



# **FIRE & EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

## **LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**



<b>Title</b>	Fire & Emergency Operations Plan
<b>Date</b>	27 July 2015
<b>Adopted by</b>	Laois County Council

**Promulgation**  
**Comhairle Chontae Laoise**  
**Laois County Council**


**Fire and Emergency Operations Plan**  
**Section 26, Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003**

**Made and adopted under the Common Seal of the County Council of the County of Laois this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 2015**

Present when the Common Seal of the County Council of the County of Laois was affixed hereto:

Signed: 


Declan Power  
Acting Chief Fire Officer  
Laois County Council

Signed: 

Kieran Kehoe  
Director of Services  
Laois County Council

Signed: 

Gerry Murphy  
Chief Executive  
Laois County Council

Signed: 

Catherine Fitzgerald  
Cathaoirleach  
Laois County Council

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## Section 1: Purpose & Scope

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The purpose of this Fire & Emergency Operations Plan is to fulfil Laois County Council's statutory obligation as a Fire Authority as outlined in **Section 26 of the Fire Services Act, 1981 & 2003**.

### **Section 26 of the Fire Services Act, 1981 & 2003, states:**

*"Each Fire Authority which maintains a Fire Brigade shall prepare (and, as occasion requires, revise) plans for fire and emergency operations showing the provision made by it in respect of:*

- *Organisation*
- *Fire Stations*
- *Appliances*
- *Equipment*
- *Water supplies and extinguishing agents*
- *Training*
- *Operational procedure and such other matters as may be relevant for dealing with operations of an emergency nature under Section 25.*

### **Section 25 of the Fire Services Act, 1981 & 2003, states:**

*"A Fire Authority may carry out or assist in any operations of an emergency nature, whether or not a risk of fire is involved, and a Fire Authority may accordingly make such provision for the rescue or safeguarding of persons and protection of property as it considered necessary for the purposes of that function."*

The Fire & Emergency Operations Plan also includes reference to operational duties imposed on the Fire Authority by Sections 10(2) and 10(3) of the Fire Services Act, 1981 & 2003.

**Section 10(2) of the Fire Services Act, 1981 & 2003, states**

*"A Fire Authority shall,*

- (a) make provision for the prompt extinguishing of fires in buildings and other places of all kinds in it's functional area and for the protection and rescue of persons and property from injury by fire, and*
- (b) establish and maintain a fire brigade, provide premises and make other provisions as it considers necessary or desirable for such purposes and*
- (c) make adequate provision for the reception and response to calls for assistance of the fire brigade"*

**Section 10(3) of the Fire Services Act, 1981 & 2003, states:**

*"A Fire Authority shall, in exercise of its functions under subsection (2), have regard (in addition to all other relevant considerations) to the nature of the fire hazards and the probable incidence and extent of fires in it's functional area, the character of the area and the value of the property liable to be damaged by fires."*

This plan sets out current arrangements within the Fire Authority, but it also sets out strategic plans and targets for the Fire Authority for the next 5 years. This plan shall be reviewed from time to time as deemed appropriate, but in any case it shall be reviewed at least once every 5 years. It should be noted that the above function is a reserved function under Section 26(3) of Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003.

Although the legislation only requires this plan to deal with arrangements made with regard to Fire and Emergency operations, this plan will also take into consideration the substantial volume of Fire Safety and Fire Prevention work carried out by the Fire Service Section, along with the contribution the Fire Authority makes to Major Emergency Management.

## **Definitions**

### **Fire Authority as per Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003**

*“A Fire Authority means a Fire Authority to which Section 9 of the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003 applies. Laois County Council is the Fire Authority for all of County Laois.”*

### **Fire Brigade as per Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003**

*“A Fire Brigade means an organised body of persons trained and equipped for extinguishing fires occurring in buildings and other places and for rescuing persons and property from such fires and includes the vehicles and equipment with which that body is equipped.”*

### **Extinguishing of a fire as per Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003**

*“Extinguishing of a fire shall be construed as including the prevention of a fire from spreading”*

### **Senior Fire Officer**

*“Fire Service personnel at the following grades – Chief Fire Officer, Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Senior Executive, Second Officer, Executive Officer, Third Officer, District Officer, Assistant Fire Officer, Graduate, in accordance with the provisions laid out in the Senior Officer Handbook.”*

### **Junior Fire Officer**

*“Fire Service personnel at the following grades – Station Officer and Sub Station Officer.”*

## **Retained Fire Fighter**

*“Officer and Fire-fighters of fire brigades who are part-time, permanent and non-pensionable employees of Laois County Council They are employed in accordance with the conditions, duties, pay, disciplinary code, etc relating to part-time fire-fighters in Laois County Council”.*

## **Major Emergency as defined by “A framework for Major Emergency Management”**

*“A Major Emergency is any event which, usually with little or no warning, causes or threatens death or injury, serious disruption of essential services or damage to property, the environment or infrastructure beyond the normal capabilities of the principal emergency services (An Garda Síochána, Health Service Executive and Laois County Council and in the area in which the event occurs, and requires the activation of specific additional procedures and the mobilisation of additional resources to ensure an effective, co-ordinated response.”*

