



SFJ Awards Level 5 Certificate in Fire Investigation



Qualification Handbook

SFJ Awards Level 5 Certificate in Fire Investigation

Qualification No: 600/9032/7

Version	Date of issue	Amendment(s)	Page
V4	11.12.17	Additional information in Section 2.2 Pre-entry Requirements	5
		Update to Section 2.4 and Section 5 following Total Qualification Time and GLH review	6, 19-28
		Update Use of Languages Section (now Section 2.9)	7
		Update Section 3 Centre Requirements (no change to requirements)	8
		Update Section 4 Assessment (no change to requirements, additional information provided)	9-18
		Update SFJ Awards branding and copyright information	Various

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1 Introduction

1.1 About us

SFJ Awards is part of the Skills for Justice Group. For the last 10 years Skills for Justice has been working with employers, Governments of the UK and agencies within the skills system, to better equip workforces with the right skills now and for the future.

During this time Skills for Justice has earned an enviable reputation for its knowledge of the sector and its proactive approach to the development of skills and qualifications, along with an ability to deliver genuinely workable solutions for the employers it represents.

SFJ Awards is an awarding organisation that builds upon this reputation, and understands the specific challenges facing the Policing, Community Safety, Legal and Armed Forces sectors, enabling us to quality assure learning outcomes that are suited to the needs of the sectors.

Customer satisfaction is the cornerstone of our organisation, and is delivered through an efficient, customer-led service, providing excellent value for money.

1.2 Customer Service Statement

Our Customer Service Statement is published on SFJ Awards website giving the minimum level of service that Centres can expect. The Statement will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary in response to customer feedback, changes in legislation, and guidance from the qualifications Regulators.

1.3 Centre Support

SFJ Awards works in partnership with its customers. For help or advice contact:

SFJ Awards
Consult House
Meadowcourt Business Park
4 Hayland Street
Sheffield
S9 1BY

Tel: 0114 284 1970

E-mail: info@sfjawards.com

Website: www.sfjawards.com

2 The Qualification

This handbook relates to the following qualification:

- SFJ Awards Level 5 Certificate in Fire Investigation

2.1 Overall Objective for the Qualification

This qualification has been designed to accredit the knowledge and skills of learners who investigate, report and present evidence related to incidents involving fire and/or explosion.

2.2 Pre-entry Requirements

Learners who wish to undertake this qualification must be experienced fire investigation practitioners. It is difficult to define a precise time period or a number of incidents each practitioner needs to investigate in order to gain appropriate experience. However to give an indication, it is anticipated that the length of time needed to gain the required experience could range from a minimum of one year in post as a 'full-time' investigator with a large UK Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Service (F&RS), to a number of years for a practitioner (F&RS, police or other service) working in a quieter part of a rural region with fire investigation as an "add on reference" to their role.

Learners with queries as to whether their level of experience is sufficient for starting this qualification should contact their prospective centre for further guidance.

2.3 Unit Content and Rules of Combination

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This qualification is designed to accredit the knowledge and skills required for working in fire investigation. The qualification consists of four mandatory units, which give learners a total of 22 credits.

Unit Number	Ofqual Reference	Unit Title	Level	Credit Value
L5-FI-01	L/503/2257	Prepare to investigate an incident involving fire and/or explosion	5	6
L5-FI-02	R/503/2258	Investigate an incident involving fire and/or explosion	5	8

Unit Number	Ofqual Reference	Unit Title	Level	Credit Value
L5-FI-03	Y/503/2259	Report on the investigation of incidents involving fire and/or explosion	5	4
L5-FI-04	J/503/2256	Present evidence related to fire investigations in court and at other hearings	5	4

The detailed content of each of the units in the above qualification is provided in Section 5.

2.4 Total Qualification Time (TQT)

Total Qualification Time comprises of the following two elements.¹

- (a) The number of hours which an awarding organisation has assigned to a qualification for Guided Learning, and
- (b) An estimate of the number of hours a Learner will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place as directed by – but, unlike Guided Learning, not under the immediate guidance or supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

Please note these are estimated hours. It is the responsibility of centres to decide the appropriate course duration, based on their learners' ability and level of existing knowledge. It is possible, therefore, that the number of guided learning hours will vary from one centre to another according to learners' needs.

