



**Learner Assessment Guide**  
**Unit Standard 16953**  
**Investigate and report on fire cause**  
**(Level 6, Credit 15, Version 2)**

**Level Descriptor**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Process</b>	<b>Employing</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Carrying out processes that:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Require a command of wide-ranging highly specialised technical or scholastic skills</li><li>• Involve a wide choice of standard and non-standard procedures, often in non-standard combinations</li><li>• Are employed in highly variable routine and non-routine contexts</li></ul>	<b>Employing:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Specialised knowledge with depth in more than one area</li><li>• The analysis, reformatting and evaluation of a wide range of information</li><li>• The formulation of appropriate responses to resolve both concrete and abstract problems</li></ul>	<b>Applied:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In managing processes</li><li>• within broad parameters for defined activities</li><li>• With complete accountability for determining and achieving personal and/or group outcomes</li></ul>

**Descriptors:** Credit 15 - will require approximately 150 - 180 hours of learning, practice or experience and assessment for a person with no previous knowledge or experience.

Version 2 - This document has been prepared based on version 2 of the Unit Standard.

**Elements:**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the statutory powers of fire and rescue personnel to investigate fire cause.
2. Identify, gather, control, and retain evidence from a fire scene.
3. Deduce the area of fire origin, probable fire cause, and establish a profile of related events.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Assessment Conditions:** Assessment against this unit standard may take place under real or practical simulated conditions.

**Special Notes:** Compliance with the providers Health and Safety policy and procedures in mandatory.

## **Assessment Brief Instructions:**

### **Assessing Element 1: Demonstrate knowledge of the statutory powers of fire and rescue personnel to investigate fire cause.**

Candidate ensures legislation that empowers fire and rescue service personnel to investigate fire cause is related to SOPs.

Candidate ensures delegations and authorities to investigate fire cause are identified and applied in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures.

Candidate ensures situations where the fire and rescue services must advise the New Zealand Police and other agencies when investigating fire cause are identified in accordance with organisational policy.

### **Assessing Element 2: Identify, gather, control, and retain evidence from a fire scene.**

Candidate ensures variable sources of evidence from a fire are identified and collected in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures. This may include but is not limited to:

- bystander witnesses reports
- fire and rescue service response crews reports
- profiles of related events
- physical evidence

Candidate ensures evidence controlled and retained minimises disruption to the fire scene in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures.

Candidate ensures scene surveys are supervised to ensure the completeness of the body of evidence gathered in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures. This may include but is not limited to:

- exterior examination
- interior examination
- wider scene examination

Candidate ensures analysis of evidence gathered determines its quality in relation to fire cause and any requirement for forensic examination in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures. This may include but is not limited to:

- primary evidence
- secondary evidence
- non-related evidence

### **Assessing Element 3 Deduce the area of fire origin, probable fire cause, and establish a profile of related events.**

Candidate ensures the area of fire origin and the point of ignition are identified in accordance with organisational best practice.

Candidate ensures the probable fire cause is deduced through the examination of gathered evidence in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures.

Candidate ensures crucial evidence is captured and controlled for the purposes of forensic testing in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures. This may include but is not limited to:

- evidence that relates to circumstances surrounding ignition
- evidence supporting the investigators theory of probable ignition
- evidence of a suspicious nature

Candidate ensures the results of forensic testing are incorporated into a profile of evidence through consultation with other subject experts in accordance with the fire and rescue service provider's policies and procedures.

Candidate ensures reports are developed that identify, analyse, and make explanations of the probable fire cause in accordance with organisational requirements. This may include but is not limited to:

- the fire and rescue service provider
- National Rural Fire Authority
- coroner
- territorial authority
- legal agencies
- insurance agencies
- building agencies