



Australian Government

PUASAR023 Participate in a first response urban search and rescue Category 1

Release: 2

PUASAR023 Participate in a first response urban search and rescue Category 1

Modification History

Release 2. Updated superseded HLT Pre-requisite unit.

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

Application

This unit of competency applies to the role of a USAR Category 1 first responder and involves the skills and knowledge required to provide safe and effective rescue support at a first response Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) incident.

Participating in an urban search and rescue involves assisting with the rescue and removal of surface casualties (lightly trapped) and/or deceased victims, applying basic search techniques and following safe work practices related to Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements.

It also includes the application of specialist equipment and techniques used at USAR incidents and the ability to work as a team member. A person performing this role will operate, under direct supervision, as a member of a USAR first responder rescue team.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

HLTAID011 Provide First Aid

Competency Field

Search and Rescue

Unit Sector

USAR

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

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

1 Prepare for structural collapse rescue

- 1.1** Operation and task information is obtained, and clarification is sought at briefing
- 1.2** Based on incident information received rescue resources are identified, selected and checked to ensure they are ready for use
- 1.3** Personal protective clothing and equipment is selected based on the nature of the structural collapse operation
- 1.4** Systematic approach to identifying potential hazards and associated risks is discussed with team members en route and on approach to the incident

2 Participate in assessing structural collapse rescue

- 2.1** Worksite scene reconnaissance and size up is conducted and the results are reported to supervisor and other rescue team members
- 2.2** Dynamic risk assessment is undertaken, in accordance with organisational procedures, to identify, analyse, record, treat and monitor situational and environmental hazards
- 2.3** Building use, type of occupancy and time of day are assessed for the potential presence of trapped persons and hazards
- 2.4** Building construction methods and collapse patterns are assessed for the presence of survivable voids
- 2.5** Need for additional personnel and/or specialist equipment is reported to supervisor
- 2.6** Communication with primary response team members is maintained using approved communication systems, methods, techniques, terminology and warning system
- 2.7** Liaison with other response organisations or agencies in proximity is maintained
- 2.8** Marking systems and exclusion zones are implemented, in accordance with organisational procedures

3 Determine location and condition of surface casualties

- 3.1** Intelligence on location of surface casualties within a collapsed structure is collected, analysed and reported, in accordance with organisational policies and

		procedures
	3.2	Surface search techniques are implemented to identify and locate casualties, in accordance with organisational procedures and safe work practices
	3.3	Condition of surface or lightly trapped casualties and nature of entrapment is ascertained, where possible
4 Gain access to surface casualties	4.1	Rescue techniques and equipment are employed to stabilise and make incident site safe
	4.2	Located and rescued casualties are packaged, in accordance with organisational procedures and in consultation with medical personnel in attendance
5 Remove casualties	5.1	Rescue techniques and resources are used to remove surface or partially trapped casualties, in accordance with organisational procedures
	5.2	Evidence of casualty identity is collected and processed, in accordance with organisational procedures
	5.3	Actions are taken to preserve the incident scene, where possible, for evidentiary purposes
6 Conclude structural collapse rescue operations	6.1	Equipment is recovered, cleaned and serviced, in accordance with organisational procedures and manufacturers' guidelines
	6.2	Signs and symptoms of operational stress in self and others are reported to relevant personnel
	6.3	Operational debrief is attended and documentation is completed, in accordance with organisational procedures
	6.4	Hygiene precautions are implemented, 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.

casualties must include at least one of the following

- partially and/or lightly trapped casualties able to be rescued using available rescue equipment
- surface and subsurface casualties trapped and not able to be rescued using available rescue equipment
- surface casualties not trapped within the structure

Unit Mapping Information

This unit replaces and is equivalent to PUASAR023A Participate in an urban search and rescue Category 1.

Links

Companion Volume Implementation Guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=3eca5672-6d5a-410b-8942-810d0ba05bbf>

Assessment Requirements for PUASAR023 Participate in a first response urban search and rescue Category 1

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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, performance criteria and range of conditions on at least one occasion and includes

- applying Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements including safe work practices when working with a USAR rescue team
- communicating with rescue team and stakeholders
- completing organisational documentation
- concluding structural collapse rescue operations
- conducting dynamic risk assessments
- determining location and condition of surface casualties
- gaining access to surface casualties with no further injury to persons or damage to property including handling casualties safely
- identifying signs of structural collapse including those associated with secondary collapse
- implementing hygiene precautions
- implementing surface search procedures and clearance of casualties using a systematic approach
- maintaining situational awareness and being alert to and treating environmental and situational hazards
- operating structural rescue equipment safely including stretchers
- participating in assessing structural collapse rescue through reconnaissance
- participating in briefings and debriefings
- preparing for structural collapse rescue, including collecting task information and rescue resources
- preserving the incident scene including disturbing scene only to gain access or make scene safe, taking notes and reporting to supervisor of observations made and preserving the integrity of evidence
- recovering, cleaning and servicing of rescue equipment
- removing casualties
- responding and reacting to instructions in a safe and timely manner
- traversing unstable environments
- using approved marking systems

- utilising equipment and techniques to treat and stabilise trapped casualties
- wearing personal protective clothing and equipment
- working as part of a team within responsible organisation's command and control structure

Knowledge Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence in this unit must be relevant to and satisfy all the requirements of the elements, performance criteria and range of conditions and includes knowledge of

- briefings using Situation, Mission, Execution, Administration/logistics, Command/control and Safety (SMEACS)
- dangers associated with damaged structures, collapse patterns and presence of survivable voids
- establishment of exclusion zones
- hygiene precautions
- industry standards including internationally accepted warning systems
- likelihood of casualties in relation to time of incident, building use and type of occupancy
- methods to preserve the incident scene including disturbing only to gain access or make scene safe, note taking and reporting to supervisor of observations made and preserving the integrity of evidence
- organisational policies and procedures including
 - command and control structure
 - documentation including exposure records
 - equipment security and maintenance
 - hazardous materials procedures
 - injuries and accident reporting procedures
 - legislation, industry standards and codes of practice
 - primary survey procedures
 - roles, responsibilities and capabilities of first response USAR team
 - safe work practices
 - scene assessment for an urban search and rescue
 - search and rescue procedures including calling and listening
 - stretcher handling procedures
- personal protective clothing and equipment
- preservation of scenes
- principles of structural collapse rescue
- purpose of briefs and debriefs
- signs and symptoms of physical and emotional stress
- situational and environmental hazards and dynamic risk assessment
- situational hazards including adverse weather conditions, below debris hazards, biological hazards, hazardous materials, overhead hazards, structural instability, surface hazards and utilities

- structural collapse equipment typically used in the rescue of surface casualties including capabilities and limitations of rescue equipment
- structural collapse marking system and sectors and boundaries
- task information requirements
- Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) legislated 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 processes and techniques must be appropriate to the language, literacy and numeracy requirements of the work being performed and the needs of the candidate.

Assessment must occur in workplace operational situations. Where this is not appropriate, assessment must occur in organisationally approved simulated workplace operational situations that reflect workplace 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 currently used in industry including
 - equipment, personnel and facilities etc. appropriate to an USAR incident
 - USAR incident or simulation of a USAR incident
- applicable documentation including organisational procedures, industry standards, equipment specifications, regulations, codes of practice and operations manuals.

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