Guided learning hours consist of all occasions when a member of training centre staff is present to give specific guidance towards the learning aim of the programme. This definition includes lectures, tutorials, supervised study and assignments.

The Total Qualification Time and Guided Learning Hours for this qualification are as follows:

Qualification Title	TQT	GLH
SFJ Awards Level 5 Certificate in Fire Investigation	220	50

2.5 Age Restriction

This qualification is available to learners aged 18+ years.

¹ Total Qualification Time criteria, Ofqual September 2015
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/total-qualification-time-criteria>

2.6 Opportunities for Progression

This qualification creates a number of opportunities for progression from, and into, existing fire and rescue related qualifications.

2.7 Exemption

No exemptions have been identified.

2.8 Credit Transfer

Credits from identical units that have already been achieved by the learner may be transferred.

2.9 Use of Languages

SFJ Awards business language is English and we provide assessment materials and qualification specifications that are expressed in English. Assessment specifications and assessment materials may be requested in Welsh or Irish and, where possible, SFJ Awards will try to fulfil such requests. SFJ Awards will provide assessment materials and qualification specifications that are expressed in Welsh or Irish and support the assessment of those learners, where the number of learners makes it economically viable for SFJ Awards to do so. More information is provided in the SFJ Awards' Use of Language Policy.

For learners seeking to take a qualification and be assessed in British Sign Language or Irish Sign Language, please refer to SFJ Awards' Reasonable Adjustments Policy. A learner may be assessed in British Sign Language or Irish Sign Language where it is permitted by SFJ Awards for the purpose of Reasonable Adjustment.

Policies are available on our website www.sfjawards.com or on request from SFJ Awards.

3 Centre Requirements

Centres must be approved by SFJ Awards and also have approval to deliver the qualifications they wish to offer. This is to ensure centres have the processes and resources in place to deliver the qualifications. Approved centres must adhere to the requirements detailed in the SFJ Awards Centre Handbook, which includes information for centres on assessment and internal quality assurance processes and procedures and is available in the centres' area of the SFJ Awards website <http://sfjawards.com/approved-centres>.

Centres are responsible for ensuring that their assessor and internal quality assurance staff:

- are occupationally competent and/or knowledgeable as appropriate to the assessor or IQA role they are carrying out
- have current experience of assessing/internal quality assuring as appropriate to the assessor or IQA role they are carrying out, and
- have access to appropriate training and support.

Information on the induction and continuing professional development of those carrying out assessment and internal quality assurance must be made available by centres to SFJ Awards through the external quality assurance process.

This qualification handbook should be used in conjunction with the SFJ Awards Centre Handbook, the SFJ Awards Assessment Policy and the SFJ Awards Quality Assurance (Internal and External) Policy. All policies are available on the website www.sfjawards.com or on request from SFJ Awards.

4 Assessment

4.1 Qualification Assessment Methods

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Assessment methods that can be used for this qualification are as follows:

- Aural Examination
- Coursework
- E-assessment
- Multiple Choice Examination
- Oral Examination
- Portfolio of Evidence (including for example records of question and answer sessions, reflective accounts, witness testimonies)
- Practical Demonstration / Assignment
- Practical Examination
- Written Examination

4.2 Assessors

4.2.1 Occupational Competence

Due to the risk-critical nature of the work, particularly when assessing in the justice and health sectors, and the legal implications of the assessment process, assessors must understand the nature and context of the learners' work. This means that assessors must be occupationally competent. Each assessor must therefore be, according to current sector practice, competent in the functions covered by the units they are assessing. They will have gained their occupational competence by working within the sector relating to the units or qualification they are assessing.

Assessors must be able to demonstrate consistent application of the skills and the current supporting knowledge and understanding in the context of a recent role directly related to the qualification units they are assessing as a practitioner, trainer or manager.

4.2.2 Occupational Knowledge

Where assessors are assessing knowledge-based qualifications, they must be occupationally knowledgeable.

4.2.3 Qualification Knowledge

Assessors must be familiar with the qualification units they are assessing. They must be able to interpret and make judgements on current working practices and technologies within the area of work.

4.2.4 Assessor Competence

Assessors must be able to make valid, reliable and fair assessment decisions. To demonstrate their competence, assessors must be:

- qualified with a recognised assessor qualification, or
- working towards a recognised assessor qualification, or
- able to prove equivalent competence through training to appropriate national standards, for example, National Occupational Standard 9: Assess learner achievement² or Police Sector Standard for the Training of Assessors, Assessor Standard.

