



Australian Government

POLFOR053 Maintain a safe forensic working environment

Release: 1

POLFOR053 Maintain a safe forensic working environment

Modification History

Release	Comments
1	This unit was released in POL Police Training Package release 8.0

Application

This unit describes the skills required to maintain a safe working environment while working in a forensic role. This includes the assessment of situational risks and hazards, the safe use of equipment and consumables, and the development of risk mitigation strategies. It may be applied in the field at incident/crime scenes or in a laboratory. This unit applies to police personnel or forensic staff involved in forensic investigation. The skills and knowledge described in this unit must be applied within the legislative, regulatory, and policy environment in which they are conducted. Jurisdictional policies and procedures must be consulted and adhered to, particularly those related to workplace health and safety. Candidates undertaking this role would work autonomously while retaining the responsibility to report to senior staff. They would demonstrate adaptability across a broad range of contexts while performing a variety of tasks.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Not applicable

Competency Field

Not applicable

Unit Sector

Not applicable

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
Elements describe the essential outcomes of the unit	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

1. Identify and control health and safety risks	1.1 Assess forensic working environments to identify hazards and risks. 1.2 Evaluate hazards and risks in a forensic working environment to determine control methods. 1.3 Implement methods in a forensic working environment to control risks. 1.4 Communicate information on hazards and risks to stakeholders and people at risk to prevent harm. 1.5 Document health and safety information to report hazards, incidents, or near misses.
2. Employ specialist or external agency assistance	2.1 Assess need for specialist or external agency support to assist in control of risks. 2.2 Access specialist or external assistance to assist in control of risks.
3. Use protective clothing and safety equipment	3.1 Identify protective clothing and safety equipment requirements based on assessment of hazards and risks. 3.2 Use protective clothing and safety equipment to control risks. 3.3 Maintain protective clothing and safety equipment to ensure it meets safety requirements. 3.4 Determine need to replace or remove protective clothing and safety equipment where expired or unsuitable.
4. Apply safe collection and packaging procedures	4.1 Assess evidence to identify safe collection and packaging requirements. 4.2 Collect evidence in accordance with safe collection techniques to control risks. 4.3 Package evidence ensuring integrity and continuity. 4.4 Label packaging to communicate risks.
5. Use equipment, consumables, and substances safely	5.1 Assess equipment, consumables, and substances to identify hazards and risks. 5.2 Control access to equipment, consumables, and substances to control risks. 5.3 Check signage and labelling for equipment, consumables, and substances. 5.4 Respond to hazards, risks, or faults during the use of equipment, consumables, and substances. 5.5 Document hazards, risks, or faults identified during the use of equipment, consumables, and substances. 5.6 Maintain equipment, consumables, and substances to meet safety requirements. 5.7 Dispose of equipment, consumables, and substances in accordance with safety requirements.

	5.8 Decontaminate equipment and workspace to minimise contamination.
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Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential to performance. Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed in the table below.

The ability to interpret messages and text, record observations and evidence, communicate with purpose to different communities and audiences, plan and schedule tasks according to estimated timeframes, continuously seek to learn through on-the-job observations, solve problems, work with others in a team, plan and organise activities and self-manage behaviour are core foundation skills relevant to the policing context.

Skill	Description
Learning	Build a knowledge of risk management strategies.
Reading	Read and comply with jurisdictional policies and procedures related to forensic examination, WHS and equipment maintenance regimes. Assess information about the forensic situation to identify welfare considerations for potential referrals, specialist and/or external agency assistance. Read and adhere to material safety data information as appropriate to tasks undertaken.
Writing	Use written communication to report WHS hazards, incidents or near misses to stakeholders. Record details of hazards identified relating to substances and equipment.
Oral communication	Interact orally with specialist/external agencies and other relevant personnel in order to respond to hazards. Communicate WHS hazards, incidents or near misses to stakeholders.

Range of Conditions

Not applicable

Unit Mapping Information

Unit replaces but is not equivalent to *POLFOR023 Maintain a safe forensic working environment*.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=98c3984e-2cf1-48a8-8ed1-85e4b92e7351>