

PROBATIONARY FIELD TEAM MEMBER COMPETENCIES



Acknowledgment:

Vertical Horizonz New Zealand, (VHNZ), have been working collaboratively with Land Search and Rescue New Zealand, (LandSAR NZ), to develop this competency and the assessment criteria against which this competency will be assessed.

VHNZ works with many national and international companies and government organisations in developing workplace competencies, assessments and training that produce competent personnel.



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Competency description

The probationary competency contains the minimum level of outdoor knowledge and skills a field based land search and rescue responder needs in order to be safely deployed in a typical land search and rescue environment which is often in the backcountry.

The probationary competency is not a designated role but should be seen as either a guideline for the recruitment of new members or the start point for the specific land search and rescue training required by individuals to fulfil the role of a competent field team member. The competency could also be used to demonstrate core outdoor capabilities for other roles within the land search and rescue environment.

Anyone holding this competency is required to perform the following tasks correctly:

- Follow a route on and off a marked track in a bush environment.
- Select and establish a campsite.
- Maintain hygiene.
- Provide food.
- Maintain personal health and wellbeing in the wilderness.
- Use search and rescue clothing and equipment.
- Demonstrate appropriate personal attributes for working in a team or group.

Entry point

This competency provides a baseline level of readiness for further SAR specific training and as such has no pre-requisites.

It is expected however that individuals will have sufficient real world experience of applying the knowledge and skills contained in this competency as a result of being an active outdoor recreationalist.

Currency

Once a member has attained this competency there is no need for further revalidation – they will remain current for the duration of their LandSAR membership.

Outcomes with grey background require initial assessment but no subsequent reassessments.

Competencies

1.0 Basic route selection

Outcome: Must be able to follow a route on and off a marked track in a bush environment

1.1 Describe different types of track and track markers and the frequency with which they are likely to be found.

Range: Tracks may include but are not limited to –

Well surfaced and level, water crossing (with or without bridge), raised walkways, unformed, rough, very steep.

Markers may include but are not limited to – purpose-built signage, poles, rock cairns, axe slashes, improvised markers, directional information.

1.2 Demonstrate appropriate walking skills on and off track at both day and night and taking account of seasonal variations. Conditions must reflect the local environment in terms of rain, snow, wind and extreme heat.

Range: May include but is not limited to – speed, rhythm, foot placement, steep or difficult terrain

1.3 Identify decision points and then make the correct navigational decision.

8.0 General Bushcraft

Outcome: Select and establish a campsite

8.1 Identify an area suitable as a campsite.

Range: Must consider shelter, access to water, hazards, access, fuel source, flooding, day/night.

8.2 Demonstrate establishing a shelter that provides protection from prevailing weather conditions.

8.3 Demonstrate decommissioning the site and returning it to its natural state.

Outcome: Prepare and provide food.

8.4 Explain safety and hygiene considerations in establishing food preparation and cooking sites.

Range: Water collection, water safety.

8.5 Demonstrate preparing food that is free from contamination.

Outcome: Maintain personal hygiene.

8.6 Explain the procedures for siting of personal facilities.

8.7 Describe how waste materials are disposed of.

Range: Rubbish, personal waste..

8.8 Explain how to maintain own hygiene for self-protection and the protection of others

6.0 Clothing, equipment and personal safety.

Outcome: Must be able to determine and select appropriate clothing and equipment suitable for the environment and climate.

6.1 Demonstrate selection and use of clothing and equipment in accordance with the environmental conditions and duration of the event.

6.2 Demonstrate that clothing and equipment is maintained and ready for wilderness activities.

6.3 Demonstrate how clothing and equipment is efficiently packed ready for use for the day's expected conditions and activities.

Range: To include: personal equipment, team equipment.

Outcome: Maintain personal health and wellbeing in the wilderness.

6.4 Identify an individual's physical and medical limitations in terms of requirements for wilderness activities.

6.5 Demonstrate knowledge of personal risk factors from outdoor activities and actions that can mitigate these.

Range: May include but is not limited to -heat illness, hypothermia, fatigue, dehydration.

9.0 Appropriate personal attributes for inclusion in a SAR team/group.

Outcome: Must be able to demonstrate appropriate personal attributes for inclusion in a SAR team/group.

9.1 May include but not limited to: willing contributor to the team, understanding of personal limitations, accepting of feedback, perseverance, patience, integrity and initiative.