Approved centres will be required to provide SFJ Awards with current evidence of how each assessor meets these requirements, for example certificates of achievement or testimonials.

4.2.5 Continuing Professional Development

Assessors must actively engage in continuous professional development activities to maintain:

- occupational competence and knowledge by keeping up-to-date with the changes taking place in the sector(s) for which they carry out assessments
- professional competence and knowledge as an assessor.

4.3 Internal Quality Assurers

4.3.1 Occupational Knowledge

Internal quality assurers (IQAs) must be occupationally knowledgeable across the range of units for which they are responsible prior to commencing the role. Due to the risk-critical nature of the work, particularly in the justice and health sectors, and the legal implications of the assessment process, they must understand the nature and context of the assessors' work and that of their learners. This means that they must have worked closely with staff who carry out the functions covered by the qualifications, possibly by training or supervising them, and have sufficient knowledge of these functions to be able to offer credible advice on the interpretation of the units.

² National Occupational Standards for Learning and Development, LLUK 2010

4.3.2 Qualification Knowledge

IQAs must understand the content, structure and assessment requirements for the qualification(s) they are internal quality assuring.

Centres should provide IQAs with an induction to the qualifications that they are responsible for quality assuring. IQAs should also have access to ongoing training and updates on current issues relevant to these qualifications.

4.3.3 Internal Quality Assurer Competence

IQAs must occupy a position in the organisation that gives them the authority and resources to:

- coordinate the work of assessors
- provide authoritative advice
- call meetings as appropriate
- conduct pre-delivery internal quality assurance on centre assessment plans, for example, to ensure that any proposed simulations are fit for purpose
- visit and observe assessment practice
- review the assessment process by sampling assessment decisions
- ensure that assessment has been carried out by assessors who are occupationally competent, or for knowledge-based qualifications occupationally knowledgeable, in the area they are assessing
- lead internal standardisation activity
- resolve differences and conflicts on assessment decisions.

To demonstrate their competence, IQAs must be:

- qualified with a recognised internal quality assurance qualification, or
- working towards a recognised internal quality assurance qualification, or
- able to prove equivalent competence through training to appropriate national standards, for example National Occupational Standard 11: Internally monitor and maintain the quality of assessment³ or Police Sector Standard for the Training of Internal Verifiers, Internal Verifier Standard.

Approved centres will be required to provide SFJ Awards with current evidence of how each IQA meets these requirements, for example certificates of achievement or testimonials.

4.3.4 Continuing Professional Development

IQAs must actively engage in continuous professional development activities to maintain:

- occupational knowledge by keeping up-to-date with the changes taking place in the sector(s) for which they carry out assessments

³ National Occupational Standards for Learning and Development, LLUK 2010

- professional competence and knowledge as an IQA.

4.4 External Quality Assurers

External quality assurers (EQAs) are appointed by SFJ Awards to approve centres and to monitor the assessment and internal quality assurance carried out by centres. SFJ Awards is responsible for ensuring that their external quality assurance team have:

- sufficient occupational knowledge
- current experience of external quality assurance
- access to appropriate training and support.

External quality assurance is carried out to ensure that there is compliance, validity, reliability and good practice in centres. EQAs must have appropriate occupational and verifying knowledge and expertise.

4.4.1 External Quality Assurer Competence

To demonstrate their competence, EQAs must be:

- qualified with a recognised external quality assurance qualification, or
- working towards a recognised external quality assurance qualification.

4.4.2 Continuing Professional Development

EQAs must maintain their occupational and external quality assurance knowledge. They will attend training and development designed to keep them up-to-date, facilitate standardisation between staff and share good practice.

4.5 Expert Witnesses

Expert witnesses, for example line managers and supervisors, can provide evidence that a learner has demonstrated competence in an activity. Their evidence contributes to performance evidence and has parity with assessor observation. Expert witnesses do not however perform the role of assessor.

4.5.1 Occupational Competence

Expert witnesses must, according to current sector practice, be competent in the functions covered by the units for which they are providing evidence.

They must be able to demonstrate consistent application of the skills and the current supporting knowledge and understanding in the context of a recent role directly related to the qualification unit that they are witnessing as a practitioner, trainer or manager.

