



Australian Government

POLFOR054 Detect, record and collect forensic evidence

Release: 1

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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 detect, record and collect forensic evidence in order to maximise the potential evidentiary value of exhibits. This may be applied in the field at incident/crime scenes or in a laboratory. It applies to police personnel and 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. Detect and assess evidence	1.1 Apply search methods to detect evidence. 1.2 Assess evidence to determine suitability for recording and collection. 1.3 Assess evidence to determine the potential for contamination or loss. 1.4 Use presumptive or confirmatory testing to inform recording and collection. 1.5 Determine legislative authority for examination. 1.6 Preserve evidence to minimise contamination or loss.
2. Record evidence	2.1 Assess evidence to determine recording requirements. 2.2 Create notes to document evidence details. 2.3 Sketch evidence to visually represent evidence details. 2.4 Digitally record evidence to capture evidence details. 2.5 Apply enhancement techniques to assist in recording evidence. 2.6 Use markers and scales to indicate location and size of evidence. 2.7 Review recordings to ensure conformity with quality and recording requirements.
3. Collect evidence	3.1 Use swabs to collect evidence. 3.2 Apply lifting techniques to collect evidence. 3.3 Apply casting techniques to collect evidence. 3.4 Collect evidence using handpicking techniques. 3.5 Collect reference samples to allow for comparison.
4. Package evidence	4.1 Assess evidence to identify packaging requirements. 4.2 Package evidence to minimise contamination, loss and risk. 4.3 Label packaging to maintain continuity. 4.4 Seal packaging to maintain integrity. 4.5 Store packaged evidence to maintain continuity and integrity. 4.6 Document evidence details and movements to record continuity.

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	Read and apply laws, policies and procedures pertaining to providing for, processing and escorting persons in care or custody.
Reading	Read and comply with jurisdictional policies and procedures related to forensic examination, WHS, quality systems, exhibit handling and intimate samples and authorisations. Read and assess forensic written evidence to identify potential contamination or loss.
Writing	Label, record and package evidence in accordance with evidence type. Record data of forensic evidence using jurisdictional information management systems.

Range of Conditions

Not applicable

Unit Mapping Information

This unit replaces but is not equivalent to *POLFOR024 Detect, record and collect forensic evidence*.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

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