

<b>Title</b>	<b>Conduct an initial investigation into the cause of a structural fire</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>6</b>

<b>Purpose</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to, in a structural fire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- demonstrate knowledge of the statutory powers and organisational policy empowering fire and emergency agency personnel to investigate fire cause;</li> <li>- identify and collect evidence from the scene of a structural fire;</li> <li>- determine the origin and probable cause of a structural fire; and</li> <li>- report on the probable cause of a structural fire.</li> </ul>
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<b>Classification</b>	Fire and Rescue Services > Fire and Rescue Services - Structural and Industrial
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<b>Available grade</b>	Achieved
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<b>Prerequisites</b>	Unit 20392, <i>Protect and preserve a fire scene</i> ; or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills.
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### Guidance Information

- 1 Compliance with the fire and rescue service provider's Health and Safety policy and procedures is mandatory.
- 2 Assessment against this unit standard must take place under real or simulated conditions.
- 3 Definition  
*Fire and emergency agency's requirements* refer to policies, procedures and supporting documentation on safety and operations set down by each fire and emergency agency employer or host organisation
- 4 Assessment against all outcomes must be in accordance with the fire and emergency agency's requirements.

- 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*.

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## Outcomes and performance criteria

### Outcome 1

Demonstrate knowledge of the statutory powers and organisational policy empowering fire and emergency agency personnel to investigate fire cause.

#### Performance criteria

- 1.1 Legislation that empowers fire and emergency agency personnel to investigate fire cause is described and related to the fire and emergency agency's requirements.
- 1.2 The organisational responsibilities of the Fire Officer in Charge with regard to the initial fire investigation are described.
- 1.3 Situations requiring investigation by the New Zealand Police and other agencies are identified.

### Outcome 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.
- 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.
- Range exterior examination, interior examination, equipment involved, heat source, wider scene examination, completeness of evidence.

### Outcome 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 and are supported by evidence gathered in surveys.
- 3.2 The probable fire cause is determined through the examination and weighing of gathered evidence.

**Outcome 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.

Range internal and external agency reporting requirements.

4.2 Fire reports for structural fires are completed and submitted.

<b>Planned review date</b>	31 December 2023
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**Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions**

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	20 November 2009	N/A
Revision and Rollover	2	30 September 2021	N/A

<b>Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference</b>	0039
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact The Skills Organisation [reviewcomments@skills.org.nz](mailto:reviewcomments@skills.org.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.