



Australian Government

DEFSUR003 Employ visual emergency signalling techniques in a survival situation

Release: 1

DEFSUR003 Employ visual emergency signalling techniques in a survival situation

Modification History

Release	Comments
1	This unit was released in DEF Defence Training Package release 1.0 and meets the Standards for Training Packages. This unit supersedes and is equivalent to DEFSU003B Employ visual emergency signalling techniques in a survival situation. • Unit code updated • Content and formatting updated to comply with new standards • All PC transitioned from passive to active voice • PC 3.3 revised

Application

This unit describes the skills required to employ visual emergency signalling techniques in a survival situation. The individual is not meant to be an expert signaller, but must demonstrate sufficient skills and knowledge to construct, maintain and employ functional emergency signalling devices to enhance their survival through the attraction of, and basic communication with, search and rescue (SAR) agencies.

This unit was developed for Defence personnel but may be relevant to others.

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.

Those undertaking this unit would act autonomously, while performing concrete tasks, in a broad range of contexts which may be highly unpredictable.

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

Competency Field

Survival

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
Elements describe the essential outcomes	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the range of conditions section.
1. Prepare for construction of visual emergency signals	1.1 Assess available natural and artificial resources for their application in emergency signalling. 1.2 Examine local area and identify the ground that would afford optimum visibility to searchers but minimum physical effort to the survivor. 1.3 Observe and note sun's transit to determine the optimum placement of reflective signalling devices.
2. Prepare emergency signalling devices for use	2.1 Site and construct ground-to-air emergency signals using purpose signal marker panels and/or improvised markers to optimise visibility from the air. 2.2 Site and construct tinsel/Christmas tree devices using artificial resources to optimise visibility from the air. 2.3 Site and construct an emergency signal fire to optimise visibility from the air, considering the prevailing wind's effect (if any) on smoke trails. 2.4 Site and excavate shadow trenches, considering the sun's movement. 2.5 Prepare purpose-built signalling devices.
3. Employ visual emergency signals	3.1 Initiate an emergency signal fire and utilise fuel to maximise the visual signature. 3.2 Attract search aircraft attention by employing purpose-built signalling devices. 3.3 Interpret and respond to recognition and response signals from search aircraft.

Foundation Skills

The foundation skills demands of this unit have been mapped for alignment with the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF). The following tables outline the performance levels indicated for successful attainment of the unit.

ACSF levels indicative of performance:

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Learning N/A					Reading N/A					Writing					Oral communication					Numeracy N/A				
Performance variables																								
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Support					Context					Text complexity					Task complexity									

Further information on ACSF and the foundation skills underpinning this unit can be found in the Foundation Skills Guide on the GSA website.

Unit Mapping Information

This unit supersedes and is equivalent to DEFSU003B Employ visual emergency signalling techniques in a survival situation.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=6bdbab1e-11ed-4bc9-9cba-9e1a55d4e4a9>

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

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Assessment Requirements for DEFSUR003 Employ visual emergency signalling techniques in a survival situation

Modification History

Release	Comments
1	These Assessment Requirements were released in DEF Defence Training Package release 1.0 and meet the Standards for Training Packages. Assessment Requirements created drawing upon specified assessment information from superseded unit

Performance Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence must satisfy all of the requirements of the elements and performance criteria. If not otherwise specified the candidate must demonstrate evidence of performance of the following on at least one occasion.

- selecting combustible and ‘smoking’ materials
- constructing, igniting and maintaining a fire
- siting and building a trench symbol, visible from the air at 2000 metres may be a simulated trench if ground is too hard.
- siting and constructing a tinsel tree, visible from the air at 2000 metres
- siting, constructing and maintaining the fuel and foliage stock for the fire
- lighting the fire so that it is well ablaze within 120 seconds and then generating smoke through the application of green foliage
- interpreting and responding to recognition and response signals from search aircraft, including :
 - I require your attention
 - message received and understood
 - message received but not understood
 - follow aircraft in same direction

Knowledge Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence must satisfy all of the requirements of the elements and performance criteria. If not otherwise specified the depth of knowledge demonstrated must be appropriate to the job context of the candidate.

- air search/ground search procedures
- aircraft recognition and response/international distress signals

Assessment Conditions

Competency should be demonstrated using a range of simulated visual emergency signalling techniques that could be expected in a survival situation with access to emergency signalling devices.

Consideration must be given to holistic assessment with other survival units.

While a person can demonstrate the ability to employ visual emergency signalling techniques, doing so in a survival situation is crucial. Assessment under simulated survival conditions includes:

- food restrictions
- absence of normal living conditions and amenities
- significant period of time

Refer to advice in the companion volumes.

Assessors must satisfy the NVR/AQTF mandatory competency requirements for assessors.

Links

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