



Australian Government

PUASAR019 Train canines to work in a USAR environment

Release: 1

PUASAR019 Train canines to work in a USAR environment

Modification History

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

Application

This unit of competency involves the skills and knowledge required to acclimatise canines to work within an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) environment, develop a canine's ability to detect live human scent and to indicate live human scent with alert behaviours. It also includes managing training assistants in a simulated USAR environment for the purposes of training canines.

The unit is applicable to canine search specialists responsible for developing a search canine to be part of a USAR canine search team.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Not applicable

Competency Field

Search and Rescue

Unit Sector

Not applicable

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

1 Work in a USAR environment

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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

1.1 Risk assessment of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) environment is undertaken, in accordance with organisational procedures

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| | 1.2 | Personal protective clothing and equipment appropriate to the USAR environment is selected and worn |
| | 1.3 | Principles and organisational procedures for working safely in a USAR environment are implemented |
| 2 Introduce canines to a USAR environment | 2.1 | An incremental approach is followed to introduce canines to a USAR environment |
| | 2.2 | Problems that may develop with canines being introduced to a USAR environment are identified and solved within area of responsibility |
| | 2.3 | Problems outside area of responsibility are referred to appropriate personnel for action and recommendations are made, as required |
| 3 Prepare canines for detection of live human scent | 3.1 | Scent factors that limit the capability of canines to function efficiently are identified |
| | 3.2 | Canine behaviour and responses are interpreted, and appropriate action is taken, in accordance with organisational procedures |
| | 3.3 | Regular interaction with canine is undertaken to maintain an enthusiastic, effective and appropriate level of work and behaviour at search locations |
| | 3.4 | Canine is deployed to detect live human scent in a range of areas and situations |
| 4 Develop alert behaviour in canines | 4.1 | Training tools and techniques are used to shape the desired bark alert behaviour in canine |
| | 4.2 | Problems encountered in bark alert training are diagnosed and solved, in accordance with organisational procedures |
| 5 Train canine using appropriate methods | 5.1 | Humane ways of training are used that reflect positive reinforcement techniques |
| | 5.2 | Canine psychology and drives are recognised and applied when training canine |
| | 5.3 | Appropriate degree of correction is used to discourage unwanted canine behaviour |
| | 5.4 | Canine involved in training is handled and controlled in |

a way that maintains performance and safety

6 Manage training assistants

- 6.1** Training assistant is selected for the training exercise to be performed in a simulated USAR environment
- 6.2** Training assistant is briefed on the expected outcomes of the exercise
- 6.3** Job safety analysis is provided to training assistant prior to commencement of training exercise
- 6.4** Safety and welfare of training assistant is maintained throughout the training exercise
- 6.5** Problems encountered with the training assistant are diagnosed and resolved, or referred 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 PUASAR019A Train canines to work in a USAR environment.

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 PUASAR019 Train canines to work in a USAR environment

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
- conducting briefings
- conducting safety analysis
- controlling a search canine, off lead
- developing alert behaviour in canines
- ensuring safety and welfare of canines and personnel
- following organisational policies and procedures
- identifying safety risks
- interpreting reactions given by a search canine
- introducing canines to an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) environment using an incremental approach
- managing training assistants
- preparing canines for detection of live human scent
- solving canine problems including safety risks
- training canines using appropriate methods and tools including correction procedures
- using personal protective clothing and equipment
- working as part of a USAR team including using communication techniques
- working safely in a USAR environment with search canines at disasters

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

- canine psychology including behaviour and responses, bark alert behaviour and degree of correction
- canine search principles, methods and techniques
- communication techniques and briefing protocols
- how physical conditions and hazards will affect training strategies

- how to introduce canines to disaster sites and the importance of exposing them to varied disaster scenarios including incremental approach in introducing canines to a USAR environment
- organisational documentation, policies and procedures
- principles and procedures for working safely in a USAR environment
- risks associated with disaster sites
- safe work practices at disaster sites
- scent theory including factors affecting the location of human scent including differences in surfaces, pollution and environmental factors, factors affecting scenting ability of search canines, scent movement in a disaster site and how scent movement will affect search strategy
- selection and use of personal protective clothing and equipment
- state, territory and Commonwealth government canine welfare legislation
- training assistant characteristics
- training tools and techniques appropriate to alert behaviour
- Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements including safety and welfare, safety assessments and 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.

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
 - canines training to work in a USAR environment
 - legislation, policy, procedures and guidelines relating to the health and welfare of canines
 - training assistants
- applicable documentation including organisational procedures, industry standards, equipment specifications, regulations, codes of practice and operations manuals.

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