4.5.2 Qualification Knowledge

Expert witnesses must be familiar with the qualification unit(s) and must be able to interpret current working practices and technologies within the area of work.

4.6 Assessing Competence

The purpose of assessing competence is to make sure that an individual is competent to carry out the activities required in their work. Assessors gather and judge evidence during normal work activities to determine whether the learner demonstrates their competence against the standards in the qualification unit(s). Competence should be demonstrated at a level appropriate to the qualification. The skills required at the different qualification levels are defined in Ofqual's level descriptors.⁴ Further information on qualification levels is included in the SFJ Awards Assessment Policy.

Evidence must be:

- Valid
- Authentic
- Sufficient
- Current
- Reliable.

Assessment should be integrated into everyday work to make the most of opportunities that arise naturally within the workplace.

4.7 Methods for Assessing Competence

Qualifications may be assessed using any method, or combination of methods in Section 4.1, which clearly demonstrate that the learning outcomes and assessment criteria have been met.

Assessors need to be able to select the right assessment methods for the competences that are being assessed, without overburdening the learner or the assessment process, or interfering with everyday work activities. SFJ Awards expects assessors to use a combination of different assessment methods to make a decision about an individual's occupational competence. Further information on assessment methods is provided below and also in the SFJ Awards Assessment Policy.

4.7.1 Observation

SFJ Awards believes that direct observation in the workplace by an assessor or testimony from an expert witness is preferable as it allows for authenticated, valid and reliable

⁴ Qualification and Component Levels: Requirements and Guidance for All Awarding Organisations and All Qualifications, Ofqual 2015, www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualification-and-component-levels

evidence. Where learners demonstrate their competence in a real work situation, this must be done without the intervention from a tutor, supervisor or colleague.

However SFJ Awards recognises that alternative sources of evidence and assessment methods may have to be used where direct observation is not possible or practical.

4.7.2 Testimony of witnesses and expert witnesses

Witness testimonies are an accepted form of evidence by learners when compiling portfolios. Witness testimonies can be generated by peers, line managers and other individuals working closely with the learner. Witnesses are defined as being those people who are occupationally expert in their role.

Testimony can also be provided by expert witnesses who are occupationally competent **and** familiar with the qualification unit(s). Assessors will not need to spend as long assessing expert witness testimony as they would a witness testimony from a non-expert. Therefore if expert witnesses are involved in the assessment strategy for a qualification a greater number of learners can be managed by a smaller number of assessors.

The assessor is however responsible for making the final judgement in terms of the learner meeting the evidence requirements for the qualification unit(s).

4.7.3 Work outputs (product evidence)

Examples of work outputs include plans, reports, budgets, photographs, videos or notes of an event. Assessors can use work outputs in conjunction with other assessment methods, such as observation and discussion, to confirm competence and assure authenticity of the evidence presented.

4.7.4 Professional discussion

Discussions allow the learner to describe and reflect on their performance and knowledge in relation to the standards. Assessors can use discussions to test the authenticity, validity and reliability of a learner's evidence. Written/audio records of discussions must be maintained.

4.7.5 Questioning the learner

Questioning can be carried out orally or in written form and used to cover any gaps in assessment or corroborate other forms of evidence. Written/audio records of all questioning must be maintained.

4.7.6 Simulations

Simulations may take place either in a non-operational environment which is not the learner's workplace, for example a training centre, or in the workplace. Proposed simulations must be reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose as part of the IQA's pre-delivery activity.

Simulations can be used when:

- the employer or assessor consider that evidence in the workplace will not be demonstrated within a reasonable timeframe
- there are limited opportunities to demonstrate competence in the workplace against all the assessment criteria
- there are health and safety implications due to the high risk nature of the work activity
- the work activity is non-routine and assessment cannot easily be planned for
- assessment is required in more difficult circumstances than is likely to happen day to day.

Simulations must follow the principles below:

1. The nature of the contingency and the physical environment for the simulation must be realistic
2. Learners should be given no indication as to exactly what contingencies they may come across in the simulation
3. The demands on the learner during the simulation should be no more or less than they would be in a real work situation
4. Simulations must be planned, developed and documented by the centre in a way that ensures the simulation correctly reflects what the specific qualification unit seeks to assess and all simulations should follow these documented plans
5. There should be a range of simulations to cover the same aspect of a unit and they should be rotated regularly.

