



Australian Government

PUAFIR608 Investigate fatal fires

Release: 1

PUAFIR608 Investigate fatal fires

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 undertake an investigation of a fire involving fatalities. It is applicable to specialist fire investigators who are required to apply a systematic approach to the investigation of fatalities at a fire scene.

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

It is essential that the prerequisite units listed below are obtained prior to the issuance of this unit to individuals within the fire sector or the units contributing to the attainment of a fire qualification.

PUAFIR605 Determine origin and cause of mobile property fire

PUAFIR609 Collect, record and coordinate the analysis of physical evidence

One of the following:

PUAFIR603 Determine origin and cause of wildfire

PUAFIR604 Determine origin and cause of structure fire

Competency Field

Fire

Unit Sector

Fire

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

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

1 Assess impact of fire on human remains

- 1.1** Presence of human remains is identified and confirmed at the scene and is processed, in accordance with coronial and organisational requirements
- 1.2** Appropriate notifications to coronial services and police are made, in accordance with statutory and organisational procedures
- 1.3** Effect of fire heat range on human remains is assessed
- 1.4** Visible burn patterns and injuries on human remains are identified, assessed and documented
- 1.5** Proximity of human remains to fire is assessed
- 1.6** Origin and cause determination theories for fire are assessed

2 Examine factors impacting on origin and cause of death

- 2.1** Human factors that may have prevented occupants escaping the fire and products of combustion are examined and recorded
- 2.2** Effectiveness and operation of early warning detection and suppression systems are assessed
- 2.3** Observations regarding deceased's clothing are made and recorded
- 2.4** Observations of human behaviour before, during and after the fire are recorded
- 2.5** Effects of environmental conditions are assessed and recorded

3 Implement procedures for recovery of human remains and report findings

- 3.1** Disaster victim identification procedures are implemented, in accordance with organisational procedures
- 3.2** Methods of protecting human remains prior to removal from a fire scene are implemented
- 3.3** Consequential damage to human remains are recorded and reported to the appropriate authorities
- 3.4** Human remains collected from a fire scene are recorded,

in accordance with organisational procedures

- 3.5 Techniques to minimise evidence deterioration are followed, in accordance with organisational procedures
- 3.6 Techniques and equipment are used for scene analysis, reconstruction and testing of hypothesis, in accordance with organisational procedures
- 3.7 Investigation report is completed and forwarded to appropriate authorities and stakeholders

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 PUAFIR608A Investigate fatal fires.

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 PUAFIR608 Investigate fatal fires

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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
- assessing impact of fire on human remains
- complying with legislation, codes of practice and standards in fire investigation and court procedures
- conducting interviews and accurately recording information
- determining and implementing procedures for recovery of human remains and reporting findings
- examining factors impacting on origin and cause of death
- implementing organisationally approved approach to the systematic investigation of fatal fires
- implementing procedures for recovery of human remains
- interpreting findings of forensic data and physical evidence analyses
- preserving evidence to avoid damage, spoliation and contamination
- taking notes to support research and court preparation
- writing reports related to origin and cause of fatal fire

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

- common causes of fire including accidental, chemical, deliberate, electrical, incendiary, natural and negligence
- compilation of written reports related to origin and cause of fatal fires
- disaster victim identification procedures
- effect of heat range fire on human remains including carboxyhemoglobin, common injuries before and post fire, extent of burns and effects of products of combustion
- effects of fire and fire gases on the human body and fire consumption of human remains
- evidence collection including admissibility, body bags, collection, continuity, identification, packaging and sampling techniques
- fire scene notes using digital multi-media accompanied with written explanations and

narratives

- industry standards that relate to clothing design, fabric and flammability
- legislation relevant to state and/or territory Fire Service Act, Coroners' Act, Criminal Code and Evidence Act
- operational procedures for conducting investigations
- organisational and legal requirements for writing and presenting reports
- organisational documentation, policies and procedures
- origin and cause determination including required reports
- processes and outcomes of post mortems and coronial inquests
- Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) legislated requirements including risk mitigation processes and safe work practices involving biological hazards

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
- applicable documentation including organisational procedures, industry standards, equipment specifications, regulations, codes of practice and operation manuals.

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