



Australian Government

PUASES016 Apply snowcraft skills when performing search operations

Release: 1

PUASES016 Apply snowcraft skills when performing search operations

Modification History

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

Application

This unit of competency involves the skills and knowledge required to operate safely, perform search operations and apply survival techniques for self and others in an alpine environment. It is applicable to personnel who will be performing operational search activities and/or tasks in an alpine environment and in all weather conditions.

Roles to which this unit may apply include emergency services personnel and other agencies and/or organisations involved in searches operations.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Not applicable

Competency Field

SES Sector

Unit Sector

State/Territory Emergency Services

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

1 Prepare for operation in alpine environments

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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

1.1 Operational and task information is obtained from search coordinator or delegated personnel

1.2 Specific hazards and equipment requirements for

- environmental and operational requirements are identified
- 1.3** Personal protective clothing and equipment is selected and used
- 1.4** Food and water requirements for the operation, environment and physical activity are identified and selected, in accordance with organisational procedures
- 1.5** Environment and/or weather conditions for anticipated period of operational response are determined
- 1.6** Own ability to meet anticipated physical and psychological requirements of operation is evaluated and any issues anticipated are reported to the team leader
- 2 Undertake operations in an alpine environment**
- 2.1** Deployment to operational response area using transportation is undertaken in a safe and timely manner
- 2.2** Specified team roles and functions are carried out safely, as directed by the team leader
- 2.3** Search safety is maintained, in accordance with organisational procedures
- 2.4** Search formation and spacing are undertaken and maintained as outlined by the team leader, in accordance with organisational procedures
- 2.5** Search boundaries are marked, in accordance with task requirements, under the direction of the team leader
- 2.6** Observation skills are applied, and any clues or objects located are immediately reported, in accordance with organisational procedures
- 2.7** Communication within the team is maintained
- 2.8** Safety and wellbeing of self and others is monitored, and any concerns are reported to the team leader
- 2.9** Hazards are continually monitored, risks assessed, and any concerns identified are reported, in accordance with organisational procedures
- 3 Perform survival techniques**
- 3.1** Emergency shelter is constructed appropriately for current and anticipated conditions

- 3.2 Weather conditions and other information is interpreted, and actions are taken to minimise effects of weather on self and others
 - 3.3 First aid is applied to self and others, as required
 - 3.4 Lost searcher drills are conducted, as required, in accordance with organisational procedures
 - 3.5 Welfare of self and others is sustained
 - 3.6 Situational awareness is maintained and changing environment and weather conditions are responded to in a timely manner
- 4 **Complete recall and stand down procedures**
 - 4.1 Search equipment is recovered, cleaned and maintained, in accordance with organisational procedures and manufacturers' guidelines
 - 4.2 Operational debriefing is participated in and documentation is completed, in accordance with organisational procedures and standards
 - 4.3 Symptoms of operational stress in self and others is recognised and reported to relevant personnel

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 PUASES016A Apply snowcraft skills when performing search operations.

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 PUASES016 Apply snowcraft skills when performing search operations

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

- anticipating current and future conditions and other factors
- applying Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements including hazard identification, risk management and working safely
- communicating with team members
- completing recall and stand down procedures including debriefings
- constructing temporary emergency snow shelters
- identifying food and water requirements
- implementing organisational policies and procedures
- interpreting weather conditions and/or information
- meeting physical and psychological requirements
- performing and applying survival techniques in an alpine environment including conducting lost searcher drills and applying first aid
- preparing for operation in an alpine environment
- recognising and reporting stress
- sustaining welfare of self and others
- travelling in an alpine environment over snow
- undertaking search operations in an alpine environment including using observation skills and marking boundaries
- using snow equipment including personal protective clothing and equipment

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

- communication techniques
- factors and conditions that may impact search operations
- factors that impact avalanches including terrain
- first aid inclusive of the signs, symptoms and treatment of hypothermia
- memorandums of understanding, agreements and codes of practice

- minimisation of environmental impact
- organisational documentation, policies and procedures including the procedures for cleaning and discarding equipment
- physical and psychological requirements
- signs and symptoms of stress
- snow equipment including personal protective clothing and equipment
- snow shelter construction techniques
- sources of information on weather and snow conditions
- survival techniques including food, water and shelter
- Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) legislated requirements including hazard identification, risk mitigation and safe working practices

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 industry 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 including
 - at least two hazards which are applicable to taking part in activities in an alpine environment in variable weather and conditions
- relevant and appropriate materials, tools and personal protective clothing and equipment currently used in industry including
 - equipment used in alpine operations
- applicable documentation including organisational procedures, industry standards, equipment specifications, regulations, codes of practice and operations manuals.

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