4.8 Assessing Knowledge and Understanding

Knowledge-based assessment involves establishing what the learner knows or understands at a level appropriate to the qualification. The depth and breadth of knowledge required at the different qualification levels are defined in Ofqual's level descriptors.⁵ Further information on qualification levels is included in the SFJ Awards Assessment Policy.

Assessments must be:

- Fair
- Robust
- Rigorous
- Authentic
- Sufficient
- Transparent
- Appropriate.

Good practice when assessing knowledge includes use of a combination of assessment methods to ensure that as well as being able to recall information, the learner has a broader understanding of its application in the workplace. This ensures that qualifications are a valid measure of a learner's knowledge and understanding.

⁵ Qualification and Component Levels: Requirements and Guidance for All Awarding Organisations and All Qualifications, Ofqual 2015 www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualification-and-component-levels

A proportion of any summative assessment may be conducted in controlled environments to ensure conditions are the same for all learners. This could include use of:

- Closed book conditions, where learners are not allowed access to reference materials
- Time bound conditions
- Invigilation.

4.9 Methods for Assessing Knowledge

Qualifications may be assessed using any method, or combination of methods in Section 4.1, which clearly demonstrate that knowledge-based learning outcomes and assessment criteria have been met. Evidence of assessment, examples listed below, can be included in a portfolio of evidence.

- a) Written tests in a controlled environment
- b) Multiple choice questions
- c) Evidenced question and answer sessions with assessors
- d) Evidenced professional discussions
- e) Written assignments (including scenario-based written assignments).

Where written assessments are used centres must maintain a sufficient bank of assignments which are changed regularly.

4.10 Assessment Planning

Planning assessment allows a holistic approach to be taken, which focuses on assessment of the learner's work activity as a whole. This means that the assessment:

- reflects the skills requirements of the workplace
- saves time
- streamlines processes
- makes the most of naturally occurring evidence opportunities.

Planning assessment enables assessors to track learners' progress and incorporate feedback into the learning process; assessors can therefore be sure that learners have had sufficient opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge to perform competently and consistently to the standards before being assessed. The assessment is therefore a more efficient, cost effective process which minimises the burden on learners, assessors and employers.

4.11 Standardisation

Internal and external standardisation is required to ensure the consistency of evidence, assessment decisions and qualifications awarded over time.

4.11.1 Internal standardisation

IQAs should facilitate internal standardisation events for assessors to attend and participate, in order to review evidence used, make judgments, compare quality and come to a common understanding of what is sufficient.

4.11.2 External standardisation

SFJ Awards will enable access to external standardisation opportunities for centres and EQAs over time.

Further information on standardisation is available in the SFJ Awards Quality Assurance (Internal and External) Policy and the SFJ Awards Standardisation Policy.

4.12 Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

'Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is the process of recognising previous formal, informal or experiential learning so that the learner avoids having to repeat learning/assessment within a new qualification. RPL is a broad concept and covers a range of possible approaches and outcomes to the recognition of prior learning (including credit transfer where an awarding organisation has decided to attribute credit to a qualification)'.⁶

The use of RPL encourages transferability of qualifications and/or units, which benefits both learners and employers. SFJ Awards supports the use of RPL and centres must work to the principles included in Section 6 Assessment and Quality Assurance of the SFJ Awards Centre Handbook and outlined in SFJ Awards Recognition of Prior Learning Policy.

4.13 Equality and Diversity

Centres must comply with legislation and the requirements of the RQF relating to equality and diversity. There should be no barriers to achieving a qualification based on:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnerships
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sexual orientation

Reasonable adjustments are made to ensure that learners who are disabled are not disadvantaged in any way. Learners must declare their needs prior to the assessment and

⁶ After the QCF: A New Qualifications Framework, Ofqual 2015
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/after-the-qcf-a-new-qualifications-framework>

all necessary reasonable adjustment arrangements must have been approved by SFJ Awards and implemented before the time of their assessment.

Further information is available in the SFJ Awards Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy and the SFJ Awards Equality of Opportunity Policy.

4.14 Health and Safety

SFJ Awards is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of learners, employees and volunteers and expect everyone to share this commitment.

SFJ Awards fosters an open and supportive culture to encourage the safety and well-being of employees, learners and partner organisations to enable:

- learners to thrive and achieve
- employees, volunteers and visitors to feel secure
- everyone to feel assured that their welfare is a high priority.

