



**Australian Government**

# **Assessment Requirements for PUASAR002 Undertake swiftwater and floodwater rescue and recovery**

**Release: 1**

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## Modification History

**Release 1.** This is the first release of this unit of competency in the PUA Public Safety Training Package.

## Performance Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence in this unit must be relevant to and satisfy all the requirements of the elements and performance criteria on at least one occasion and includes

- anticipating, identifying and mitigating hazards and risks
- applying basic first aid
- applying wading, aggressive, manoeuvring and defensive swimming techniques to escape hazards
- applying Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements
- assessing a rescue scene
- completing documentation
- concluding swiftwater and floodwater rescue
- constructing and using rope and mechanical advantage systems
- developing primary and secondary rescue plans
- extricating a casualty from entrapment including alternate entries, controlled release or immediate release
- gaining access and performing casualty rescue
- handling and packaging casualties
- handling and tethering non-powered boat/craft safely
- identifying and selecting equipment and resources based on incident information
- identifying changes in water flow, currents, eddies and other hydrological features, and operating in a range of conditions
- identifying suitable rescue and recovery techniques
- implementing isolation techniques
- implementing organisational policies and procedures relating to swiftwater and floodwater rescues and recoveries
- implementing search techniques and management procedures using wading techniques
- informing appropriate personnel of progress
- interacting with other members of the rescue team and casualties
- packaging and handling a casualty
- preparing and responding to swiftwater and floodwater rescues
- recognising and identifying changes in casualty condition and position

- removing casualty from swiftwater and floodwater using recognised extrication techniques, including manual handling, stretcher and packaging
- selecting and using personal protective clothing and equipment based on nature of rescue operation
- selecting swiftwater and floodwater rescue and recovery equipment and resources
- swimming aggressively and defensively
- taking part in operational briefings and contributing to debriefings
- tethering craft
- using communication techniques including hand signals, radio, whistle, talking and yelling
- using knots, anchors and mechanical advantage systems to conduct rescues or recoveries
- using removal techniques including manual carry and stretcher
- utilising rescue techniques for entrapment and/or vehicle rescue from swiftwater or floodwater
- working as part of a team and supporting others in a rescue operation

## Knowledge Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence in this unit must be relevant to and satisfy all the requirements of the elements and performance criteria and includes knowledge of

- behaviour and vehicles trapped in swiftwater and floodwater
- characteristics and limitations of rescue and recovery equipment including its care and maintenance
- communication methods and techniques
- environmental considerations based on whether operating in an urban or rural context
- facility emergency response plan
- first aid or medical personnel on scene
- hazards and risks associated with rescues and recoveries from swiftwater and floodwater
- isolation techniques
- mechanical advantage systems
- operational briefing and debriefing processes
- organisational documentation, policies and procedures
- other organisations, agencies and personnel
- personal protective clothing and equipment
- principles of risk assessment including hierarchy of control and risk control methods
- psychological considerations of swiftwater and floodwater rescue and the potential need for support resources for the rescuer, casualty and onlookers
- rescue and recovery techniques
- rescue equipment and resources
- roles and responsibilities of team members
- signs and symptoms of operational stress
- situational and environmental hazards
- suitability and operation of water based crafts

- swiftwater and floodwater hydrology and impact of weather on water flow
- types of entrapment
- water contaminants and their potential impact on rescuer and casualties
- Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements

## Assessment Conditions

As a minimum, assessors must satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, which include requirements in the Standards for Registered Training Organisations current at the time of assessment.

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Assessment must occur in workplace operational situations where it is appropriate to do so; where this is not appropriate, assessment must occur in organisationally approved simulated operational situations that replicate workplace conditions.

Assessment processes and techniques must be appropriate to the language, literacy and numeracy requirements of the work being performed and the needs of the candidate.

Resources for assessment must include access to

- a range of relevant exercises, case studies and/or simulations
- relevant and appropriate materials, equipment, tools and personal protective clothing and equipment used in industry including
  - personnel for team based rescues
  - rescue, recovery, safety, first aid and activity specific equipment and resources
  - simulated swiftwater and floodwater location
- applicable documentation including organisational procedures, industry standards, equipment specifications, regulations, codes of practice and operations manuals.

## Links

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