



Australian Government

PUAFIR323 Take local weather observations

Release: 1

PUAFIR323 Take local weather observations

Modification History

Release 1. This is the first release of this unit of competency in the PUA Public Safety Training Package.

Application

This unit of competency involves the skills and knowledge required to take, assess, record and report simple weather observations for a specified area. It includes obtaining weather observations to provide basic interpretations to assist with predictions of future weather conditions and the impact of these conditions on planned field activities or an organisation's ability to respond to a natural disaster.

The unit applies to personnel responsible for taking and recording field weather observations in a specified area.

The fire sector is those sections of government departments, statutory authorities or organisations that have responsibility under jurisdictional arrangements for the delivery of firefighting and fire management services.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Not applicable.

Competency Field

Fire

Unit Sector

Fire

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

1 Gather field based

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

1.1 Weather instruments that can be used for taking weather

weather observations	observations are identified
	1.2 Area specific information is accessed
	1.3 Weather observations are collected from the field using handheld weather instruments
	1.4 Local topographical influences most likely to affect weather conditions are identified
2 Assess local weather signs to identify likely changes	2.1 Weather signs, that may be used to interpret and predict local conditions, are identified
	2.2 Weather signs for monitoring and interpreting current and future conditions are evaluated
	2.3 Trends in weather recordings are identified
	2.4 Short and long term implications of weather signs are assessed
3 Record and report weather observations	3.1 Weather observations are recorded, in accordance with organisational procedures
	3.2 Weather observations are reported to relevant personnel, in accordance with organisational procedures

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

Range of Conditions

Range is restricted to essential operating conditions and any other variables essential to the work environment.

Non-essential conditions may be found in the Companion Volume Implementation Guide.

Unit Mapping Information

This unit replaces and is equivalent to PUAFIR319 Take local weather observations.

Links

PUA Training Package Companion Volume Implementation Guide is found in VETNet - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=3eca5672-6d5a-410b-8942-810d0ba05bbf>

Assessment Requirements for PUAFIR323 Take local weather observations

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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 includes

- applying Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) organisational requirements
- gathering reliable field based weather observations
- identifying weather trends
- making basic interpretations of current weather effects in localised areas for an emergency management incident
- observing and assessing influence of topography on local weather conditions
- observing and assessing local weather signs to identify likely changes
- observing topographical influences including altitude, slope and vegetation
- recording and reporting weather observations to relevant personnel
- recognising types of topographical influences including altitude, vegetation, slope and aspect
- taking representative weather observations in two different locations, weather observations using hand held weather instruments and basic visual weather observations
- taking weather observations including air temperature, cloud amount and type, relative humidity, wind direction, speed and gusts and time and location at which observations were made
- undertaking observations of weather signs

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 includes knowledge of

- Bureau of Meteorology information related to weather forecasts
- maritime influence on weather and climate
- meteorological terms
- organisational documentation, policies and procedures
- roles and responsibilities of personnel in the field
- safe work procedures
- types of topographical influences on weather

- types of weather signs types of weather observations including air temperature, atmospheric stability, cloud amount and type, dew point, inversions, precipitation, relative humidity, wind direction - speed and gusts, wind changes - cold fronts, sea and land breezes, and thunderstorms and time and location at which observations were made
- variety of weather instruments including hand held weather meter and sling or whirling psychrometer
- weather trends including anticipated changes, deteriorating conditions, improving conditions and no significant change
- Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) organisational requirements including risk mitigation and safe work procedures

Assessment Conditions

As a minimum, assessors must satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, which include requirements in the Standards for Registered Training Organisations current at the time of assessment.

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Assessment processes and techniques must be appropriate to the language, literacy and numeracy requirements of the work being performed and the needs of the candidate.

Assessment must occur in workplace operational situations. Where this is not appropriate, assessment must occur in industry approved simulated workplace operational situations that reflect workplace conditions.

Resources for assessment must include access to

- a range of relevant exercises, case studies and/or simulations
- relevant and appropriate materials, equipment, tools and personal protective clothing and equipment currently used in industry including
 - weather instruments
- applicable documentation including organisational procedures, industry standards, equipment specifications, regulations, codes of practice and operation manuals.

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