



Australian Government

POLSAR025 Undertake land search and rescue duties

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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 coordinate land search and rescue (SAR) responses, determine current location and destination of subject(s), plan safe routes/courses, and plan land SAR operations.

This unit applies to those working as police staff involved in police land SAR operations. It may be applied in the field and within an office environment.

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 work health and safety (WHS).

Those undertaking this unit would work within multi-agency teams and often liaise with stakeholders, while completing complex tasks in a broad range of contexts. They would make decisions independently while giving consideration to financial and human resource management requirements.

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
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Prepare for land SAR response.	1.1 Identify a command and control structure to facilitate land SAR operations.
	1.2 Assess requirements of the SAR incident to establish forward command post.
	1.3 Conduct risk and search urgency assessment to determine level of response.
	1.4 Identify jurisdictional information management systems required to gather information in relation to the subject(s).
	1.5 Assess information obtained from jurisdictional information management systems to inform land SAR operations.
	1.6 Assess characteristics of the subject(s) and environment to inform SAR operations.
	1.7 Communicate with stakeholders to facilitate flow of information to progress SAR operation.
2. Determine current location, destination and resources	2.1 Assess information and intelligence gathered relating to the location and details of incident.
	2.2 Select appropriate maps and relevant resources from which to source and interpret information.
	2.3 Analyse information from maps and relevant resources to ensure accurate parameters of search area.
	2.4 Analyse data to plot incident location.
	2.5 Calculate incident distance and location from distinct features.
	2.6 Plot probable and possible search areas to determine resource allocation and asset deployment.
	2.7 Evaluate terrain to identify impacts on land SAR operations.

	2.8 Identify safe routes and potential access restrictions to determine access to search area.
	2.9 Identify specialist resources to facilitate land SAR operations.
3. Provide navigational references to SAR operations teams	3.1 Calculate location using magnetic bearings, and/or latitude and longitude and/or incident location details provided by callers.
	3.2 Communicate navigational references to SAR operations team to inform search area.
	3.3 Communicate navigational references to field personnel for use in portable navigation aids.
	3.4 Communicate directional information to operations team on request.
4. Conduct land SAR response	4.1 Determine size of search area to establish search boundaries.
	4.2 Assess relevance of land search strategies to develop an accurate search area.
	4.3 Select land search patterns in accordance with search strategy, prevailing conditions and terrain.
	4.4 Determine taskings for assets to facilitate land SAR operations.
	4.5 Deploy portable navigation aids to SAR members, where available, to provide timely information.
	4.6 Analyse information from portable navigation aids to determine areas searched by teams.
	4.7 Monitor and review size of search area based on prioritisation.
	4.8 Modify land search patterns using on scene intelligence, continuously reviewing feasibility of rescue plan.

Range of conditions

N/A

Assessment Requirements for POLSAR025 Undertake land search and rescue duties

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:

- facilitating the coordination of land SAR operations
- assessing land SAR requirements
- developing SAR plans in land contexts
- collecting and assessing information and intelligence on land SAR requirements
- identifying, interpreting and analysing maps and relevant resources
- evaluating terrain and weather conditions to inform SAR operations
- determining subject(s), locations, distances and destinations
- performing land calculations and search coverage factor
- operating systems and technologies used in land SAR
- communicating with and coordinating stakeholders within land SAR context
- briefing relevant stakeholders throughout the course of the land SAR operation
- applying appropriate land SAR tools, techniques and strategies
- collating, interpreting and applying information and intelligence to land SAR contexts and dynamic circumstances
- documenting progress and outcomes of land SAR
- continuously reviewing feasibility of rescue plan, considering land SAR context and nature of SAR incident.

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
- principles of land navigation
- map types, including electronic maps

- map interpretation
- weather systems
- terrain types and land environments
- obstacles to land searches
- land navigation references, tools, aids and equipment
- formulas relating to land SAR
- limitations and/or regulations which impact on land searches
- common land SAR scenarios
- factors that influence survival
- land search strategies
- land search patterns
- specialist land SAR resources/assets
- capabilities and limitations of land SAR resources/assets
- jurisdictional legislation, policies and procedures for handover and takeover of land SAR
- jurisdictional briefing and debriefing requirements
- jurisdictional information management systems.

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
POLSAR018 Undertake land search and rescue duties	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>.