Assessment of competence based qualifications in the justice sector can carry a high risk level due to the nature of some roles. Centres must therefore ensure that due regard is taken to assess and manage risk and have procedures in place to ensure that:

- qualifications can be delivered safely with risks to learners and those involved in the assessment process minimised as far as possible
- working environments meet relevant health and safety requirements.

5 Qualification Units

Unit number:	L5-FI-01	
Title:	Prepare to investigate an incident involving fire and/or explosion	
Level:	5	
Credit value:	6	
GLH:	10	
Learning outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment criteria <i>The learner can:</i>	
1 Understand the principles of investigation of fire and/or explosion	1.1 evaluate the levels and types of investigation of fire and/or explosion 1.2 explain the purposes and priorities of fire investigation in relation to community fire safety, criminal proceedings, insurance considerations, civil litigation, research and potential outcomes 1.3 summarise the principles of hazard identification, risk assessment and management in the context of fire and/or explosion investigation 1.4 summarise the principles of the investigative process based on scientific method and practice 1.5 explain the use of science to determine the origin, cause and behaviour of fire and/or explosion 1.6 summarise how the principles of fire and/or explosion dynamics are applied to an investigation 1.7 critically compare the use and application of resources typically used in an investigation of fire and/or explosion 1.8 determine factors and actions which influence the potential and actual contamination of a scene	

<p>2 Understand the legal and organisational requirements in relation to investigation of fire and/or explosion</p>	<p>2.1 explain the powers of entry for fire investigation personnel</p> <p>2.2 summarise the legislative and organisational requirements when dealing with members of the public</p> <p>2.3 explain the requirements for data protection and sub-judice</p> <p>2.4 summarise the requirements for obtaining consent to carry out a scene investigation</p> <p>2.5 evaluate the benefits of taking an interagency team approach</p> <p>2.6 summarise the relevant standard protocols and joint memorandums of understanding in relation to fire and/or explosion investigation</p> <p>2.7 summarise the current relevant health and safety legislation and its application to fire investigation</p> <p>2.8 summarise the role, responsibilities and limits of authority of specialists and other agencies involved in fire/explosion investigation</p>
<p>3 Be able to determine the nature and scope of the investigation</p>	<p>3.1 confirm the type, location, extent and circumstances of the incident</p> <p>3.2 determine scene priorities in relation to the fire and/or explosion investigation</p> <p>3.3 evaluate available information relevant to the incident</p> <p>3.4 establish the need for the involvement of specialists and other agencies in the investigation</p>
<p>4 Be able to set up working arrangements to carry out an investigation</p>	<p>4.1 agree with internal and external personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arrangements for the safety and security of the scene • the methodology, timing, people and resources required for the investigation • primacy, roles, responsibilities and levels of authority and confidentiality for those involved • arrangements for the preservation, recovery and storage of evidence <p>4.2 obtain relevant consent for the investigation to go ahead</p> <p>4.3 confirm all agreements and arrangements are recorded</p>

Additional information about the unit	
Unit aim(s)	This unit is about preparing to investigate an incident involving fire and/or explosion
Assessment requirements specified by a sector or regulatory body (if appropriate)	For the knowledge and understanding component of the unit, assessment from a learning and development environment is allowed. For the practical components, simulation or scenario-based evidence in a learning and development environment is recommended.
Endorsement of the unit by a sector or other appropriate body (if required)	Skills for Justice
Location of the unit within the subject/sector classification system	1.4 Public Services

Unit number:	L5-FI-02	
Title:	Investigate an incident involving fire and/or explosion	
Level:	5	
Credit value:	8	
GLH:	23	
Learning outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment criteria <i>The learner can :</i>	
1 Understand the methods and science of fire/explosion investigation	1.1 explain the methods and equipment for handling and storing evidence to preserve continuity, avoid damage and any cross contamination 1.2 explain the purpose of gathering information from victims and witnesses of incidents 1.3 compare methods of interviewing victims and witnesses 1.4 explain the fire science used in fire investigation 1.5 analyse the process for identifying, eliminating and confirming potential ignition sources 1.6 explain the principles of correlating burn patterns to identify area of origin and evaluate fire/explosion behaviour 1.7 analyse the structural and environmental factors which may influence fire suppression and development 1.8 evaluate the potential and actual contribution of the structure, finishes, fittings, equipment and processes to the development of an incident	
2 Understand the requirements of working on scene	2.1 summarise the benefits of conducting an internal and external survey of the structure and surrounds in relation to the investigation of fire development 2.2 describe the process for identifying and recording evidence of both accidental and deliberate causes of fire 2.3 explain the principles of fire scene reconstruction 2.4 explain the importance of maintaining continuity and integrity of evidence	

