



**Australian Government**

**PUASAR002 Undertake swiftwater and  
floodwater rescue and recovery**

**Release: 1**

# PUASAR002 Undertake swiftwater and floodwater rescue and recovery

## Modification History

**Release 1.** 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 undertake swiftwater and floodwater rescues and recoveries as a member of a specialist team.

Swiftwater and floodwater recovery involves the rescue of persons from fast moving water in areas such as stormwater drains, canals, rivers and/or creeks. It involves the use of a variety of rescue techniques with suitably equipped and responders entering the water.

The unit applies to personnel who are skilled operators who may be required to use a range of rescue techniques within a swiftwater and floodwater environment. They may provide technical advice and support to a team and may adopt a leadership role during a rescue. A person operating at this level will not be performing under direct supervision.

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

## Pre-requisite Unit

PUASAR001 Perform land based swiftwater and floodwater rescue and recovery

## Competency Field

Search and Rescue

## Unit Sector

Not applicable

## Elements and Performance Criteria

### ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

### PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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

- 1 Prepare and respond to the rescue**
  - 1.1** Operation and task information is obtained from communications centre or briefing from supervisor
  - 1.2** Rescue equipment and/or resources are identified and selected based on incident information received
  - 1.3** Personal protective clothing and equipment is selected based on the nature of the rescue operation
  - 1.4** Any further details on the nature of the rescue received en route is assessed with rescue team members
  - 1.5** Anticipated situational and environmental hazards are discussed with rescue team members while on approach and are used as the basis for the development of a rescue plan
- 2 Assess the rescue scene**
  - 2.1** Information is collected from relevant persons at scene and observations are made to determine the location, number, condition and position of trapped casualties
  - 2.2** Changes in casualty condition and position are monitored and impact on rescue is assessed
  - 2.3** Risk assessment on situational and environmental hazards is conducted and control measures to ensure safety of self and others are developed
  - 2.4** Communication with team members is maintained during rescue
  - 2.5** Requests for additional personnel and/or specialist equipment based on risk assessment is reported to supervisor, in accordance with organisational procedures and the recognised chain of command
  - 2.6** Personal capabilities and limitations of self and other team members are identified and referred to supervisor
- 3 Develop primary and secondary rescue plans**
  - 3.1** Rescue and recovery techniques suitable to trapped casualty and vehicles in swiftwater and floodwater conditions are identified
  - 3.2** Primary and secondary rescue plans are developed based on risk assessment, identification of appropriate rescue and recovery techniques and in consultation with team members and other organisations/agencies
  - 3.3** Equipment and resources are selected to perform rescues

- and recoveries, as identified in the rescue plan
- 3.4** Roles and equipment are allocated to other team members, in accordance with organisational procedures
  - 3.5** In conjunction with the primary plan deployment of secondary rescue plan downstream is implemented
- 4 Use rope and mechanical advantage systems**
- 4.1** Rescue and recovery situations requiring the use of rope and mechanical advantage systems are identified
  - 4.2** Suitable rope and mechanical advantage systems are established to perform rescue and recovery
  - 4.3** Rope and mechanical advantage system equipment is used, in accordance with organisational policies and procedures and manufacturers' recommendations, to ensure design limits are not exceeded
  - 4.4** Rope and mechanical advantage system is modified to increase efficiency, where necessary, while maintaining communication with team members
- 5 Gain access and perform casualty rescue**
- 5.1** Defensive and aggressive swimming techniques are used to gain access to casualty when water entry is required, in accordance with organisational procedures
  - 5.2** Isolation techniques are used to stabilise positioning of casualty and vehicle to assist in extrication
  - 5.3** Craft is tethered to perform a rescue or recovery, as required, in accordance with the rescue plan
  - 5.4** Rescue plan is implemented and trapped casualty is extricated or secured using appropriate rescue and recovery techniques and equipment
- 6 Remove casualty from swiftwater and floodwater**
- 6.1** Casualty is retrieved from swiftwater and floodwater using techniques for removal, in accordance with organisational policies and procedures
  - 6.2** Casualty is packaged and handled, in accordance with organisational emergency care procedures or as directed by first aid or medical personnel
- 7 Conclude swiftwater and floodwater rescue**
- 7.1** Prior to leaving the scene equipment is recovered, cleaned and maintained, in accordance with organisational procedures and manufacturers' guidelines
  - 7.2** During cleaning of rescue equipment and personal

protective equipment, hygiene precautions are followed, in accordance with organisational procedures

- 7.3** Signs and symptoms of operational stress in self and others is recognised and reported to appropriate personnel
- 7.4** Operational debriefing is participated in or conducted, in accordance with organisational procedures
- 7.5** Documentation is completed, 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 Companion Volume Implementation Guide.

## Unit Mapping Information

This unit replaces and is equivalent to PUASAR034 Undertake swiftwater and floodwater rescue and recovery.

## 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>