
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES -
STRUCTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL**
Investigate and report on fire cause

level:	6
credit:	15
final date for comment:	March 2008
expiry date:	December 2009
sub-field:	Fire and Rescue Services
purpose:	<p>This unit standard is suitable for people who have the responsibility for investigating, reporting on, and substantiating their investigations into the cause and origins of fire.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate knowledge of the statutory powers of fire and rescue service personnel to investigate fire cause; identify, gather, control, and retain evidence from a fire scene; and deduce the area of fire origin, the probable fire cause, and establish a profile of related events.</p>
entry information:	Open.
accreditation option:	Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.
moderation option:	A national moderation system of moderation networks has been established by the Fire and Rescue Services Industry Training Organisation.
special notes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Compliance with the fire and rescue service provider's Health and Safety policy and procedures is mandatory.2 Assessment against this unit standard may take place under real or practical simulated conditions.

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- 3 Legislation applying this unit standard includes the Fire Service Act 1975, and subsequent amendments.
- 4 Definition
organisational best practice refers to the candidate's own workplace planning policies, procedures, and quality systems.
- 5 *Fire and rescue service provider's requirements or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)* refer to policies and procedures on safety and operation set down by each fire and rescue service employer or host organisation.

Elements and Performance Criteria

element 1

Demonstrate knowledge of the statutory powers of fire and rescue personnel to investigate fire cause.

performance criteria

- 1.1 Legislation that empowers fire and rescue service personnel to investigate fire cause is related to SOPs.
- 1.2 Delegations and authorities to investigate fire cause are identified and applied in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures.
- 1.3 Situations where the fire and rescue services must advise the New Zealand Police and other agencies when investigating fire cause are identified in accordance with organisational policy.

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element 2

Identify, gather, control, and retain evidence from a fire scene.

performance criteria

- 2.1 Variable sources of evidence from a fire are identified and collected in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures.
- Range: may include but is not limited to - physical evidence, bystander witnesses reports, fire and rescue service response crews reports, profiles of related events.
- 2.2 Evidence controlled and retained minimises disruption to the fire scene in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures.
- 2.3 Scene surveys are supervised to ensure the completeness of the body of evidence gathered in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures.
- Range: exterior examination, interior examination, wider scene examination.
- 2.4 Analysis of evidence gathered determines its quality in relation to fire cause and any requirement for forensic examination in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures.
- Range: primary evidence, secondary evidence, non-related evidence.

element 3

Deduce the area of fire origin, probable fire cause, and establish a profile of related events.

performance criteria

- 3.1 The area of fire origin and the point of ignition are identified in accordance with organisational best practice.

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- 3.2 The probable fire cause is deduced through the examination of gathered evidence in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures.
- 3.3 Crucial evidence is captured and controlled for the purposes of forensic testing in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures.
- Range: may include but is not limited to - evidence that relates to circumstances surrounding ignition, evidence supporting the investigators theory of probable ignition, evidence of a suspicious nature.
- 3.4 The results of forensic testing are incorporated into a profile of evidence through consultation with other subject experts in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures.
- 3.5 Reports are developed that identify, analyse, and make explanations of the probable fire cause in accordance with organisational requirements.
- Range: may include but is not limited to - the fire and rescue service provider, national rural fire authority, coroner, territorial authority, legal agencies, insurance agencies, building agencies.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the Fire and Rescue Services Industry Training Organisation info@frsito.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.

Please Note

Providers must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority or a delegated inter-institutional body before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Accredited providers and Industry Training Organisations assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

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Accreditation requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for providers wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

This unit standard is covered by AMAP 0039 which can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/site/framework/search.html>.