

Professional Standard: Certified Burn Controller Requirements

Authority

This standard was approved by the EMPS Panel in March 2019.

Context

The Emergency Management Professionalisation Scheme (the Scheme) is a program to recognise emergency management practitioners who have completed a process to formally recognise their skills, abilities and experience.

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 professional standards in emergency management.

The Scheme is open to career and volunteer personnel of AFAC member agencies, as well as individuals from approved commercial, not-for-profit or government entities.

Scope of application

This standard applies to applicants seeking recognition in the role of Certified Burn Controller.

Applicants may be career staff or volunteers of AFAC member agencies or personnel from approved commercial, not-for-profit or other government entities.

Credential

The Certified Burn Controller credential relates to the role of Burn Controller as defined in the National Burning Project:

‘responsible for 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 involve a variety of fuels and terrain.’

For the purpose of this credential the role of Burn Controller includes the responsibility for deciding to light the test burn and decide to proceed with the burn. This may be done within a broader authorising environment which includes regional or state coordination; however the person accountable for assessing the risk in the field and deciding to proceed is the Burn Controller.

Certified practitioners are recognised as leaders in their field, who have demonstrated that they are capable of managing (planning and conducting) the most complex, high-risk burns safely and effectively. This credential is aimed at practitioners with the skills required to both plan and conduct complex prescribed burns.

It is acknowledged that States have different titles for the role of operational Burn Controller, for example 'Burn Manager' or 'Burn Incident Controller' may be used to describe someone who meets this requirement in some jurisdictions. References in this Standard to the role of 'Burn Controller' should be read as referring to the relevant title in each jurisdiction.

Eligibility for credentialing as a Certified Burn Controller also requires evidence of having undertaken an incident control or operations officer role at a bushfire emergency incident of at least AIIMS level 2 in the past three years. Expert practitioners are expected to be able to manage the transition of a burn from controlled to escaped, and also to have a practical appreciation of the differences in managing a prescribed burn and a bushfire emergency.

Eligibility

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

- Has signed and committed to the EMPS Code of Ethics
- Has been actively involved in planning and implementing at least five complex prescribed burns over at least the past three and within the past five years including:
 - Has planned at least one complex burn
 - Has conducted at least one complex burn
 - Has been in the role of Burn Controller on at least three occasions.
- Has, additionally, undertaken the role of Operations Officer or Incident Controller at an AIIMS Level 2 (or above) bushfire emergency incident at least once in the past three years
- Complies with the Professional Standard: Continuing Professional Development.
- Has written support from their home agency, jurisdiction or organisation.
- Has written documentation that demonstrates compliance to all relevant standards.

Education requirements for Certified Burn Controller

Applicants must be able to demonstrate:

- Successful completion of the educational components and all associated prerequisites as specified in Table 1.
- Capabilities as described in the Professional Standard: Certified Burn Controller.
- Written documentation that demonstrates compliance with the requirements of this standard.

Table 1: Certified Burn IC

Course or Program
PUAFIR513 Write complex prescribed burn plans <i>and</i> PUAFIR511 Conduct complex prescribed burns
AFAC member agency course/s for advanced burn practitioners in both planning and conducting complex burns which is formally assessed against criteria equivalent to PUAFIR513 and PUAFIR511
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 to plan and control a complex prescribed burn equivalent to PUAFIR513 and PUAFIR511
AND any of the below
PUAOPE23A Manage Operations for a Level 2 Incident <i>or</i> PUAOPE018A Control a Level 2 Incident
AFAC member agency course/s for level 2 operations officers or incident controllers which is formally assessed against criteria equivalent to PUAOPE023A and PUAOPE018A
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 to manage a L2 incident equivalent to PUAOPE023A or PUAOPE018A

Note: applicants may at their option demonstrate their training to AIIMS level 3 standard in place of the level 2 units of competency above

Definitions

<i>Burn</i>	Fire applied over an area which does not include a pile or bonfire. For the purpose of this standard a burn must allow the fire to 'travel' or have a spread. Windrows or residue burning is acceptable.
<i>Complex burn:</i>	A burn characterised by moderate to high risk, a range of fire intensity, medium to large areas, and significant potential impact on assets and involving a variety of fuels and terrain. Complexity may be reflected in the number of suppression resources required to mitigate the risk, but does not preclude burns with minimal suppression resources where expertise in fire behavior is the controlling factor.
<i>Three years' applicable experience:</i>	Is the performance of Burn Controller roles at complex burns as determined by the Panel, to include sufficiently recent experience to demonstrate currency in the role.

Review

This standard will commence 15 March 2019. The Panel will review this standard following three (3) years of operation.

Related professional standards

- EMPS Code of Ethics.
- Professional Standard: Burn Controller Capabilities.
- Professional Standard: Continuing Professional Development.