



Australian Government

POLSAR029 Manage search and rescue operations

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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 plan for and manage police search and rescue (SAR) requirements, including communicating with stakeholders, analysing assets and evaluating activities.

This unit applies to police officers involved in police SAR operations.

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 human resource management and reporting requirements.

Those undertaking this role may work autonomously and supervise teams while remaining responsible for reporting to senior staff. They would demonstrate adaptability while performing sophisticated tasks across a broad range of contexts.

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. Oversee initial SAR operations.	1.1 Review information relating to the incident to assess an operation. 1.2 Assess assets required to complete SAR operations based on available information. 1.3 Evaluate plan to determine feasibility and likelihood of achieving SAR operation mission.
2. Manage SAR stakeholders.	2.1 Communicate nature of the operation to SAR stakeholders. 2.2 Assess roles, responsibilities and activities to brief SAR coordinators and stakeholders involved in operations. 2.3 Assess tasks and validate allocation. 2.4 Monitor performance, health, safety and wellbeing of SAR personnel and adjust plans as required. 2.5 Evaluate and disseminate feedback from teams and stakeholders to inform SAR operations.
3. Liaise with internal and external stakeholders.	3.1 Develop briefings for external stakeholders to ensure consistency of information. 3.2 Monitor assets to determine changing circumstances. 3.3 Negotiate with stakeholders to acquire assets for SAR operations. 3.4 Provide guidance and support to stakeholders to improve SAR effectiveness.
4. Manage SAR reporting requirements.	4.1 Collate information from internal and external sources to maintain comprehensive records. 4.2 Evaluate information to determine relevance. 4.3 Analyse available information to identify trends. 4.4 Develop recommendations for continuous improvement purposes.
5. Manage SAR media requirements.	5.1 Assess incident characteristics, and jurisdictional, legal and media requirements to develop a media strategy. 5.2 Control incident access to personnel/ volunteers/ victims/ casualties to maintain operational security and safety. 5.3 Assess provision of information and operational responsibilities when engaging with media.

	5.4 Liaise with media to facilitate the two-way communication process and provision of information. 5.5 Oversee the provision of current and consistent information to media. 5.6 Identify and uphold work health and safety considerations for media requirements. 5.7 Oversee the maintenance of media interaction records, including media enquiries, briefings and interviews.
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Range of conditions

N/A

Assessment Requirements for POLSAR029 Manage search and rescue operations

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 incidents to determine appropriateness of search and rescue (SAR) responses
- communicating, liaising and negotiating with stakeholders
- reviewing allocation of, and monitoring assets
- managing SAR stakeholders
- monitoring SAR personnel health, wellbeing and performance
- gathering and evaluating information to identify trends
- developing, documenting and communicating recommendations for continuous improvement purposes

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
- leadership techniques
- information relevant to SAR incident, including but not limited to risk and search urgency assessments
- assets relevant to SAR operations
- jurisdictional procedures and arrangements for SAR operations
- roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in SAR
- capabilities of external stakeholders
- jurisdictional policies and procedures relating to reporting requirements
- evaluation processes to inform continuous improvement
- risk management frameworks and processes

- communication and negotiation techniques

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
POLSAR016 Manage search and rescue operations	Not equivalent	Updated Code, Application, Unit 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>.