

Fact sheet

This information supports the following services:

- Bush Fire Service (BFS)
- State Emergency Services (SES)
- Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services (VFES)
- Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS)

What is Recognition of Current Competency?

Recognition of Current Competency (RCC) is a process of recognising your existing skills, knowledge and experience in relation to a specific course. It is intended as a quick and convenient method of achieving recognition without having to undergo unnecessary training.

How does RCC work?

RCC is an assessment-only pathway that evaluates your current competence against the relevant DFES competency requirements.

You will need to have existing skills, knowledge and experience in the subject area being assessed, to ensure you can successfully complete the assessment. To undertake RCC, you complete the assessment requirements for the competency (including practical assessments). The assessment process is conducted by a qualified trainer assessor who is familiar with the area of competence.

As a general guide, if you are competent in nearly all of the assessment requirements after the first attempt, the trainer assessor may elect to complete targeted training on the gap areas before the assessment is repeated. If a significant number of assessment tasks are not satisfactory after the first attempt, it is recommended that the candidate completes the full training course to acquire skills and knowledge to the required standard.

What are the benefits of RCC?

RCC can help you to:

- Save time by avoiding unnecessary training.
- Gain formal recognition of your existing skills and knowledge.
- Enhance opportunities and professional development by completing courses in your Pathway/Training Program.

Who can apply for RCC?

RCC is available to anyone who has relevant skills, knowledge, and experience in the field of bushfire management and response or natural hazards. You may have gained these through formal or informal learning, such as work experience, volunteer work, previous training or self-study.

RCC is particularly useful for members who have transferred from another jurisdiction's emergency services and need to complete DFES courses.

RCC is a great way for people to demonstrate their competence and receive recognition for their valuable skills and knowledge. However, RCC is not suitable for everyone. You should only apply for RCC if you are confident that you can demonstrate your competence in the course that is being assessed. You should also have access to a computer and the internet as well as eAcademy to review resources if needed and be able to complete the assessment tasks within the specified time frame.

How do I apply for RCC?

To apply for RCC, you need to:

- Identify the course that you want to be assessed against based on training needs, existing skills and experience and the Pathway/Training Programs you are currently enrolled in.
- Seek approval from your chain of command by completing the Recognition of Current Competency Request Form (available on the Volunteer Hub).
- If approved, the regional Training Support Officer (TSO) or other relevant person within the Region will identify a suitable trainer assessor to perform the necessary assessments.
- Complete the assessment tasks, required for the course, in accordance with the assessment instructions.
- Your assessment is marked by an endorsed trainer assessor, who will provide you with feedback and a result.
- If you are deemed competent, you will receive the competency which is recorded in eAcademy.
- If you are not yet competent, you will receive information on the gaps, which identifies the specific areas that you need to improve. If there are significant gaps, you may be directed to complete the full training course. If the gaps are minor, then your trainer assessor may opt to undertake some targeted training and re-assessment.

It's important to note that students may not be able to access RCC immediately if there are resource constraints such as the requirement to perform the task as part of a team, or where access to an endorsed trainer assessor is restricted.

More information

- Review [SAP 6.1.A – Recognition of Current Competency](#) in Doctrine through the Volunteer Hub.
- Visit the Volunteer Hub to contact the [DFES Training Support Officer \(TSO\)](#) in your region.
- Contact the DFES Skills Recognition Officer by email Academy@dfes.wa.gov.au.

Worked example

Alice is a new member of a Bush Fire Brigade in the Southwest region. She has recently moved to Western Australia from South Australia, where she served as a volunteer firefighter for five years in the Country Fire Service (CFS). She wants to continue her service in WA and use her previous skills and qualifications.

Alice contacts her Captain and expresses her interest in applying for Recognition of Current Competency (RCC) for the equivalent courses to those that she has already achieved in SA. The Captain checks Alice's records and confirms that she holds existing qualifications that might be equivalent to the DFES0995 Bushfire Safety Awareness and DFES1023 Firefighting Skills qualifications.

Alice completes the Recognition of Current Competency Request Form, which is endorsed by her Captain.

The Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) which looks after the brigade identifies a suitable trainer assessor. Alice meets with the trainer assessor, who explains the assessment process and provides her with the relevant assessment tools and evidence guides.

During the discussion, the trainer assessor identifies there are some differences between the firefighting couplings, radios and maps used in WA compared to South Australia. The trainer assessor recommends Alice read the relevant parts of the student resource for these topics and follows up with a discussion to ensure Alice understands the different context in WA.

Alice is provided instruction on the assessment requirements by the trainer assessor and completes the relevant knowledge and practical assessments to verify her competence in the course, in line with DFES policies, procedures, and standards. The trainer assessor records the results of the assessments and provides feedback to Alice.

Alice successfully completes the knowledge and practical assessments and demonstrates her current competency in all aspects of the DFES0995 and DFES1023 qualifications. The trainer assessor informs Alice and her supervisor of the outcome and congratulates Alice on her achievement. The trainer assessor also submits the completed assessment tools and evidence to the TSO for verification and validation.

The TSO receives the assessment documents and checks them for completeness and accuracy. The TSO then enters Alice's results into eAcademy as a separate course occurrence. This process updates Alice's training record and profile to reflect her current qualification and status.

The TSO notifies Alice, her supervisor, and the trainer assessor of the completion of the RCC process and thanks them for their cooperation.