	<p>2.5 evaluate techniques for excavating fire debris whilst preserving key evidence</p> <p>2.6 describe methods for recovering evidence from incidents including fatalities</p> <p>2.7 explain the requirements for dealing with the deceased in a dignified manner whilst giving due regard to the objectives of the investigation and the nature of risk</p> <p>2.8 describe methods for recording the scene</p> <p>2.9 analyse the behaviours of people involved in fire</p>
<p>3 Be able to recover and preserve physical and documentary evidence relevant to the investigation</p>	<p>3.1 evaluate those factors that may have a bearing on the origin, cause and development of the incident</p> <p>3.2 protect, recover and preserve evidence</p> <p>3.3 confirm the investigation processes using the relevant Personal Protective Equipment and resources identified during the Risk Assessment process</p>
<p>4 Be able to manage the collection and preservation of evidence</p>	<p>4.1 liaise with the people and agencies to achieve the handover of all relevant information and evidence where the responsibility for investigation is beyond their legitimate scope</p> <p>4.2 comply with relevant legal, ethical and regulatory requirements in relation to fire/explosion investigation</p> <p>4.3 organise evidence in a way that will assist analysis</p> <p>4.4 confirm all evidence is accurately preserved and stored</p>
<p>5 Be able to collect witness evidence relevant to the investigation</p>	<p>5.1 confirm details of people who may have information about the incident and their involvement</p> <p>5.2 gather information from relevant people to support the investigation</p> <p>5.3 carry out planned interviews with witnesses and victims in accordance with relevant legislation and organisational requirements</p> <p>5.4 gather information in a way that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promotes co-operation • encourages open and honest response

<p>6 Be able to compile and provide available evidence</p>	<p>6.1 confirm the validity, relevance and sufficiency of evidence</p> <p>6.2 confirm available evidence is complete to resolve discrepancies where possible</p> <p>6.3 record and disclose discrepancies, omissions, anomalies or inconsistencies in the evidence</p> <p>6.4 follow the specified requirements for labelling and despatching evidence</p> <p>6.5 confirm that intended recipients receive compiled evidence and supporting report</p>
<p>Additional information about the unit</p>	
<p>Unit aim(s)</p>	<p>This unit is about investigating an incident involving fire and/or explosion</p>
<p>Assessment requirements specified by a sector or regulatory body (if appropriate)</p>	<p>For the knowledge and understanding component of the unit, assessment from a learning and development environment is allowed.</p> <p>For the practical components, simulation or scenario-based evidence in a learning and development environment is recommended.</p>
<p>Endorsement of the unit by a sector or other appropriate body (if required)</p>	<p>Skills for Justice</p>
<p>Location of the unit within the subject/sector classification system</p>	<p>1.4 Public Services</p>

Unit number:	L5-FI-03	
Title:	Report on the investigation of incidents involving fire and/or explosion	
Level:	5	
Credit value:	4	
GLH:	9	
Learning outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment criteria <i>The learner can:</i>	
1 Understand the requirements for reporting on the investigation of incidents involving fire and explosion	1.1 explain legal and organisational requirements for the recording and secure storage of information relating to incidents 1.2 explain the purpose and importance of samples recovered from the scene in relation to the formulation of a report 1.3 explain the contribution of fire and explosion debris analysis to a report 1.4 explain the relevance of reporting the contribution of the structure, finishes, fittings, equipment and processes to the incident 1.5 explain the relevance of reporting the contribution of Fire Safety measures and practice in relation to the incident 1.6 explain the process for forming and testing hypotheses in relation to the scientific methodology 1.7 explain the principles of developing and presenting a final hypothesis and conclusions	
2 Be able to evaluate the results of an investigation	2.1 record information relating to the investigation in a way that supports validation and scrutiny 2.2 classify records and supporting information in a logical sequence for evaluation 2.3 review information to identify any adaptations to accepted working procedures and practices 2.4 analyse numerical data for its relevance and support to the investigation outcomes 2.5 clarify access to and availability of supplementary materials that support the report in accordance with the rules of	

