



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for PUA FIR603

Determine origin and cause of wildfire

Release: 1

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Modification History

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

Performance Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence in this unit must be relevant to and satisfy all the requirements of the elements, performance criteria and range of conditions on at least one occasion and includes

- analysing information to determine origin and cause of fire
- applying Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and safety (OHS) organisational requirements
- conducting a scene assessment and investigation
- coordinating wildfire investigations
- determining area and/or point of origin and suspected cause of fire
- identifying and collecting evidence to investigate a wildfire
- identifying potential ignition sources and following processes for elimination of cause
- implementing organisational procedures
- implementing organisationally approved scientific methods to wildfire investigations
- interpreting and analysing forensic data and physical evidence
- packaging, labelling and storing evidence for transport
- performing witness interviews and accurately recording information
- preserving evidence to avoid damage, spoliation or contamination
- recognising, documenting and preserving physical evidence
- recording information accurately
- securing fire scene and preserving evidence
- taking notes to support recording of information
- using organisationally approved methods and techniques to collect, handle and store evidence
- using organisationally approved systematic approach to examination of wildfire scenes
- utilising equipment to collect, handle and store evidence
- writing wildfire investigation reports

Knowledge Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence in this unit must be relevant to and satisfy all the requirements of the elements, performance criteria and range of conditions and includes knowledge of

- collection of physical evidence including handling, packaging and recording of physical evidence as well as photographs, drawings and samples
- common causes of wildfires including camp fire, debris burning, electrical, equipment, incendiary, juvenile, lightning, machinery, miscellaneous, power lines, rail, smoking and vehicles
- deliberate fire lighting motives and methodology
- determinants of fire cause
- evidence preservation
- fatal fire and crime scene management
- fire behaviour
- fire scene examination
- how to distinguish between accidental, negligent, deliberate and natural cause of fire
- indicators of fire cause and fire spread
- legal definitions of interviews and statements
- legislation relevant to each state and territory including Fire Service Act, Coroners Act, Criminal Code and Evidence Act
- match of evidence to point of proof and offence provisions
- methods for recording documentary and witness evidence, and their application including note taking processes and procedures
- organisational documentation, policies and procedures
- organisational requirements for producing investigation reports
- origin and cause determination
- other organisations, agencies and support personnel
- principles of investigation based on organisationally approved scientific methods and use of operational procedures for conducting investigations
- principles of wildfire spread
- product recall and Safety Data Sheets (SDSs)
- roles, responsibilities and limits of authority of personnel and agencies/organisations at a wildfire investigation including the Incident Controller
- rules of evidence including identification, collection and preservation, continuity and admissibility
- scene preservation and security
- state and territory court requirements for investigations
- types of evidence collection including admissibility, collection and preservation, continuity and identification
- use and storage of fire scene records
- use of deductive evidence to determine point of origin
- Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and safety (OHS) organisational requirements including risk mitigation

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
 - case studies and organisational/workplace scenarios to capture the range of wildfire scenes likely to be encountered and for which evidence needs to be gathered and managed
 - legislation, policy, procedures and protocols related to the gathering and managing of evidence
- applicable documentation including organisational procedures, industry standards, regulations, codes of practice and operation manuals.

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>