



Australian Government

PUASES001 Assess trees at emergency incidents

Release: 1

PUASES001 Assess trees at emergency incidents

Modification History

Release 1.0 This is the first release of this unit of competency in the PUA Public Safety Training Package.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to undertake the assessment of trees at emergency incidents. It includes trees that are no longer standing and are on the ground, are partially fallen or are lying against a structure. The unit applies to trees that have been impacted by an emergency incident which present an unacceptable risk to residents, emergency personnel, utilities, the environment and/or structures.

Tree removal can be undertaken using chainsaws and/or hand tools during emergency incidents. In removing trees, it is essential that safe systems of work to eliminate or minimise risk are implemented. Tree felling licensing and/or certification requirements may apply in some jurisdictions.

The unit is applicable to emergency services personnel who are required to assess trees for removal or stabilisation, under the direction of a crew leader, during an emergency incident. It includes preparing for a tree assessment, undertaking an initial scene assessment, conducting a tree assessment and recording and reporting on tree assessments.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Not applicable.

Competency Field

SES

Unit Sector

SES

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Elements describe the essential Performance criteria describe the performance needed to

outcomes.

demonstrate achievement of the element.

1 Prepare for tree assessment

- 1.1** Select and wear personal protective clothing and equipment, in accordance with organisational procedures, to undertake assessment of trees at the emergency incident
- 1.2** Identify and comply with organisational procedures for assessing trees, including safety requirements and Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) obligations
- 1.3** Establish and maintain communication with crew members whilst assessing trees using approved methods and tools, including hand signals

2 Undertake initial scene assessment

- 2.1** Review environmental conditions, including storm and fire, at emergency incident
- 2.2** Conduct an initial assessment of emergency incident scene
- 2.3** Identify and communicate environmental and other hazards, in accordance with organisational procedures
- 2.4** Assess each scene condition likely to affect safety, including the stability of each tree
- 2.5** Identify entry and exit routes, in accordance with organisational procedures
- 2.6** Complete organisational procedures and/or documentation for tree assessments

3 Conduct tree assessments

- 3.1** Visually assess trees, estimate mass and identify defects
- 3.2** Identify effect of gravity on compression, tension and torsion forces that occur in various parts of the trees
- 3.3** Identify the major load bearing branches of the trees and potential pivot points
- 3.4** Determine and review other factors that may affect removal of trees at emergency incident

4 Record and report on tree assessments

- 4.1** Finalise and record tree assessments, in accordance with organisational procedures
- 4.2** Report tree assessments to approved 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 is a new unit.

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 PUASES001 Assess trees at emergency incidents

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Performance Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence in this unit must be relevant to and satisfy all of the requirements of the elements and performance criteria and must include one practical exercise involving the assessment of trees at an emergency incident in an operational context

- complying with Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) obligations
- conducting visual assessments of trees to identify structural defects and stresses
- determining and reviewing other factors that may affect the removal of trees
- establishing and maintaining communication with crew members and others using approved methods and tools including hand signals
- estimating tree mass
- following organisational policies and procedures including safety requirements for tree operations
- identifying and communicating environmental and other hazards to crew members
- identifying compression, tension and torsion forces in trees
- recognising and reviewing environmental conditions including storm and/or fire conditions that impact trees
- recording and reporting tree assessments
- undertaking scene safety assessments including identifying entry and escape routes
- wearing personal protective clothing and equipment.

Knowledge Evidence

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

- communication methods and/or tools including hand signals
- effects of gravity on compression, tension and torsion forces and the likely outcomes when these forces are released from a tree
- emergency evacuation methods and procedures
- how to conduct tree assessments
- how to estimate tree mass
- organisational policies and procedures relevant to assessing trees at emergency incidents

- safety requirements at emergency incidents including entry and escape routes
- storm and fire conditions and how they impact trees
- types and correct fit of personal protective clothing and equipment
- types of environmental and other hazards at emergency incidents associated with assessing trees
- types of factors and other variables that may impact trees during an emergency incident
- where compression, tension and torsion forces may exist in a tree
- Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) obligations.

Assessment Conditions

Assessors must hold credentials specified within the Standards for Registered Training Organisations current at the time of assessment.

Assessment must satisfy the Principles of Assessment and Rules of Evidence and all regulatory requirements included within the Standards for Registered Training Organisations current at the time of assessment.

Assessment must occur in workplace situations or in simulated training situations that reflect 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

- exercises, case studies or other simulations
- materials, equipment and tools used in industry including personal protective clothing and equipment
- documentation including organisational policies and procedures, industry standards, regulations, codes of practice, operational manuals and equipment specifications.

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