

Professional Standard: Registered Planning Officer

Authority

This standard was approved by the AFAC Council on 30 April 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 Planning Officer. A proficient Planning Officer will be able to manage the Planning Section in a fully developed incident management structure, including an understanding of the purpose and function of the Units within the Planning Section and the ability to manage those units in the context of a complex incident.

Hazard specific expertise is evaluated as part of the education component of eligibility and is a matter for the assessing agency to determine. Registration is limited to the role and is not separated into hazard classes.

Applicants may be career staff or volunteers of AFAC member agencies or personnel from approved government, commercial or other entities.

Credential

The Registered Planning Officer credential is awarded to an individual who has successfully fulfilled all eligibility requirements. Individuals will be recognised as proficient in management of the Planning function as defined in AIIMS, with experience in running a Planning section at incidents of moderate to significant impact and complexity.

No distinction is drawn between registration of Planning Officers for level 2 and level 3 incidents. This is because in order to be eligible for registration, an applicant must demonstrate their ability to manage a developed Planning Section at an incident. Familiarity with managing planning at a less complex incident, for example managing resources and creating an outline Incident Action Plan at a level 2 incident, is not sufficient to meet the requirements for registration. The practical difference between managing a developed Planning section at a level 2 as opposed to a level 3 incident will be limited and there is no 'level 3' unit of competency in the Public Safety Training Package.

Education requirements for Registered Planning Officer

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

Table 1:

Course or Program
PUAOPE025 Manage planning for a complex incident
An AFAC member agency course for Planning Officers working in developed incident management structures which is formally assessed against criteria equivalent to PUAOPE025
A qualification which was awarded after formal assessment and which in the view of the Panel provides evidence of the Applicant’s competence to manage the Planning Section in developed incident management structures equivalent to PUAOPE025

Eligibility – Registered Planning Officer

Applicants 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 Planning Officer managing a developed Planning Section at moderate to high impact emergency events, including managing Units within the Section, for at least two years and in a minimum of three instances, with at least one instance being in the 12 months before applying.
- Is supported by their home agency or jurisdiction.

Definitions

A moderate to high impact event:

Is a Level 2 or level 3 incident or equivalent as described in the AIIMS Manual and as determined by the Panel.

Instance:

Is an operational incident, an exercise involving a realistic simulation of an operational incident, or a pre-formed incident management team stood up in anticipation of an operational incident.

Review

This standard will commence April 2018. The Panel will review this standard after five years or as required.

Related professional standards

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