	<p>disclosure</p> <p>2.6 confirm records and supporting materials relating to the investigation are maintained in a durable and retrievable form</p>
3 Be able to report the conclusions of an investigation	<p>3.1 confirm the report includes information that is accurate, current, valid and relevant to the investigation</p> <p>3.2 confirm the report conforms to legal requirements with reference to case notes and related materials</p> <p>3.3 present hypotheses and conclusions in clear and unambiguous terms</p> <p>3.4 support conclusions with factual evidence and reasoned, impartial arguments</p> <p>3.5 clarify reasoning for discounting or eliminating specific hypotheses</p> <p>3.6 produce the report in an agreed format</p> <p>3.7 provide a disclosure list containing material not contained within the report</p> <p>3.8 confirm receipt of report by all intended authorised recipients</p>
Additional information about the unit	
Unit aim(s)	This unit is about reporting on the investigation of incidents involving fire and/or explosion.
Assessment requirements specified by a sector or regulatory body (if appropriate)	<p>For the knowledge and understanding component of the unit, assessment from a learning and development environment is allowed.</p> <p>For the practical components, simulation or scenario-based evidence in a learning and development environment is recommended.</p>
Endorsement of the unit by a sector or other appropriate body (if required)	Skills for Justice
Location of the unit within the subject/sector classification system	1.4 Public Services

Unit number:	L5-FI-04	
Title:	Present evidence related to fire investigations in court and at other hearings	
Level:	5	
Credit value:	4	
GLH:	8	
Learning outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment criteria <i>The learner can :</i>	
1 Understand legal and organisation requirements relating to presenting evidence in court and at other hearings	1.1 explain rules of evidence applicable to cases involving fire investigation 1.2 summarise procedures, practice and protocols in courts and hearings involving fire investigation 1.3 explain disclosure rules in relation to evidence and unused materials 1.4 summarise key features of legislation, organisational requirements and guidelines in relation to presenting evidence in court and at other hearings 1.5 explain reasons why it is important to present evidence in accordance with relevant legal and organisational requirements 1.6 explain the roles and responsibilities of the agencies and personnel involved in courts and hearings	
2 Understand the requirements for providing evidence relating to fire investigations	2.1 explain the importance in keeping up to date in own field of expertise 2.2 explain how opinion is used in courts and hearings in relation to fire investigation 2.3 explain how to compile factual statements and reports for use in courts and hearings 2.4 explain the importance of presenting evidence in courts and hearings which is consistent with written materials provided	

<p>3 Be able to prepare for court or other hearings</p>	<p>3.1 respond promptly to any warnings, citations or notifications received from courts or other hearings</p> <p>3.2 compile all evidence, including documents, real, notes and records and interview transcripts, in accordance with conventions for recording, labelling and presentation</p> <p>3.3 maintain an audit trail of information and materials requested by and provided to the court or hearing</p> <p>3.4 make available relevant exhibits, maintaining their continuity and integrity at all times</p> <p>3.5 review all evidence in advance of the hearing in order to identify the relevant issues, facts and opinion</p> <p>3.6 liaise with agencies and individuals involved in the case</p>
<p>4 Be able to present evidence relating to fire investigations to court or other hearings</p>	<p>4.1 appear at court in accordance with court protocols, procedures and practice for attendance and behaviour</p> <p>4.2 provide oral evidence that is consistent with written evidence provided as part of the case</p> <p>4.3 provide opinion when requested based on the facts established in the investigation</p> <p>4.4 respond to questions in accordance with court proceedings and protocols</p> <p>4.5 liaise with court officials in accordance with court protocols</p>
<p>Additional information about the unit</p>	
<p>Unit aim(s)</p>	<p>This unit is about presenting evidence related to fire investigations in court and at other hearings.</p>
<p>Assessment requirements specified by a sector or regulatory body (if appropriate)</p>	<p>For the knowledge and understanding component of the unit, assessment from a learning and development environment is allowed.</p> <p>For the practical components, simulation or scenario-based evidence in a learning and development environment is recommended.</p>
<p>Endorsement of the unit by a sector or other appropriate body (if required)</p>	<p>Skills for Justice</p>
<p>Location of the unit within the subject/sector classification system</p>	<p>1.4 Public Services</p>

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