



Australian Government

PUALAW002 Conduct initial investigation at incident scene

Release: 1

PUALAW002 Conduct initial investigation at incident scene

Modification History

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

Application

This unit involves the skills and knowledge required to gather and collate information including obvious and accessible physical evidence from the scene of an incident and identifying potential witnesses. It does not cover the specialist skills required to interpret the evidence gathered or the specialist skills required to gather specific evidence.

The unit applies to non-specialist personnel who have been tasked with the collection of information and evidence that is obvious at an incident 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

Not applicable.

Competency Field

Fire

Unit Sector

Fire

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

1 Conduct initial assessment of scene 1.1

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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

Scene is assessed with regards to Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

and all actions are undertaken, in accordance with organisation policies, procedures, guidelines and duty of care requirements

- 1.2** Communication is established with the senior investigating officer and liaison is maintained throughout the investigation
 - 1.3** Circumstances surrounding the scene are ascertained from visual assessment and reports from other personnel
 - 1.4** Scene boundary is defined or redefined, as required, to preserve physical evidence for collection
 - 1.5** Obvious and accessible physical evidence is located and, where appropriate, protected from possible contamination
- 2 Control integrity of scene**
 - 2.1** Appropriate arrangements for scene access and egress are established and maintained
 - 2.2** Non-essential persons are removed from the scene and details are recorded accurately, in accordance with organisation and regulatory procedures
 - 2.3** Additional resources are identified and accessed to secure incident scene
 - 2.4** Health and safety needs of personnel and public involved in incident are identified and attended to
- 3 Examine scene**
 - 3.1** Appropriate search pattern is instigated, in accordance with organisational procedures, and instructions from senior investigating officer to ensure all evidence is located and preserved
 - 3.2** Details of the scene are recorded comprehensively and accurately, in accordance with organisational operating procedures
 - 3.3** Evidence is located, collected, packaged, labelled and stored, in accordance with organisational procedures, to ensure preservation for further post scene examination
 - 3.4** An accurate log of all evidence is maintained, in accordance with organisational procedures
 - 3.5** Scenes are assessed for future investigative requirements and appropriate personnel are notified

4 Identify potential witnesses and initial statements recorded

- 4.1** Bystanders are canvassed to identify potential witnesses
- 4.2** Details of potential witnesses are recorded, in accordance with organisational procedures
- 4.3** Recording practices are used, in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirements and organisational policies and 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.

- incident scene must include at least two of the following
- accident or incident involving death or injury to person or damage to property
 - crime scene
 - industrial or mining accidents and incidents
 - natural disaster
 - structural fire
 - vehicle accident
 - vehicle fire
 - wildfire

Unit Mapping Information

This unit replaces and is equivalent to PUALAW002B Conduct initial investigation at incident scene.

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 PUALAW002 Conduct initial investigation at incident scene

Modification History

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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, performance criteria and range of conditions on at least one occasion and includes

- applying Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) organisational requirements
- communicating information and liaising with stakeholders
- conducting initial assessment of scene and identifying and mitigating onsite hazards
- controlling integrity of scene and evidence
- examining scene thoroughly
- gathering physical evidence
- identifying potential witnesses and recording initial statements
- implementing legislative requirements and organisational policies and procedures
- implementing methodical and systematic approach
- making arrangements to protect integrity of evidence
- reassuring bystanders including listening and questioning them
- recording and compiling interviews and statements accurately
- recording and reporting details of incident scene in accordance with organisational requirements
- taking notes accurately
- working with a variety of professionals

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

- additional resources to support initial investigation
- arrangements for protecting integrity of evidence
- circumstance initiating need for specialised investigations
- circumstances surrounding scene including sequence of events, possible causes, people and property involved, victims, suspects and witnesses, damage, injury, organisational personnel,

- other organisations and agencies, status of investigation and action taken to date
- details that may be relevant to the investigation
- factors impacting incident scene including prevailing weather, additional resources to preserve and protect incident scene, environmental circumstances, chronology of events, access to scene, number of persons at scene, availability of support services, boundaries and other organisations and/or agencies
- factors impacting security of an incident scene
- features and use of a variety of specialised equipment
- functions and roles of other professionals and experts
- identification, collection and recording of evidence
- incident scene protection and preservation
- indicators of emotional distress
- methods of evidence collection
- methods of packaging
- organisational documentation policies and procedures
- public safety risk factors including factors at incident scene that could impact on safety of investigators and security or preservation of actual site and security and preservation of situational evidence
- scene access and egress
- types of physical evidence including shoe impressions, tyre prints, skid marks, fingerprints, containers, fibres, flammable and combustible liquids, tool marks, bloodstains, identifying numbers, bodily fluids and burn patterns
- Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) organisational requirements including risk mitigation and duty of care at incident scene

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.

Competency should be assessed either indoors or outdoors in a rural or urban environment.

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 used in industry

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

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