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DEVELOPING A NEW WILDFIRE TRAINING RESOURCE FOR EUROPE

Competency Based Training

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Introduction

- EuroFire Aims & Objectives
- European Qualifications Framework
- Draft EuroFire Competency Standards
- Training materials & knowledge transfer

EU Leonardo criteria – relevant to EuroFire

- To improve skills and competencies of people
- To improve the quality of, and access to continuing vocational training
- Developing relevant and innovative e-learning content
- The promotion of social dialogue in vocational training

The Target Groups



EuroFire has been developed to support:

- Fire-fighters
- The rural and land-based sector
- Sectoral organisations
- Education and training institutions

Limitations of “normal” fire service equipment



Eurofire Aims

- Produce training material at a basic level to support:
 - Fire prevention
 - Fire management
 - Fire suppression

EuroFire Objectives

- Research and review competency based wildfire training systems
- Identify best practise from Europe and around the world
- Inform the production of competency-based basic training
- Provide a basic level competency-based training resource that industry can use to update their knowledge, learn new skills or increase their understanding of wildfire management techniques

Issues risks and solutions

- Operating in a multi-lingual environment, where English is a second language
 - Base the work on the developing European Qualifications Framework (EQF)
 - Emphasise visual training materials to minimise translation

Eurofire training support

- Website information portal for international resources
- Competency / training standards for core vegetation fire activity
- Training materials, downloadable or on CD Rom / pen drive

European Qualifications Framework (EQF)

- Reference tool to compare qualification levels across national systems
- National qualification systems must be related to EQF by 2009, especially Levels
- All "Europass" documents related to EQF by 2011

EQF continued

- Describe national qualifications using a “*learning outcomes*” approach.
- Enables industries, like fire management, that are common to all EU countries to work towards common standards & qualifications
- “*Subsidiarity*” applies, i.e. the EQF will be interpreted through National Qualification Frameworks in each country

Uses in Fire Management

- Supports “mutual assistance”
- Supports process of matching employers needs with qualifications across Europe
- It is a flexible framework

Key Definitions 1

Learning Outcome	Statement of what a learner knows, understands and is able to do on completion of a learning process, defined in terms of knowledge, skills and competence
Knowledge	Body of facts, principles, theories and practises that is related to a field of study or work. Can be theoretical or factual.
Skills	Ability to apply knowledge & know-how to complete tasks & solve problems. Can be cognitive or practical.
Competence	Proven ability to use knowledge, skills & personal abilities. Described in terms of responsibility & autonomy (level descriptors)

Definitions

- Look up EU documents for definitions in your preferred language

Websites

- Research into developing EU training & qualification systems - the EQF

http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eqf/index_en.html

- Research training principles in UN FAO Fire Management: Voluntary Guidelines

<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/programmes/un/fao/FAO-Fire-Management-Voluntary-Guidelines-2007.pdf>

Outline of a Competency Based Training System

- Levels
- Competency standards
- Assessment of learning outcomes
- Training
- Qualifications
- Quality assurance

Levels 1 – 5 (simplified)

1	Introduction	Assist
2	Basic	Do / Support
3	Advanced	Supervise
4	Commander	Manage
5	Director	Decide

Progression of Learning

- Induction
- Learning
- Development
- Competent practise
- Assessment-----
- Excellence / professionalism

International training materials

- National training courses / materials:
 - Australian Training Resource Kits (TRK's)
 - NZ Student Notes & Lesson Plans
 - USA S-190, S-290 etc
 - UK National basic course
 - Canadian CD Rom training material
 - European training courses
- Links to material will be on Eurofire website www.euro-fire.eu

Fire Paradox & Eurofire Co-operation

- Barcelona meeting June 2007
 - Introduction FPP 10.3 to competency based training
 - Agreement to work together
- Lisbon meeting Dec 2007
 - Discussion on draft standards

International trends

- Informal / self-learning increasingly web-based
- Self-assessment, including checklists built in to process before formal assessment
- Unit level assessment guidance to assist unit level qualifications

Training Standards

- International material reviewed
- Decided on New Zealand approach focussing on skills (tasks & tools) rather than overall operation
- This approach suits the diverse target audiences better

Eurofire Level 2 Competency Standard

- Title:
 - Level 2 in vegetation fire management
- Split into 9 units

Level 2 vegetation fire management

- Each unit splits into 5 parts:
 - About this unit
 - Key words and phrases
 - What you must do
 - What this standard covers (range statement)
 - What you must know and understand

Draft Unit Titles

- Ensure that your actions in the vegetation fire workplace reduce the risks to yourself and others
- Apply techniques and tactics to suppress vegetation fire, in relation to fire behaviour.
- Communicate within a team and with supervisors at vegetation fires
- Apply hand tools to suppress vegetation fires safely.

Draft Unit Titles

- Use water from light weight portable pumps to suppress vegetation fires safely
- Carry out ignition at vegetation fires
- Map reading/ orientation
- Chain saw & brushcutter use
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- Aerial operations at wildfires

Health & Safety



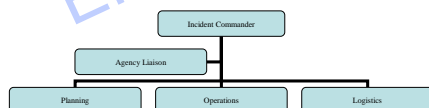
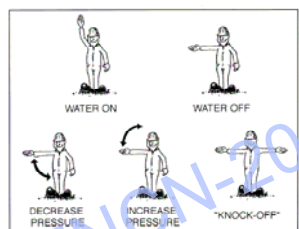
- A) Identify the hazards and evaluate the risks that are likely to be found in the workplace
- B) Reduce the risks likely to be found in the workplace
- C) Respond to health emergencies in the workplace

Techniques & Tactics



- A) Prepare for vegetation fire suppression
- B) Control vegetation fires

Communication & Command



- A) Use hand held radios and cellphones to communicate effectively at vegetation fires
- B) Operate successfully within an organisational structure at vegetation fires

Apply Hand Tools



- A) Prepare hand tools for vegetation fire suppression operations
- B) Use hand tools to suppress vegetation fires

Use water from light weight portable pumps



A) Prepare portable pumps, hoses and other ancillary equipment for use at vegetation fires



B) Set up and operate a light portable pump in a vegetation fire situation

C) Deliver water through hoses and nozzles to suppress vegetation fire

Carry Out Ignition



A) Prepare ignition devices and ancillary equipment for use at vegetation fires



B) Apply ignition devices following specified firing plans

Themes

- Importance of understanding fire behaviour and choosing the right tools, tactics and strategies based on that understanding
- Working in teams with combinations of equipment

Conclusions

- Competency based training, standards & qualifications are part of a balanced system.
- The context of the organisations working together to create standards is important
- Language, definitions and translation will be key issues affecting success!

EuroFire Questions?



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