

Conduct an initial investigation into the cause of a structural fire

Level 5

Credits 6

Purpose This unit standard is intended for a fire service Fire Officer in Charge who has the initial responsibility for investigating and reporting the origin and probable cause of a structural fire.

People credited with this unit standard are able to, in a structural fire: demonstrate knowledge of the statutory powers and organisational policy empowering fire and rescue service personnel to investigate fire cause; identify and collect evidence from the scene of a structural fire; determine the origin and probable cause of a structural fire; and report on the probable cause of a structural fire.

Subfield	Fire and Rescue Services
Domain	Fire and Rescue Services - Structural and Industrial
Status	Registered
Status date	20 November 2009
Date version published	20 November 2009
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Entry information	Prerequisite: Unit 20392, <i>Protect and preserve a fire scene</i> , or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills.
Accreditation	Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.
Standard setting body (SSB)	Fire and Rescue Services Industry Training Organisation

Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference 0039

This AMAP can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Special notes

- 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.

- 3 Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes the Fire Service Act 1975, and the Privacy Act 1993.
- 4 **Definition**
Fire and rescue service provider's requirements refer to policies and procedures on safety and operation set down by each fire and rescue service employer or host organisation.
- 5 This unit standard is one of a series of unit standards for the investigation of structural and industrial fires, each of which reflect the level of responsibility and complexity of the fire investigation. The other unit standard in this series is Unit 16953, *Substantiate, determine, and report on the cause of structural fires*.

Elements and performance criteria

Element 1

Demonstrate knowledge of the statutory powers and organisational policy empowering 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 described and related to the fire and rescue service provider's requirements.
- 1.2 The organisational responsibilities of the Fire Officer in Charge with regard to the initial fire investigation are described in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's requirements.
- 1.3 Situations requiring investigation by the New Zealand Police and other agencies are identified in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's requirements.

Element 2

Identify and collect evidence from the scene of a structural fire.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Evidence from the scene of a structural fire is identified, collected, collated, and recorded in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's requirements.

Range may include but is not limited to – witness reports, photographic evidence, fire and rescue service response crew reports.

- 2.2 The scene of a structural fire is surveyed in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's requirements.
- Range exterior examination, interior examination, equipment involved, heat source, wider scene examination, completeness of evidence.

Element 3

Determine the origin and probable cause of a structural fire.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 The area of fire origin and the point of ignition are identified in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's requirements, and are supported by evidence gathered in surveys.
- 3.2 The probable fire cause is determined through the examination and weighing of gathered evidence in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's requirements.

Element 4

Report on the probable cause of a structural fire.

- Range may include but is not limited to – Incident Computer Aided Dispatch (ICAD) reports, Police reports, insurance reports.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Fire cause and determination reports are developed from available evidence in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's requirements.
- Range internal and external agency reporting requirements.
- 4.2 Fire reports for structural fires are completed and submitted in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's requirements.

Please note

Providers must be accredited by NZQA, or an inter-institutional body with delegated authority for quality assurance, before they can report credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by NZQA 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.

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 organisations

wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

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.