



Australian Government

AHCFAU303 Respond to wildlife emergencies

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 6.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to evaluate and coordinate a response to natural resource emergencies involving fauna.

The unit applies to individuals working within own area of responsibility in a response to a wildlife emergency. These individuals are required to take responsibility for their own work and take limited responsibility for other workers and possibly volunteers.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Fauna (FAU)

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. Evaluate wildlife emergency and implement interim care	1.1 Investigate nature of emergency from witness reports or inspections 1.2 Assess factors that impact on an appropriate response 1.3 Notify authorities of incident according to workplace procedures 1.4 Implement interim care of animals pending instructions from authorities 1.5 Delegate appropriate staff to provide interim care for animals

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.6 Ensure personnel assisting in interim care are equipped and briefed 1.7 Implement care instructions provided by authorities or veterinarians 1.8 Collect information to determine further action 1.9 Interview informants to obtain details of the situation
2. Implement response to emergency	2.1 Establish communications necessary to manage emergency situation 2.2 Transport resources and personnel to site 2.3 Establish site procedures and implement emergency plans according to legislative requirements and workplace procedures 2.4 Move live fauna to safe location 2.5 Remove dead fauna from site and dispose of biological matter according to workplace health and safety and biosecurity procedures 2.6 Clean site according to workplace procedures to maintain public and environmental health and safety 2.7 Implement measures that minimise risk to significant places, area, habitats, species and communities
3. Coordinate response	3.1 Inform general public and media of the nature of the incident and agency decisions according to workplace communications procedures 3.2 Brief volunteers and staff on workplace health and safety hazards, preventive measures and reporting requirements 3.3 Coordinate and deploy volunteers according to their skills and available personal protective equipment 3.4 Establish physical barriers to keep public away from animals to minimise their distress and to protect the public 3.5 Manage media until authorities provide instructions 3.6 Use media according to workplace procedures
4. Care for affected animals	4.1 Assign teams to animals according to incident assessment, care instructions and skills within teams 4.2 Apply animal first aid 4.3 Perform role in wildlife operations team according to the command structure and procedures of the management plan 4.4 Care for animals using a range of skills and according to

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	veterinary instructions and workplace procedures
5. Determine management options	5.1 Seek veterinary advice where appropriate 5.2 Collect biological and incident data on animals 5.3 Evaluate management options according to veterinary advice, condition of animal and risk assessment 5.4 Band or tag released animals where required for scientific purposes 5.5 Source equipment and staff for returning animal to wild or temporary captive management
6. Remove carcass	6.1 Develop inter-agency agreement with local authority for removal of carcasses 6.2 Source equipment and staff for disposal 6.3 Dispose of carcasses according to authority instructions and workplace biosecurity procedures
7. Complete debrief and report	7.1 Follow incident management processes for debrief and wash-up 7.2 Record recommendations for changes to procedures from debrief 7.3 Report recommended changes to procedures to supervisor according to workplace procedures

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
Reading	Interpret witness reports to extract information relevant to the wildlife emergency to assist in formulating a response
Writing	Accurately record and complete documentation using clear language and terminology when communicating with media and completing inter-agency and maintaining animal trapping records
Oral communication	Conduct interviews with informants and communicate with volunteers using collaborative and inclusive techniques, including

Skill	Description
	active listening and questioning and reading of verbal and non-verbal signals

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCFAU303 Respond to wildlife emergencies	AHCFAU301 Respond to wildlife emergencies	Minor change to Application, Elements 1 and 7, and Performance Criteria for clarity Updated Performance Evidence, Knowledge Evidence and Assessment Conditions	Equivalent

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

Assessment Requirements for AHCFAU303 Respond to wildlife emergencies

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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, on at least one occasion, the individual has:

- evaluated natural resource wildlife emergency
- implemented and coordinated response to emergency in accordance with workplace procedures and health and safety requirements
- followed workplace procedures to ensure the safety of the wildlife, personnel and the general public
- determined management options, including returning animal to wild or temporary captive management, according to authority and workplace policies and procedures
- followed instructions from veterinarians or authorities to care for animal
- removed and disposed of animal carcasses in accordance with authority instructions
- completed debrief and prepared reports to workplace standards
- applied workplace health and safety policies and procedures when implementing emergency plans
- applied appropriate animal welfare practices.

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:

- health risks associated with working near animals, including:
 - personal and public safety
 - handling animals
 - animal care
- public relations and media management for disseminating information on wildlife emergencies
- investigating wildlife emergencies, including:

- assessing and responding to eyewitness accounts
- conducting personal investigations and interviews
- options for managing wildlife emergencies, including:
 - interim captive care
 - permanent captive care
 - return to wild
- incident management systems and their application to wildlife emergencies, including:
 - communication strategies
 - resources and personnel required for effective response
 - methods for relocating living wildlife
 - collection, documentation and disposal of dead animals
 - briefing and coordination with personnel and volunteers
- animal care and first aid
- state/territory and local wildlife emergency authorities and organisations
- roles and responsibilities of veterinary support in wildlife rescue
- methods for banding and tagging of fauna
- potential environmental and biosecurity risks associated with wildlife rescue operations
- basic requirements for ensuring the welfare of animals described in the relevant codes of practice
- legislative and regulatory requirements governing wildlife emergencies and care.

Assessment Conditions

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

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated in an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - wildlife in an emergency situation
 - personal protective equipment
- specifications:
 - policies, procedures and processes for managing wildlife emergencies
 - access to legislation and codes of practice related to wildlife.

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

Links

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