



Australian Government

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

Release: 1

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

Modification History

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

Application

Canine search teams must be capable of working together in disaster search operations to locate victims. A canine must be capable of searching independently and efficiently, as directed by the 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 canine search specialists intending to work with task forces actively involved in USAR incidents and disaster operations.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

PUASAR020 Develop a canine search team for USAR incidents

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.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Prepare for search | 1.1 Interviews and site assessment are conducted to establish an appropriate search strategy |
| | 1.2 Risks contained in the search area are identified and assessed and appropriate safety procedures are implemented |
| | 1.3 Adjustments are made, where appropriate, to search strategy, in accordance with any changes in information, environmental conditions, search progress and current rescue work being undertaken |
| 2 Handle and control canine | 2.1 Work is undertaken with canine in a safe and appropriate manner |
| | 2.2 Control of canine is maintained, at all times |
| | 2.3 Canine search specialist encourages willingness to work independently in the canine, which is demonstrated by the canine, whilst maintaining control |
| | 2.4 Canine search specialist maintains control whilst, commands are responded to by the canine, in the presence of distractions |
| | 2.5 Assistance is provided by canine search specialist to canine throughout the search, where appropriate |
| 3 Conduct search | 3.1 Canine search specialist deploys canine off lead and confirms appropriate actions and indications by canine to ensure search area is covered |
| | 3.2 Canine search specialist interprets canine demonstration of location is acted upon |
| | 3.3 Actions and indications of canine to correctly identify the presence of live human scent are correctly interpreted by canine search specialist |
| | 3.4 Search area is covered by canine search specialist and canine within required timeframe |
| 4 Provide search debriefing | 4.1 Relevant information is recorded accurately, in accordance with organisational procedures and legislative requirements |
| | 4.2 Sketch of search area showing alert locations is provided to relevant personnel on completion of search |

- | | | |
|---|------------|--|
| | 4.3 | Recommendations are provided to relevant personnel on completion of search |
| 5 Maintain canine welfare and safety | 5.1 | Appropriate care, safety and welfare procedures for canine and canine search specialist are followed, in accordance with organisational policies and procedures and legislative requirements |
| | 5.2 | Basic care of canine is implemented and completed, 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 PUASAR021A Search as part of a canine search team at 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 PUASAR021 Search as part of a canine search team at USAR incidents

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.

As a minimum, assessment must satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, which include requirements in the Standards for Registered Training Organisations current at the time of assessment.

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>