



Australian Government

PUASAR020 Develop a canine search team for USAR incidents

Release: 1

PUASAR020 Develop a canine search team for USAR incidents

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 prepare a canine search team to search for and locate people concealed in a structural collapse, and to manage a search canine during an incident. A canine search team consists of one disaster search canine and one canine search specialist.

The types of incidents that may require an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) canine search team, working as a member of a USAR task force, includes earthquakes, terrorist incidents, aircraft crashes, disasters or major structural collapses.

The unit is applicable to personnel actively involved in and/or training as canine search specialists for USAR incidents and disaster operations.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

PUASAR018 Select and maintain canines to be part of a canine search team for USAR incidents

PUASAR019 Train canines to work in a USAR environment

PUASAR023 Participate in an urban search and rescue Category 1

Competency Field

Search and Rescue

Unit Sector

Not applicable.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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

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| 1 Maintain canine obedience | 1.1 Canine search specialist maintains canine obedience while canine is heeling, off lead |
| | 1.2 Emergency stop with recall is performed by canine search specialist with canine |
| | 1.3 At the direction of the canine search specialist, a down stay is performed by canine while under distraction |
| | 1.4 Canine specialist ensures canine tasks are performed without canine demonstrating aggressive behaviour towards people or other animals |
| 2 Demonstrate canine agility | 2.1 Under canine search specialist direction, an agility course is completed by canine, within required timeframe |
| | 2.2 Under canine search specialist direction, a turn on an elevated plank is performed by canine |
| | 2.3 Agility course is negotiated by canine and canine search specialist in a controlled, safe and appropriate manner |
| 3 Maintain direction and control | 3.1 Canine is directed by canine search specialist to required elevation, direction commands are given to canine and elevation is jumped on by canine |
| | 3.2 Elevation is sustained by canine for a minimum of five seconds until directed by canine search specialist |
| | 3.3 Direction and control course is negotiated by canine and canine search specialist within required timeframe |
| | 3.4 Ability to control work at a distance by canine is demonstrated by canine search specialist |
| 4 Develop canine to indicate live human scent | 4.1 Location of and commitment to live human scent is demonstrated by canine and is interpreted and acted on by canine specialist |
| | 4.2 Alert exercise is undertaken by canine and canine search specialist within required timeframe with location of live human scent being correctly indicated by canine with a bark alert |
| 5 Manage canine in a search to locate victims | 5.1 Interviews and site assessment is conducted to establish an appropriate search strategy |
| | 5.2 Canine is deployed off lead and appropriate actions, indications and characteristics are used by canine and |

canine search specialist to ensure search area is covered within required timeframe

- 5.3 Control of canine is maintained by canine search specialist at all times and assistance to canine is provided, as required
- 5.4 Adjustments are made to search strategy by canine search specialist, as required, in accordance with changes in information, environmental conditions, search progress and current rescue work being undertaken
- 5.5 Location of live human scent is indicated by canine with a bark alert during search of a collapse site
- 5.6 Canine actions, indications and characteristics are interpreted correctly to identify the presence of live human scent by canine specialist
- 5.7 Appropriate care, safety and welfare procedures for canine and canine search specialist are followed, in accordance with organisational policies and procedures and relevant legislation
- 5.8 Post search examination of canine is conducted, 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 PUASAR020A Develop a canine search team for USAR incidents.

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 PUASAR020 Develop a canine search team for USAR incidents

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

- adjusting handling and search strategies in response to changing environments
- applying canine and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) industry guidelines, standards and procedures
- applying Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements
- assisting canine at search sites
- caring for canine
- collecting, analysing and organising information to develop an effective search strategy
- completing site assessments
- conducting a search of a nominated search area
- constructing and completing direction and control course training
- controlling a canine, off lead, including in public locations
- demonstrating appropriate commands when handling a canine
- demonstrating canine agility including completing recall, emergency stops and moving in different directions
- developing canine to indicate live human scent
- following organisational policies and procedures
- handling a canine to maintain control and prevent accidents or injury to canine search specialist and/or others including members of the public
- implementing USAR canine search methods and techniques
- interpreting actions and indications given by a canine
- maintaining direction and control of canine including with distractions
- maintaining physical fitness of canine
- managing canine in a search to locate victims
- managing timeframes and priorities in response to changing search environments
- undertaking post search examination of canine
- working search canines in a controlled and safe manner

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

- alert behaviours of canines and their causes such as a bark
- canine capabilities within Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) operations including canine behaviour, physiology, psychology, olfactory system and care
- canine welfare legislation
- factors that can determine appropriate search strategies
- hazard identification and risk analysis
- industry guidelines or standards on USAR canine search methods and techniques
- organisational documentation, policies and procedures
- principles of canine training including control, association, repetition, commands, rewards, correction, positive motivational methodologies, obedience and agility
- safe working systems to reduce canine related incidents
- scent theory and its application to the USAR environment
- site assessment
- 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.

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

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