



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for PUASAR021 Search as part of a canine search team at USAR incidents

Release: 1

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Modification History

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

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 emergency first aid techniques for canines
- applying industry guidelines
- applying Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements
- assisting canines at search sites
- caring for canines
- collecting, analysing and organising information to develop an effective search strategy
- completing site assessments
- conducting a search
- controlling a canine off lead including in public locations
- demonstrating appropriate commands when handling a canine
- 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
- handling and controlling canine including with distractions
- implementing Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) canine search methods and techniques
- indicating location of live human scent with a bark alert
- interpreting the actions and indications given by a canine
- maintaining canine welfare and safety
- maintaining physical fitness of canine
- making recommendations
- making sound decisions in rapidly changing and often high-risk environments
- managing timeframes and priorities
- preparing for a search
- providing search debriefings
- reporting to relevant personnel
- sketching search site
- undertaking interview questions to ascertain search environment and conditions

- working search canines in a controlled and safe manner
- working with other canine search teams

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 alert
- biological and infectious hazards and safe management, particularly involving human remains
- canine capabilities within Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) operations including canine behaviour, physiology, psychology and olfactory system
- canine care including canine welfare legislation
- disaster victim identification principles and phases of operation
- factors that can determine appropriate search strategies
- hazard identification and risk analysis
- industry guidelines on USAR canine search methods and techniques
- International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) structural and victim marking systems
- interviewing techniques
- organisational documentation, policies and procedures
- principles of canine training including control, association, repetition, commands, rewards, correction, positive motivational methodologies, obedience and agility
- report and information requirements
- safe working systems to reduce canine related incidents
- scent theory and its application to the USAR environment
- site assessments
- site sketching techniques
- 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 accompanying a canine on the rubble pile only when a find is indicated or when directed by the assessor and by conducting four searches within a twenty-four (24) hour period; two searches must be conducted consecutively.

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
 - canines training to work in a USAR environment
- applicable documentation including organisational procedures, industry standards, equipment specifications, regulations, codes of practice and operations manuals.

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>