



**Australian Government**

# **DEFSU004B Erect a survival shelter using natural resources in a survival situation**

**Release: 2**

## DEFSU004B Erect a survival shelter using natural resources in a survival situation

### Modification History

Release	TP Version	Comments
2	DEF12V2	Layout adjusted. No changes to content.
1	DEF12V1	Primary release.

### Unit Descriptor

This unit covers the competency required to establish a survival shelter in a survival situation. The individual is not expected to be an expert in building construction, but rather, to have the requisite skills and knowledge to identify the elemental threats to his/her survival such as sun, wind and rain, and to establish a survival shelter, sufficient to provide the necessary protection. The shelter may take advantage of established *natural features* or may demand standalone construction from *natural resources*.

This Unit of Competency assesses the worst possible scenario and assumes that manufactured resources are not available.

### Application of the Unit

As agreed in the creation of this Training Package, applications for units transferred from the PUA00 Public Safety Training Package will be developed as part of continuous improvement plans, and taking into account the change in Unit of Competency format as detailed in templates for Streamlined Training Packages.

### Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not applicable.

### Pre-Requisites

Not applicable.

## Employability Skills Information

This unit contains employability skills.

## Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a Unit of Competency.

Performance Criteria describe the required performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where ***bold italicised*** text is used, further information is detailed in the Range Statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the Evidence Guide.

## Elements and Performance Criteria

### ELEMENT

### PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <b>Prepare resources for erection of the shelter</b> | <p>1.1 Threat to personal survival posed by the elements is identified and natural features are used to provide immediate protection in order to conduct survival planning</p> <p>1.2 Survival shelter's siting is optimised for protection from the elements and to minimise <b><i>hazards</i></b> to the survivalist, taking advantage, where possible, of existing natural resources</p> <p>1.3 <b><i>Survival shelter resources</i></b> are collected, maximising shelter strength and protection while minimising the physical effort to obtain</p> |
| 2. <b>Construct survival shelter</b>                    | <p>2.1 <b><i>Traditional two-ply string is constructed</i></b> for use in binding and securing</p> <p>2.2 <b><i>Survival shelter's framework is established</i></b> taking maximum advantage of the strength of natural junction points such as forks</p> <p>2.3 <b><i>Survival shelter is protected from wind and rain</i></b></p>  |

## **Required Skills and Knowledge**

This describes the essential skills and knowledge and their level, required for this unit.

### **Required Skills**

- tie knots and lashes

### **Required Knowledge**

- priorities of survival (shelter, water, food, warmth)
- threat to survival from elements (wind, rain, sun)

## Evidence Guide

### Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit

Assessment must confirm the ability to construct a shelter capable of withstanding a vertical or horizontal loading to the framework of 300N (roughly equivalent to an adult leaning at not more than 10 degrees from the vertical):

- that repels all water when 20 litres is poured along the top/leading edge of the structure to simulate rain
- whose tiling and thatching remains adhered to the shelter under wind conditions of Beaufort Scale 4 (11-16 knots).

### Consistency in performance

Competency should be demonstrated constructing at least two shelters.

### Context of and specific resources for assessment

#### Context of assessment

Competency must be assessed in a simulated workplace environment.

While a person can demonstrate the technical ability to construct and maintain a shelter, doing so in a survival situation is crucial; consequently it is strongly recommended that holistic assessment be conducted with other associated survival units.

Assessment under simulated survival conditions should include:

- food restrictions (food should be restricted to half the recommended daily caloric intake)
- the absence of normal living conditions and amenities such as showers, beds and bedding (warmth to be provided by fire), kitchens etc. with the attendant levels of personal discomfort and fatigue•
- a significant period of time - the recommendation is four days.

#### Specific resources for assessment

Access to a suitable survival area which is remote and has suitable natural resources and natural features; and a knife.

## Range Statement

<p>The Range Statement relates to the Unit of Competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. <b><i>Bold italicised</i></b> wording in the Performance Criteria is detailed below.</p>	
<p><b><i>Natural features</i></b> may include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caves/rock scoops</li> <li>• Embankments</li> <li>• Hollow logs</li> <li>• Trees</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Natural resources</i></b> may include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bark</li> <li>• Grass</li> <li>• Timber</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Hazards</i></b> may include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal pads</li> <li>• Deadfall</li> <li>• Exposure to wind, rain, sun</li> <li>• Flood</li> <li>• Insects</li> <li>• Lightning</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Survival shelter resources</i></b> may include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Binding materials</li> <li>• Framing materials (e.g. live tree trunks and branches, fallen limbs)</li> <li>• Roofing and siding materials (bark shingles, grass bundles, large leaves e.g. 15+ cm diameter)</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Constructing traditional two-ply string</i></b> may include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Associated fibrous material</li> <li>• Bark</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Establishing survival shelter's framework</i></b> includes:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using and binding with improvised cordage such as:</li> <li>• animal skins/gut</li> <li>• bark strips</li> <li>• reeds and grasses</li> <li>• traditional two-ply string</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Protecting the survival shelter from wind and rain</i></b> includes using:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shingling (bark sections and large leaves) for roofing and siding</li> <li>• Thatching (bound grass and bundled grass) for roofing and siding</li> </ul>

## Unit Sector(s)

Not applicable.