



Australian Government

POLSAR026 Undertake marine 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 marine search and rescue (SAR) responses, determine current location and destination of subject(s), plan safe routes/courses, and plan marine SAR operations.

This unit applies to those working as police staff involved in police marine 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 marine SAR response	1.1 Identify a command and control structure to facilitate marine SAR operations.
	1.2 Identify SAR coordination centre from which to facilitate marine SAR operations.
	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 marine SAR operations.
	1.6 Assess characteristics of the subject(s) and environment to inform SAR response.
	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 charts, electronic navigation aids and navigation equipment from which to source and interpret information.
	2.3 Analyse information from charts and relevant resources to ensure accurate parameters of search area.
	2.4 Evaluate sea state, currents and tidal patterns to identify impacts on marine SAR operations.
	2.5 Plot last known position and estimated destination of subject(s) in distress on a chart using marine navigation techniques.
3. Determine and plan a safe route/course	3.1 Evaluate information, including initial search areas and chart work to determine operational plan.

	3.2 Consider and allow for variables and prevailing conditions to record plots and search areas on charts.
	3.3 Estimate rescue asset's speeds, search time, investigation time and endurance within prevailing conditions to provide an estimated search time/time of arrival.
	3.4 Identify potential obstacles and hazards to determine safe route/course.
4. Conduct marine SAR response	4.1 Determine datum of subject(s) using wind and currents.
	4.2 Assess marine search strategies to inform SAR operations.
	4.3 Select marine search patterns in accordance with search strategy and prevailing conditions.
	4.4 Identify specialist marine resources to facilitate marine SAR operations.
	4.5 Determine taskings for specialist marine resources to facilitate marine SAR operations.
	4.6 Monitor and review size of search area based on prioritisation.
	4.7 Modify marine search strategies using on scene intelligence, continuously reviewing feasibility of rescue plan.

Range of conditions

N/A

Assessment Requirements for POLSAR026 Undertake marine 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 coordination of marine SAR operations
- assessing marine SAR requirements
- developing SAR plans in marine contexts
- collecting and assessing information and intelligence on marine SAR requirements
- identifying, interpreting and analysing charts and relevant resources
- evaluating marine and weather conditions to inform SAR operations
- determining subject(s) locations, distances and destinations
- performing marine calculations and search coverage factor
- operating systems and technologies used in marine SAR
- communicating and coordinating with stakeholders within marine SAR context
- briefing relevant stakeholders throughout the course of the marine SAR operation
- applying appropriate marine SAR tools, techniques and strategies
- collating, interpreting and applying information and intelligence to SAR marine contexts and dynamic circumstances
- documenting progress and outcomes of marine SAR
- continuously reviewing feasibility of plan, considering marine 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
- Commonwealth, national, state and territory legislation and arrangements relating to marine operations
- jurisdictional legislation, policies and procedures relating to work, health and safety (WHS) and wellbeing requirements

- international agreements relating to maritime safety
- principles of marine navigation, including magnetic variation and deviation
- SAR datum planning
- weather systems
- currents and drift patterns, including but not limited to leeway and divergence
- sea state
- chart features
- obstacles to marine navigation
- marine navigation references, tools, charts, aids and equipment
- formulas relating to marine SAR
- limitations/regulations which impact marine search
- local marine environment
- common marine SAR scenarios
- factors that influence marine survival
- marine search strategies
- marine search patterns
- specialist marine SAR resources/assets
- capabilities and limitations of marine SAR resources/assets
- legislation, policies and procedures for handover and takeover of marine 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
POLSAR019 Undertake marine search and rescue duties	Equivalent	Updated Code, Application, Performance Criteria, Performance Evidence and Knowledge Evidence.

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Links

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