance with organisational procedures
- 6 Collect and record fire intelligence information**
 - 6.1** Spatial data on fire location and progress of suppression efforts is recorded and communicated in accordance with organisational procedures
 - 6.2** Observations of current and projected fire behaviour, including factors that may affect it, are collected and recorded
 - 6.3** Fire intelligence information is communicated to task supervisor within agreed timeframes using approved communication arrangements
- 7 React to changed conditions and emergencies**
 - 7.1** Contact is made with task supervisor and/or fire ground commander, if present, to confirm communication arrangements
 - 7.2** Observed hazards that pose a risk to people, property, assets or the environment are reported to task supervisor and/or fire ground commander, if present
 - 7.3** Observed changes in operational conditions are communicated to task supervisor and/or fire ground commander, if present

- 8 Conclude air observation mission**
- 8.1** After action review is conducted with air observation personnel
 - 8.2** Navigation equipment is stored in accordance with organisational procedures and faults are referred to approved personnel for attention
 - 8.3** Details of air operations mission are recorded in accordance with organisational procedures

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

Range of Conditions

Range is restricted to essential operating conditions and any other variables essential to the work environment.

Non-essential conditions may be found in the PUA Public Safety Training Package Companion Volume Implementation Guide.

Unit Mapping Information

This unit replaces and is not equivalent to PUAFIR408 Plan aircraft operations and PUAFIR315 Navigate from an aircraft.

Links

Companion Volume Implementation Guides are found in VETNet - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=3eca5672-6d5a-410b-8942-810d0ba05bbf>