Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

PUASAR004B Undertake vertical rescue

Release: 1

INDUSTRY
SKILLS
COUNCILS
Creating Australia's Future

PUASAR004B Undertake vertical rescue

Modification History

Not applicable.

Unit Descriptor

Unit Descriptor	This unit covers the competency to undertake vertical rescue operations as a member of a rescue team.

Application of the Unit

Application of the Unit	The application of this unit in the workplace - the environments, complexities and situations involved - will be written during Phase II of the Review of the PUA00 Public Safety Training Package.
	This text will be useful for the purposes of job descriptions, recruitment advice or job analysis; where possible, it will not be too job specific to allow other industries to import it into other Training Packages, where feasible.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not applicable.

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite Unit/s	PUASAR001B Participate in a rescue operation

Employability Skills Information

Employability Skills 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 Required Skills and Knowledge and/or the Range Statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the Evidence Guide. |

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
1. **Prepare for and respond to vertical rescue**	1.1 ***Operation and task information*** is obtained and analysed
	1.2 ***Vertical rescue equipment*** is selected based on incident information and checked to ensure it is ready for use
	1.3 Personal protective equipment for vertical rescue is selected
	1.4 Scene reconnaissance is conducted and results are reported
	1.5 Appropriate actions are taken to preserve incident scene
2. **Assess scene**	2.1 ***Physical and environmental features*** of scene are assessed before deploying rescue resources
	2.2 Access is controlled and a safe and effective operational environment is maintained
	2.3 Communication with other personnel on site is established and maintained
	2.4 Location and condition of casualty is determined
3. **Establish vertical rescue system**	3.1 Rescue system is constructed according to the type of incident
	3.2 Anchors are established and monitored
	3.3 Equipment is prepared and techniques are used in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines and organisational procedures
4. **Perform vertical rescue**	4.1 Access is gained to casualties or trapped persons using organisationally approved techniques and equipment
	4.2 Casualties or trapped persons are secured and prepared for removal in consultation with medical personnel
	4.3 Casualties are removed using ***vertical rescue techniques*** and equipment whilst preventing further injury
5. **Terminate vertical rescue operations**	5.1 Equipment is recovered, cleaned and serviced in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines and organisational standards
	5.2 Where identified, signs and symptoms of operational stress are recognised and reported
	5.3 Operational debrief is conducted and ***documentation*** is completed to organisational

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
	standards

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

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

Required Skills

- check, service and maintain vertical rescue equipment
- disaster victim identification procedures
- escort stretchers in raising and lowering operations
- establish, maintain, monitor and use:
- abseil
- belay
- ascent
- descent and raising and lowering systems
- establish, monitor and maintain safe anchor systems
- infection control
- manage edge protection
- operate span line or Tyrolean
- safe and effective scene management procedures
- scene assessment and reporting
- treat and package casualties
- use personal protective and rescue equipment within its safe work limitations
- wearing appropriate personal protective and rescue equipment correctly
- work in a team
- working in a multi-service environment

Required Knowledge

- braking strains
- casualty assessment and packaging
- emergency management and interagency arrangements
- equipment characteristics
- operational briefing and debriefing procedures
- organisation's procedures for operating vertical rescue equipment
- personal hygiene protocols
- reconnaissance techniques
- relevant legislation
- relevant OH&S principles and practices
- safety factors and safe working loads
- signs and symptoms of operational stress
- vertical rescue concepts and practices
- voice, whistle and other communication systems

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit	It is essential for this unit that competence is demonstrated in establishment of safe systems to gain access to and recover casualties; extrication of casualty minimising further injury or discomfort while conducting rescue operation; and application of safe work practices
	Consistency in performance
	Evidence should be gathered over a period of time in a range of actual or simulated workplace environments
Context of and specific resources for assessment	**Context of assessment**
	Evidence to be collected in a range of simulated or actual vertical rescue environment
	Specific resources for assessment
	Assessment of this competency requires access to an appropriate training/venue for vertical rescue activities; organisation's vertical rescue equipment and personnel for team-based activities
Guidance information for assessment	Information that will assist or guide assessment will be written during Phase II of the Review of the PUA00 Public Safety Training Package.

Range Statement

RANGE STATEMENT

The Range Statement relates to the Unit of Competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. ***Bold italicised*** wording in the Performance Criteria is detailed below.

Operation and task information may include	number and type of casualties
	location
	magnitude and type of incident
	access and egress routes
	weather conditions and forecasts
	potential hazards
	command, control and coordination arrangements
	other organisations
Systems may include	lowering
	hauling
	high line or Tyrolean
	edge management
Vertical rescue equipment may include	Rescue rope to AS41423
	tapes
	slings
	pulleys
	edge protection
	karabiners
	ascending and descending devices
	anchors
	stretchers
	lighting and generator
	specialist communications equipment
	binoculars
	edge management devices
Physical and environmental features may include	ground stability
	anchor points

RANGE STATEMENT

	clearances
	tides/waves/surf movements
	exposed or hazardous electrical conductors
	moving machinery
	greasy or oily surfaces
	hot surfaces
	unstable structures
	exhaust or steam outlets
	air quality
	high winds
	cold rain
	swift water
	loud noises
	fuels and chemicals
	irrespirable atmospheres
	physical features such as slopes
	• loose surfaces • sheer face • overhangs
Vertical rescue environments may include	cliffs
	towers
	structures
	trees
	mines and caves and shafts
Vertical rescue techniques will be determined by	the type of vertical rescue system adopted
	organisation's policy and procedures
Scene management may include	establishing barriers and perimeter access controls
	management of bystanders and media
	establishing and monitoring safety zones
	media liaison
	crime scene preservation
Operational documentation	organisational procedures and related legal requirements

RANGE STATEMENT

may include	equipment running logs
	vehicle logs
	notes
	sketches

Unit Sector(s)

Not applicable.

Corequisite Unit/s

Co-requisite Unit/s	PUATEA002B Work autonomously