



Australian Government

PUAFIR204B Respond to wildfire

Revision Number: 2

PUAFIR204B Respond to wildfire

Modification History

Release	TP Version	Comments
2	PUA12 V2	Content reviewed Application of the Unit added Method of assessment added
1	PUA00 V8.1	Primary release on TGA

Unit Descriptor

This unit covers the competency required to respond to a wildfire, work as a safe and situationally-aware member of a crew to attack and extinguish a fire, participate in mop-up and patrol operations, and prepare equipment for the next crew.

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

Application of the Unit

This unit applies to personnel who work as a member of a team. Work at this level is undertaken under direct supervision and instruction.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not applicable.

Pre-Requisites

PUAFIR215 Prevent injury

Employability Skills Information

This unit contains employability skills.

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a Unit of Competency.

Performance Criteria describe the required performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where ***bold italicised*** text is used, further information is detailed in the Range Statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the Evidence Guide.

Elements and Performance Criteria

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Prepare to respond to fire | <ul style="list-style-type: none">1.1 Information about location of fire, <i>type of wildfire</i> and most effective route to the fire is obtained, taking into account local conditions.1.2 Personal protective clothing and equipment, and food and fluid requirements are identified and relevant preparations undertaken prior to departure as per organisational standards. |
| 2. Proceed to fire | <ul style="list-style-type: none">2.1 Location of the fire and <i>type of fuel</i> is confirmed on approach.2.2 Access to the area is gained safely without damage to vehicles and equipment, and minimum damage to the environment.2.3 <i>Evidence relevant to fire cause</i> is noted and brought to the attention of the supervisor.2.4 <i>Indicators of fire behaviour</i> are observed and communicated to supervisor. |
| 3. Obtain and use firefighting equipment and extinguishing media | <ul style="list-style-type: none">3.1 Nominated <i>extinguishing media</i> and <i>firefighting equipment</i> are located and obtained.3.2 Equipment is used in accordance with organisational and manufacturer's procedures. |
| 4. Combat wildfire | <ul style="list-style-type: none">4.1 Instructions are received, <i>firefighting strategies and tactics</i> are confirmed and implemented in accordance with organisational safe work practices and procedures.4.2 <i>Suppression techniques</i>, equipment and extinguishing media appropriate to wildfire conditions are used.4.3 Control lines are prepared in accordance with supervisor's instructions.4.4 Equipment is positioned, made ready for use and protected from damage in accordance with organisational procedures.4.5 Fire is attacked taking into account <i>wildfire hazards</i> as directed and in accordance with organisational procedures.4.6 Evidence of fire cause and area of fire origin are protected.4.7 <i>Communication</i> is maintained at all times in accordance with organisational procedures. |
| 5. Observe and react to wildfire and weather conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">5.1 Conditions at the fire are observed and their effect on fire behaviour and development are noted and reported to supervisor. |

- 5.2 ***Weather conditions*** and changes to fire behaviour are observed and reported to supervisor.
- 5.3 ***Variations in topography, fuel features*** and fuel arrangements are observed and effect on fire behaviour is reported to supervisor as required.
- 5.4 ***Escape routes*** and ***safety zones*** are identified and maintained at all times.
- 5.5 Communication is maintained with other firefighting personnel and supervisor throughout operational activities.
- 6. **Participate in mop-up and patrol activities and support operations**
 - 6.1 Mopping-up activities are carried out in accordance with organisational procedures.
 - 6.2 Patrol of the perimeter or sector of the fire is maintained in accordance with organisational procedures.
 - 6.3 Activities to ***support firefighting operations*** are carried out in accordance with organisational procedures.
- 7. **Recover and store equipment**
 - 7.1 Equipment and ***consumables*** are recovered as directed.
 - 7.2 Equipment is stored in accordance with organisational procedures.
 - 7.3 Cleaning and maintenance are carried out in accordance with organisational procedures.
 - 7.4 Damaged or lost equipment is reported in accordance with organisational procedures.

Required Skills and Knowledge

This describes the essential skills and knowledge and their level, required for this unit.

