



Australian Government

ACMAIM308 Respond to marine wildlife stranding

Release: 1

ACMAIM308 Respond to marine wildlife stranding

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 4.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to participate in a team to safely assess a stranding scene and respond to a single or multiple stranding of marine animals, typically whales, dolphins and dugongs.

The unit applies to individuals who work in a team to assess, stabilise and release stranded live marine wildlife, and assist with the handling of deceased marine wildlife. They take responsibility for activities and work within an organisational incident management structure.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures according to Commonwealth and state/territory health and safety, wildlife, and animal welfare regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.

Most government jurisdictions have requirements that allow only appropriately authorised agencies to undertake response operations. Users are advised to check with the relevant authority.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Animal Incident Management (AIM)

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. Contribute to	1.1 Participate in team briefing and confirm role and duties in

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
assessment of marine wildlife stranding scene	stranding operation 1.2 Use a systematic approach to identify hazards and control risks at the scene within limit of role and responsibility 1.3 Identify stranded animals accurately and report information regarding stranding scene to relevant personnel and authorities 1.4 Identify and adhere to cultural protocols relevant to species and operations 1.5 Assist with controlling the site according to organisational procedures and relevant state/territory regulatory requirements 1.6 Select equipment and gear required to assist at stranding event
2. Assess and assist individual animals	2.1 Select and correctly fit personal protective equipment appropriate for activity 2.2 Assist with triage assessment of stranded animal, evaluate their status, level of activity and body condition 2.3 Identify or tag animal according to health category and triage assessment 2.4 Stabilise, reposition and/or apply basic first aid to animal in immediate need or distress according to safe work procedures and species requirements 2.5 Deter free swimming animal from stranding according to organisational procedures and available resources
3. Assist with release and refloating of stranded live animal/s	3.1 Treat animal/s humanely and keep the animal calm and comfortable using species-specific techniques 3.2 Apply knowledge of species danger zones to ensure personal safety 3.3 Assist with the immediate release of animal/s in shallow waters according to organisational procedures and available resources 3.4 Assist in moving beached animals to response mats or pontoons for release and refloatation 3.5 Use species-specific approaches to assist animal with refloatation and return to water 3.6 Relocate animal to assist with stabilisation or release according to organisational procedures 3.7 Mark animals prior to release for identification purposes where required by response agency

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
4. Undertake palliative care and assist with euthanasia	4.1 Secure and cordon off stranded and/or deceased animal/s 4.2 Implement palliative care for animals based on veterinarian assessment or instructions 4.3 Assist with determining appropriate euthanasia method for species, size of animal and location 4.4 Provide support to personnel undertaking approved euthanasia of animal/s
5. Carry out carcass management	5.1 Complete basic data collection, scientific sampling and/or necropsy of carcass according to instructions and within limit of role and responsibility 5.2 Determine carcass disposal options based on site value, location and cause of death 5.3 Consider options to undertake venting of carcass for relevant species 5.4 Engage with traditional owners on options for deceased animals according to local cultural protocols where required 5.5 Dispose of carcasses and waste according to local, state/territory and other relevant jurisdictional requirements
6. Conclude operations	6.1 Report outcomes of stranding operation and accurately complete records according to organisational procedures 6.2 Recover, clean and service equipment according to manufacturer guidelines and organisational standards 6.3 Participate in team debriefing activities 6.4 Report signs of critical incident stress in self and others to relevant personnel

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
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Skill	Description
Reading	Interpret guidelines and standard operating procedures relating to wildlife strandings
Oral communication	- Use clear language and appropriate tone conversing with team members, supervisors and members of the public during stranding event - Use accurate industry and animal terminology in conversations with key personnel
Numeracy	Estimate weight (kg, t) and length (cm, m) of animals with reasonable accuracy

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMAIM308 Respond to marine wildlife stranding	Not applicable	Developed in response to industry need	Newly created

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>

Assessment Requirements for ACMAIM308 Respond to marine wildlife stranding

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has:

- assessed hazards and risks for one single and one multiple marine wildlife stranding
- accurately identified two different stranded animals and assessed their condition
- participated in two marine wildlife stranding activities, including:
 - one involving a live animal
 - one involving a deceased animal
- followed safe manual and animal handling, and hygiene procedures in all activities
- used and correctly fitted appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for situation
- contributed to one team briefing and one debriefing activity.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- key features of organisational incident management system applicable to stranding, including:
 - roles and responsibilities of team members
 - overview of decision-making processes
 - interagency operations and legislative obligations
- key local, state/territory and Commonwealth legislative requirements and jurisdictional structures relevant to marine wildlife strandings
- cultural protocols relating to species, operations and location
- communication protocols, including reporting and dealing with media
- role of science and data collection in wildlife management, including types of information and data to collect and record
- main hazards and risks to people, including:

- wildlife behaviour
- weather, sea conditions, failing light or visibility
- geography, location
- public onlookers, interference, perceived need to act
- lack of resources
- marine wildlife involved in strandings or groundings relevant to location or jurisdiction
- overview of causes of strandings or groundings
- animal identification relevant to event, including:
 - species type, approximate age and conservation status
 - basic anatomy and physiology of species, including danger zones
 - basic indicators of condition
- strategies to control site and address safety of the public and the animals, including:
 - establish an exclusion zone
 - approach and treat animals with caution
 - ensure onlookers and dogs do not enter the exclusion zone
 - ensure appropriate warning and information signs are erected
 - monitor sea, tide and weather conditions
- strategies to deter free swimming animals from stranding
- basic animal first aid appropriate for species
- personal protective equipment (PPE), including:
 - appropriate clothing, wetsuit, gloves, enclosed footwear
 - lifejackets, flotation device
- species-specific techniques for handling, lifting, moving and transporting animals
- types of equipment and gear and their purpose, including response mats and pontoons
- methods of euthanasia and factors determining selection of appropriate method, including:
 - chemical
 - firearm
 - pericranial implosion
- organisational safety procedures, including:
 - hygiene standards – infection control, zoonotic diseases, biosecurity
 - personal injury or accident involving a team member
 - team rotations to avoid fatigue and exposure to weather
 - risks associated with environmental conditions.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - an environment that represents a marine wildlife stranding scene – this includes the use of simulations and scenarios

- resources, equipment and materials:
 - animal simulation device or mannequin
 - stranding equipment, including response mats and pontoons
 - personal protective equipment
- specifications:
 - organisational forms for assessing response options
- relationships:
 - relevant personnel and team members to report to and work with.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

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