



Australian Government

SISCAQU029 Perform open water rescues

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to complete rescues in natural flatwater swimming and recreation areas such as lakes, lagoons, dams, flatwater or slow moving rivers without rapids and non-surf beaches. It can also apply to built recreational facilities such as wave parks which replicate a natural environment. The collective term “open water” is used throughout this unit to delineate these environments from the confined nature of built aquatic facility pools and natural calm-water venues with a defined swimming area.

White water and surf rescues are covered in outdoor recreation units coded SISRSC.

It requires the ability to assess prevailing conditions, environmental hazards and rescue circumstances to determine appropriate rescue actions. It covers skills to use equipment and techniques to provide prompt and effective rescue responses.

It has particular application to lifeguards but can apply to other workers, including outdoor recreation leaders, who complete open water rescues. Rescuers use discretion and judgement to manage significant problems when they arise, guided by established organisational rescue procedures.

The skills in this unit must be applied in accordance with Commonwealth and State or Territory legislation, Australian standards and industry codes of practice.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Competency Field

Aquatics

Unit Sector

Community Recreation

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Assess the situation and determine rescue requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1.1. Identify signs and signals of persons in difficulty and assess their situation promptly.1.2. Identify prevailing conditions and environmental hazards and promptly assess risks to self, rescuee and others.1.3. Determine appropriate rescue methods according to condition of person in need of rescue and environmental conditions.1.4. Select rescue equipment suited to all assessed circumstances.1.5. Provide prompt rescue alert to appropriate personnel according to time constraints and organisational emergency response procedures.
2. Maintain self-safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2.1. Negotiate open water and prevailing conditions with and without flotation devices, according to need.2.2. Safely approach and negotiate obstacles and hazards to minimise risk of injury to self.2.3. Use survival swimming techniques to maintain personal safety and to self-rescue when needed.2.4. Implement strategies when unable to return to a point of safety without assistance.
3. Rescue a person from open water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3.1. Select approach and contact methods to minimise risk of injury or submersion of self as rescuer.3.2. Provide clear and concise instructions to person being rescued, when conscious.3.3. Use tow equipment and techniques according to condition of rescued person and environmental conditions.3.4. Support and monitor condition of rescued person, and use techniques to ensure airways are kept clear.3.5. Extract person from water safely and efficiently, using equipment and techniques suited to prevailing conditions and condition of rescuee.3.6. Assist rescued person according to organisational emergency response procedures.
4. Debrief and complete reports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">4.1. Participate in incident response debrief and identify future response improvements.4.2. Complete required incident reports according to organisational procedures.

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

SKILLS	DESCRIPTION
Reading skills to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">interpret detailed familiar organisational procedures for rescues and emergency response.
Writing skills to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">use fundamental sentence structure to record accurate factual information about rescue responses in template incident reports.
Oral communication skills to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">use clear and unambiguous verbal and non-verbal communications to make intent known.
Self-management skills to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">critically analyse all circumstances and implications to provide a prompt and considered rescue response.

Unit Mapping Information

No equivalent unit.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=1ca50016-24d2-4161-a044-d3faa200268b>