Required Skills

- detect hot spots, hazardous trees, unsecured wildfire perimeter
- undertake dry and wet wildfire attack
- use wildfire control tools and equipment
- work as a member of a team

Required Knowledge

- communication on the fireground
- extinguishing media, water, foam, suppressants
- fire behaviour (fuel, weather and topography)
- health and fitness requirements
- hygiene and wellbeing
- organisational operating procedures
- safe work practices
- wildfire control tactics and techniques
- wildfire hazards, safety techniques

Evidence Guide

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit

Assessment must confirm the ability to:

- react to changing wildfire behaviour due to changes in weather, topography and fuel conditions
- use firefighting equipment
- participate in dry wildfire control
- use extinguishing media in wildfire control
- maintain health and safety of self, other workers and people in the immediate work area
- participate in mop-up and patrol
- undertake operational activities safely

Consistency in performance

Competency should be demonstrated over time in a range of actual and/or simulated field-based workplace environments.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

Context of assessment

Competency should be assessed in an agency approved simulated and/or field-based workplace environment.

Specific resources for assessment

Access is required to:

- controlled or contained fires and/or simulated workplace environment
- firefighting equipment and extinguishing media

Method of assessment

In a public safety environment assessment is usually conducted via direct observation in a training environment or in the workplace via subject matter supervision and/or mentoring, which is typically recorded in a competency workbook.

Assessment is completed using appropriately qualified assessors who select the most appropriate method of assessment.

Assessment may occur in an operational environment or in an industry-approved simulated work environment. Forms of assessment that are typically used include:

- direct observation
- interviewing the candidate
- journals and workplace documentation
- third party reports from supervisors
- written or oral questions

Range Statement

The Range Statement relates to the Unit of Competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. ***Bold italicised*** wording in the Performance Criteria is detailed below.

<i>Type of wildfire</i> must include:	• crown • ground • surface
<i>Type of fuel</i> may include:	• crop • forest • grass • heath • peat, coal and combustible soils • plantation • scrub
<i>Evidence relevant to fire cause</i> may include:	• fresh vehicles tracks • items or objects at scene • nature and behaviour of fire at the scene upon arrival • nature and colour of smoke and number of columns • people and vehicles leaving the scene • whether gates on access routes to the fire are closed, opened or locked
<i>Indicators of fire behaviour</i> may include:	• flame height and length • noise • rate of spread • smoke colour and density • spotting
<i>Extinguishing media</i> must include:	• water
and may also include:	• Class A foam • retardants • soil • wetting agents
<i>Firefighting equipment</i> must include:	• drip torch • hand tools • hose and small gear • knap sack • pump

	• tanker
and may also include:	• chainsaw • ropes and lines
Firefighting strategies must include:	• defensive • direct attack • indirect attack • offensive: • parallel attack
Firefighting tactics may include:	• backburning • burning out • control line construction • mopping-up • patrol • use of extinguishing media
Suppression techniques may include:	• dry firefighting • wet firefighting
Wildfire hazards may include:	• burns • disorientation • electrical installations and powerlines • embers • falling branches/trees • fatigue • heat related illness • lack of visibility • machinery/vehicle • manual handling • noise • radiant heat • smoke inhalation • snake or insect bite • sprain or fracture • trips and falls • water bombing operations
Communication may include:	• paging • personal contact • phone • radio • written notes
Weather conditions may include:	• atmospheric stability • relative humidity

	• temperature • variations to wind speed and direction
Variations in topography may include:	• aspect • elevation • landscape features • slope
Fuel features must include:	• arrangement/distribution • moisture content • quantity • size • type
Escape routes may include:	• prepared tracks • roads • trails • waterways
Safety zones may include:	• bare ground • burnt areas • clearings • rivers • site of a recent wildfire or prescribed burn • static water bodies
Support firefighting operations may include:	• providing/transporting food, water and equipment for an incident • working with earth moving equipment such as bulldozer, grader, tractor with blade
Consumables may include:	• flagging tape • fuel • rubbish • signs

Unit Sector(s)

Not applicable.

Corequisite Unit/s

Co-requisite Unit/s Nil