

Professional Standard: Registered Prescribed Burn Operations Officer (Complex Burns)

Authority

This standard was endorsed by the EMPS Panel in August 2018.

Context

The Emergency Management Professionalisation Scheme (the Scheme) is a program to recognise the skills, abilities and experience of emergency management practitioners.

Established by AFAC, the national council and peak body for fire, land management and emergency service agencies in Australia and New Zealand, the Scheme is an initiative designed to promote emergency management as a profession.

The Scheme is open to career and volunteer personnel of AFAC member agencies, as well as individuals from other approved organisations.

Scope of application

This standard applies to applicants seeking registration in the role of Registered Prescribed Burn Operations Officer (Complex Burns). Registered Prescribed Burn Operations Officers (Complex Burns) have demonstrated proficiency in management of all operational aspects and resources allocated to a complex prescribed burn.

This category of registration is limited to prescribed burning personnel only and is hazard-specific. Registered Prescribed Burn Operations Officers (Complex Burns) are proficient in the management of all operational aspects and resources allocated to a complex prescribed burn, i.e. a burn characterised by moderate to high risk, a range of fire intensity, medium to large areas, significant potential impact on assets and involving a variety of fuels and terrain.

This role has previously been given different titles in different Australasian jurisdictions including Burn Incident Controller, Burns Officer in Charge, Burn Controller and Prescribed Burn Operations Officer. This credential is intended to encompass the required knowledge and experience for all those roles and reflects a proposed national approach to naming conventions for this role.

Applicants may be career staff or volunteers of AFAC member agencies or personnel from other approved organisations.

Credential

Registration as a Prescribed Burn Operations Officer (Complex Burns) is awarded to an individual who has successfully fulfilled all eligibility requirements. Individuals will be recognised as proficient in prescribed burn operations, with at least two years' relevant experience.

Education requirements for Prescribed Burn Operations Officer (Complex Burns)

Applicants must be able to provide documented evidence of successful completion of the education components and all associated prerequisites as specified in Table 1.

Table 1:

Course or Program
PUATEA001 Work in a team PUAFIR210 Prevent injury PUAFIR204 Respond to wildfire PUAFIR303 Suppress wildfire PUAOPE020 Lead a crew PUAOPE016 Manage a multi-team sector PUAOPE015 Conduct briefings and debriefings PUAFIR506 Conduct complex prescribed burns
A vocational or other qualification which was awarded after formal assessment and which in the view of the Panel provides evidence of the Applicant's competence as a prescribed burn planner equivalent to the PSTP units of competency described above.

Experience requirements for Prescribed Burn Operations Officer (Complex Burns)

An applicant must be able to provide documented evidence to demonstrate that he or she:

- Has committed to the EMPS Code of Ethics 2017.
- Has successfully fulfilled the role of Prescribed Burn Operations Officer for complex burns (defined as a burn characterised by moderate to high risk, a range of fire intensity, medium to large areas, significant potential impact on assets and involving a variety of fuels and terrain) for at least two years and has managed operations for a minimum of three complex burns, with at least one being in the 12 months before applying.
- Is supported by their home agency or jurisdiction.

Definitions

Complex burn:

A burn characterised by moderate to high risk, a range of fire intensity, medium to large areas, significant potential impact on assets and involving a variety of fuels and terrain.

Prescribed Burn Operations Officer

The person responsible for the management of all operational aspects and resources allocated to a complex prescribed burn. This role has been variously described as Burn Incident Controller, Burns Officer in Charge, Burn Controller and Prescribed Burn Operations Officer in different Australasian jurisdictions.

Review

This standard will commence August 2018. The Panel will review this standard following five years of operation or as required.

Related professional standards

- Code of Ethics (2017).
- Professional Standard: Continuing Professional Development (2018).