



Australian Government

PUASAR017 Undertake advanced surf rescue

Release: 1

PUASAR017 Undertake advanced surf rescue

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 perform advanced surf rescues in challenging surf conditions without assistance from other team members. It includes lifeguards and lifesavers working in limited team environments.

The unit is applicable to personnel from the emergency services, volunteer organisations and/or organisations where a structured beach surveillance and rescue service is supplied.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

PUACOM001 Communicate in the workplace

PUASAR012 Apply surf awareness and self-rescue skills

PUASAR013 Participate in an aquatic rescue operation

Competency Field

Search and Rescue

Unit Sector

Not applicable

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

1 Prepare for surf rescue

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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

- 1.1** Pre-use checks of equipment are completed, in accordance with organisational procedures

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| | 1.2 | Hazards to bathers, at the surf location, are identified |
| | 1.3 | Equipment is placed in surf locations identified as of most likely need |
| 2 Perform surveillance duties | 2.1 | Location, that gives the best view of area of responsibility and ready access to equipment and water for response to casualties in distress, is determined and surveillance is maintained |
| | 2.2 | People who match the profile of high risk bathers are identified and close attention is paid to them |
| | 2.3 | Appropriate methods to avoid fatigue are used while providing surveillance, in accordance with organisational procedures |
| 3 Respond to casualty in distress | 3.1 | Casualty in distress is recognised |
| | 3.2 | Operational command is notified of intention to perform rescue |
| | 3.3 | Conditions are assessed and rescue techniques and equipment are selected |
| | 3.4 | Challenging surf conditions are negotiated using sand bars and rip currents to reach casualty |
| | 3.5 | Defensive approach is used to ensure own safety with a conscious panicking casualty |
| | 3.6 | On approach, conscious casualty is reassured |
| | 3.7 | Unconscious casualty is assessed for breathing and initial rescue breaths are performed, as required |
| | 3.8 | Casualty is secured, in accordance with organisational procedures and available equipment |
| 4 Return casualty to shore | 4.1 | Prevailing surf conditions are assessed and safe return to shore is navigated, in accordance with organisational procedures |
| | 4.2 | Conscious casualty is assessed for first aid requirements or medical care and is managed, in accordance with organisational procedures |
| | 4.3 | Unconscious casualty is dragged unaided above the high |

- water line using approved techniques
- 4.4 Unconscious casualty is lowered using approved techniques and is assessed for signs of life and patient care is administered, as required
 - 4.5 Operational command is notified that casualty has been retrieved and whether any further assistance is required
 - 4.6 First aid is provided to casualty until further assistance arrives
 - 4.7 Casualty is handed over with details provided on incident, treatment provided and current condition
- 5 **Recover and restore equipment to operational readiness**
- 5.1 Debriefing is participated in and reports are completed, in accordance with organisational procedures
 - 5.2 Post operational checks and maintenance of equipment is performed, in accordance with organisational procedures
 - 5.3 Any damage to equipment is reported, 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 PUASAR017A Undertake advanced surf rescue.

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 PUASAR017 Undertake advanced surf rescue

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 and performance criteria on at least one occasion and includes

- applying Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements
- appraising distance to casualty
- communicating with colleagues and reassuring stakeholders
- following organisational policies and procedures
- identifying hazards
- identifying high risk locations, locations that gives the best view of area, rip currents, surf locations and wave types
- identifying methods to avoid fatigue related issues
- managing a surf rescue unaided from identification of casualty through to handover
- paddling equipment including rescue boards or tubes in challenging surf conditions
- performing a complex surf rescue with multiple casualties
- performing first aid using resuscitation techniques
- performing surveillance duties including identifying high risk bathers
- preparing for surf rescue including undertaking pre-use checks of equipment
- reporting to operational command
- responding to casualties in distress including use of appropriate defensive approaches
- returning casualties to shore using appropriate securing, dragging and lowering techniques
- self-rescuing in a surf environment
- swimming in challenging surf conditions
- undertaking debriefings
- using, recovering and restoring equipment to operational readiness

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

- availability of rip currents to use when proceeding out to sea including lulls between sets of waves, size of surf and time between waves

- beach types and hazard ratings
- equipment used in surf rescues including their characteristics and limitations and pre-use checks
- escape techniques from a panicking casualty
- fatigue management strategies
- first aid techniques and industry standards
- further assistance available
- hazards of the surf beach environment including high risk locations
- high risk bather profile
- operational command structure including roles and responsibilities
- organisational documentation, policies and procedures including procedures relating to debriefing and reporting requirements, maintaining equipment in terms of environmental management and sustainability and rescue and recovery
- rescue techniques including appraising distance to casualty
- roles of lifesavers, lifeguards and other personnel
- signals for communication between team members on shore and in the water
- Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) 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 must occur in workplace operational situations where it is appropriate to do so; where this is not appropriate, assessment must occur in simulated workplace operational situations that replicate workplace conditions.

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.

Competency must be demonstrated by performing actual or simulated rescues at a surf beach using both rescue boards and tubes in a range of actual surf 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 used in industry including
 - appropriate rescue equipment
 - a surf beach
- applicable documentation including organisational procedures, industry standards, equipment specifications, regulations, codes of practice and operations manuals.

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