



Australian Government

POLSAR021 Undertake initial search and rescue actions

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Modification History

Release	Comments
1	This unit of competency was first released in POL Police Training Package Release 11.0.

Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to conduct initial search and rescue (SAR) actions, including identifying search areas and conducting briefings when commencing SAR operation.

This unit applies to those working as police staff involved in police SAR.

The skills and knowledge described in this unit must be applied within the legislative, regulatory and policy environment in which they are carried out. Organisational policies and procedures must be consulted and adhered to, particularly those related to resource deployment, conducting briefings and debriefings and work health and safety (WHS).

Those undertaking this unit would work autonomously and within teams while remaining responsible for reporting to senior staff. They would perform a range of complex tasks and demonstrate adaptability across a broad range of contexts, either in the field or within police station/office environments.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

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

Pre-requisite unit(s)

No pre-requisite units

Competency field(s)

Search and Rescue

Unit sector(s)

N/A

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance criteria
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<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Plan initial SAR actions	1.1 Identify mission to conduct SAR operation
	1.2 Assess resources required to facilitate SAR operation
	1.3 Determine initial actions and resource deployment in accordance with nature of SAR incident
	1.4 Facilitate sharing of information with stakeholders to progress SAR operation.
2. Identify search area	2.1 Identify last known position of the subject(s)
	2.2 Define and calculate the initial search area using maps/charts to commence initial SAR operations
	2.3 Apply search planning models to the search area
	2.4 Determine probability of detection and coverage for allocation of resources.
3. Conduct initial SAR activities	3.1 Determine appropriate resources based on required tasks/ allocation
	3.2 Deploy resources to carry out initial actions
	3.3 Adapt response based on assessment and monitoring of SAR operation
	3.4 Negotiate resource acquisition to facilitate SAR operation
	3.5 Prioritise tasks to maximise efficiency and effectiveness of resources.
4. Conduct briefings	4.1 Assess and collate information to develop briefings
	4.2 Identify relevant stakeholders to inform of the incident
	4.3 Deliver briefing to facilitate flow of information
	4.4 Communicate required follow-on actions for ongoing coordination of SAR operation.

Range of conditions

N/A

Assessment Requirements for POLSAR021 Undertake initial search and rescue actions

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 include:

- evaluating information to commence SAR operation
- establishing mission and deploying resources to commence SAR operation, including but not limited to:
 - produce initial reflex task (stage one)
 - produce a planned task
 - produce a revised plan
- re-assessing risk and search urgency assessments
- communicating rationale for identified search area
- coordinating initial SAR
- communicating with stakeholders to progress SAR operation
- reading and interpreting maps/charts
- performing calculations.

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 include knowledge of:

- Commonwealth, national, state and territory legislation and arrangements relating to SAR
- jurisdictional legislation, policies and procedures relating to SAR operations
- jurisdictional legislation, policies and procedures relating to work, health and safety (WHS) and wellbeing requirements
- jurisdictional policies, procedures and arrangements relating to SAR systems
- contextual considerations which impact on SAR operation
- resources available to respond to SAR incident
- capabilities of assets and resources
- jurisdictional procurement processes and arrangements relating to external agencies and resources
- communication search tools

- information technology systems to support SAR operation
- jurisdictional communication systems
- jurisdictional briefing and debriefing requirements
- media requirements for SAR operation
- SAR terminology.

Assessment Conditions

Mandatory Workplace Requirements

Assessment of performance evidence may be in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents a real workplace.

Unit Mapping Information

Previous Code and Title	Equivalence	Comments
POLSAR017 Undertake initial search and rescue actions	Equivalent	Updated code, application, performance criteria, performance evidence and knowledge evidence

Links

Companion volumes, including implementation guides, are found on the national training register - <https://training.gov.au/training/details/POL>.