

## 40699 Provide support at urban search and rescue operations

<b>Kaupae   Level</b>	3
<b>Whiwhinga   Credit</b>	4
<b>Whāinga   Purpose</b>	<p>This skill standard is intended for those in support roles during Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) incidents.</p> <p>People credited with this skill standard are able to: explain USAR structures; outline building construction methods and collapse patterns; and demonstrate safe surface search and rescue techniques.</p> <p>This skill standard can be used for assessment within programmes across the Emergency Management sector.</p>

### Hua o te ako me Paearu aromatawai | Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Hua o te ako   Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai   Assessment criteria
1. Explain USAR structures.	a. Define USAR roles and responsibilities.
	b. Outline types and applications of specialist resources.
	c. Explain initial action strategies and the incident command systems.
	d. Explain logistics and planning considerations in USAR operations.
	e. Outline international structures and operations.
2. Outline building construction methods and recognise associated structural collapse patterns.	a. Outline methods of building construction and associated hazards when collapsed.
	b. Identify structural collapse patterns and potential victim locations.
	c. Recognise indicators of secondary structural collapse.

Hua o te ako   Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai   Assessment criteria
3. Demonstrate safe surface search and rescue techniques in USAR activities.	a. Identify personal health and safety challenges and management strategies related to response work.
	b. Identify situational and environmental hazards and outline control methods.
	c. Outline a structural collapse response plan for surface operations.
	d. Plan search activities to systematically cover all search areas, using sectorisation and geographic identification.
	e. Use Rapid Clearing Marking (RCM) System for search assessment and victim marking.
	f. Demonstrate safe and effective urban search and rescue techniques during surface rescues.

### Pārongo aromatawai me te taumata paearu | Assessment information and grade criteria

#### Assessment specifications:

- This standard may be assessed in simulated conditions.
- Assessment of this standard must be consistent with the latest version of the primary reference documents for this standard: USAR Awareness Student Manuals.
- Assessment locations may include various realistic environments such as – rubble piles, and demolition sites.
- Assessment criterion 3c include personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Assessment criterion 3f includes safe working practices during line and hail search, rubble crawl, stretcher walk, hasty search, lifting, cribbing and moving by means of basic tools and team communication.

### Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved.

### Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

Urban search and rescue response structures.

- Urban search and rescue response roles and responsibilities: Category 1 - awareness/responder, Category 2 - technician, Category 3 - manager.
- Specialist resources for USAR: structural and technical, search and detection, medical and rescue support, communications and logistics, and animal rescue and welfare.
- Incident command systems and initial action strategies: CIMS and INSARAG.
- Logistical and planning considerations: awareness of resources responders may need to access.

### Building construction and structural collapse.

- Building construction methods: light timber, reinforced masonry, unreinforced masonry, concrete tilt slab, reinforced concrete and steel.
- Structural collapse patterns: V collapse, lean to floor, curtain wall, inwards/outwards, angle wall, lean over, and pancake.
- Indicators of secondary structural collapse: movement in structure, visual indicators, audible indicators, indicators of slope failure/landslide.
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### Safe working practice for USAR operations.

- Personal protective equipment and health considerations: helmet, whistle, full-length suitable clothing, headlamp, hand torch, safety goggles, dust mask, respirators, gloves, first aid kit, knife or utility scissors, safety boots, ear plugs, knee pads, elbow pads.
- Personal health and hygiene issues and management strategies: dehydration, fatigue, body substance isolation, stress, claustrophobia, psychological challenges and appropriate decontamination.
- USAR hazard identification and management.
- Hazard management techniques: structural instability, below-debris hazards, surface hazards, overhead hazards, hazardous materials, utilities and landslides.

### Surface search and rescue techniques.

- Structural collapse response planning: reconnaissance, elimination of utilities, primary surface search and rescue, safe exploration of immediately accessible voids, access by selected debris removal, awareness of termination by general debris removal.
- Systematic search planning: sectoring search areas, geographical identification.
- Rapid clearance marking.
- USAR techniques: hasty search, line and hail search, rubble crawl, stretcher walk, terminology, personal protective equipment, silence, team communication, signals, debris removal, international warning signals.

### Rauemi | Resources

Where the resources have been updated, please refer to the latest version.

- Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002.  
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2002/0033/latest/whole.html>.
- FENZ. *USAR Awareness Student Manuals*. Available from Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ).
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.  
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2015/0070/latest/DLM5976660.html>.
- International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG). (2020). *INSARAG guidelines: Volume II: Preparedness and response*. <https://insarag.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/INSARAG20Guidelines20Vol20II20C20Man20B.pdf>.
- National Emergency Management Agency. (2024, May). *New Zealand Response Teams (NZ-RTs)*. <https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/nz-rt-new-zealand-response-teams>.

**Pārongo Whakaū Kouna | Quality assurance information**

<b>Ngā rōpū whakatau-paerewa  </b> Standard Setting Body	Toitū te Waiora Community, Health, Education, and Social Services Workforce Development Council
<b>Whakaritenga Rārangi Paetae Aromatawai  </b> DASS classification	Community and Social Services > Civil Defence Emergency Management > Civil Defence Emergency Management Response
<b>Ko te tohutoro ki ngā Whakaritenga i te Whakamanatanga me te Whakaōritenga  </b> CMR	0223

<b>Hātepe  </b> Process	<b>Putanga  </b> Version	<b>Rā whakaputa  </b> Review Date	<b>Rā whakamutunga mō te aromatawai  </b> Last date for assessment
<b>Rēhitatanga  </b> Registration	1	24 July 2025	N/A
<b>Kōrero whakakapinga  </b> Replacement information	This skill standard replaced unit standard 18516.		
<b>Rā arotake  </b> Planned review date	31 December 2030		

Please contact Toitū te Waiora Community, Health, Education, and Social Services Workforce Development Council at [qualifications@toitutewaioara.nz](mailto:qualifications@toitutewaioara.nz) to suggest changes to the content of this skill standard.