## **National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management**

*“Body established on the 22 June 2009, the mandate of which is to create an effective model of integrated leadership, development support and oversight by central government of local authority’s provision of consistently effective, safe and value-for-money fire and emergency services in Ireland. This body also incorporates the work previously carried out by the Fire Services Council. The Directorate operates under the aegis of the Local Government Division of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.”*

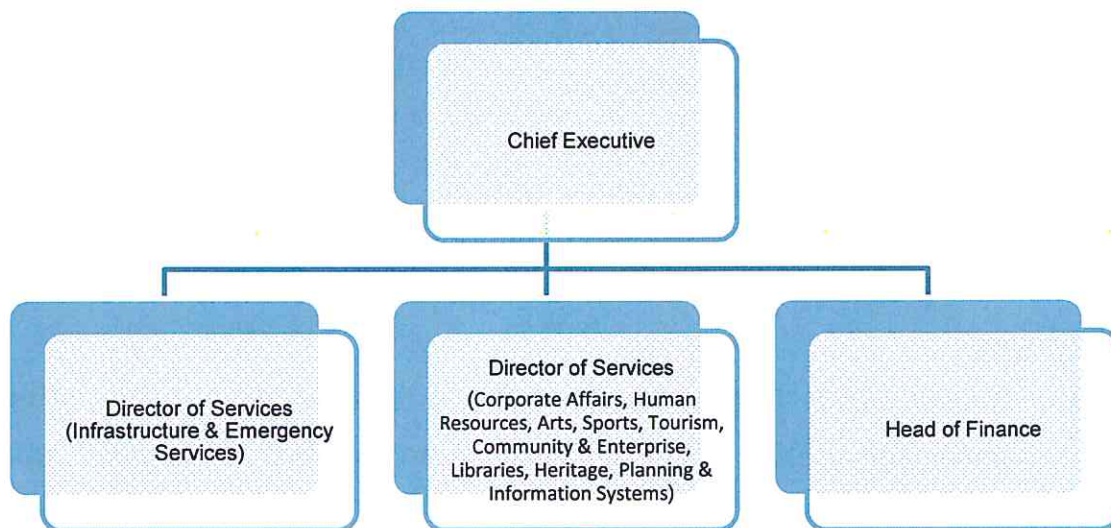


## Section 2: Executive Summary

In accordance with Section 26 of the Fire Services Act, 1981 & 2003, Laois County Council, as the Fire Authority for County Laois, has a statutory obligation to prepare a Fire & Emergency Operations Plan. The plan identifies the organisational and management structure for the fire services in County Laois. It details the assets in its possession at each station and provides details of the training, communications and Health & Safety policies used by the Fire Services. Furthermore it specifies the operational roles and procedures and standards employed by the Fire Authority. The plan also considers the areas of Fire Safety – Fire Prevention and Building Control as well as Major Emergency Management.

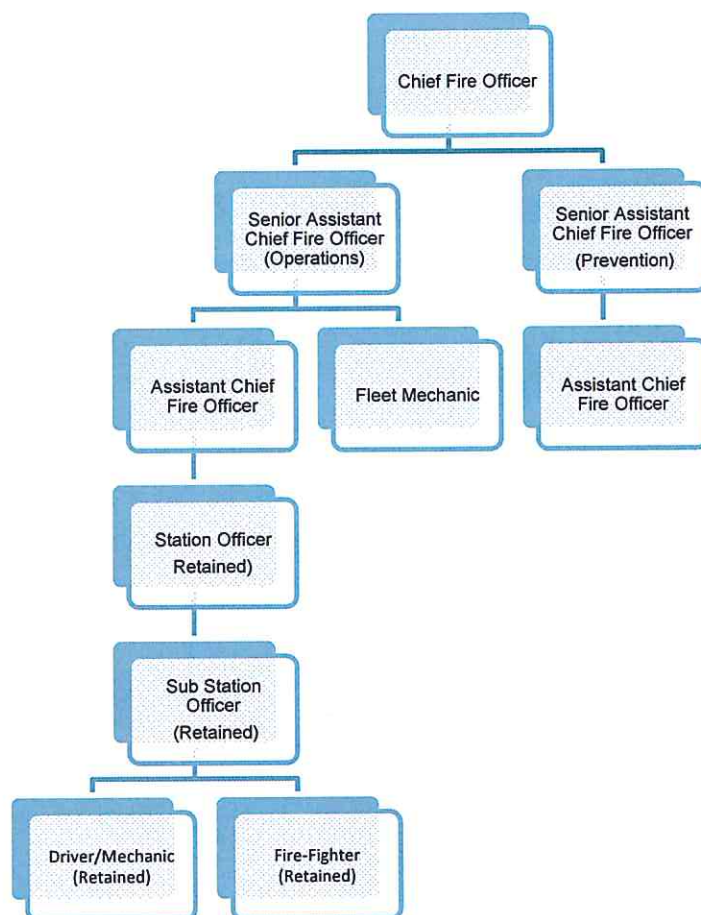
### Organisation

The Director of Services for Infrastructure & Emergency Services and Chief Fire Officer are the designated officers for the executive functions under the Fire Services Acts 1981 & 2003.



**Senior Management Organisational Structure of Laois County Council**

The Fire Services are organised under the Chief Fire Officer who is a professional technically qualified officer. The Chief Fire Officer has primary responsibility for the delivery of Fire Services.



### Organisational Structure of Laois County Fire & Rescue Service

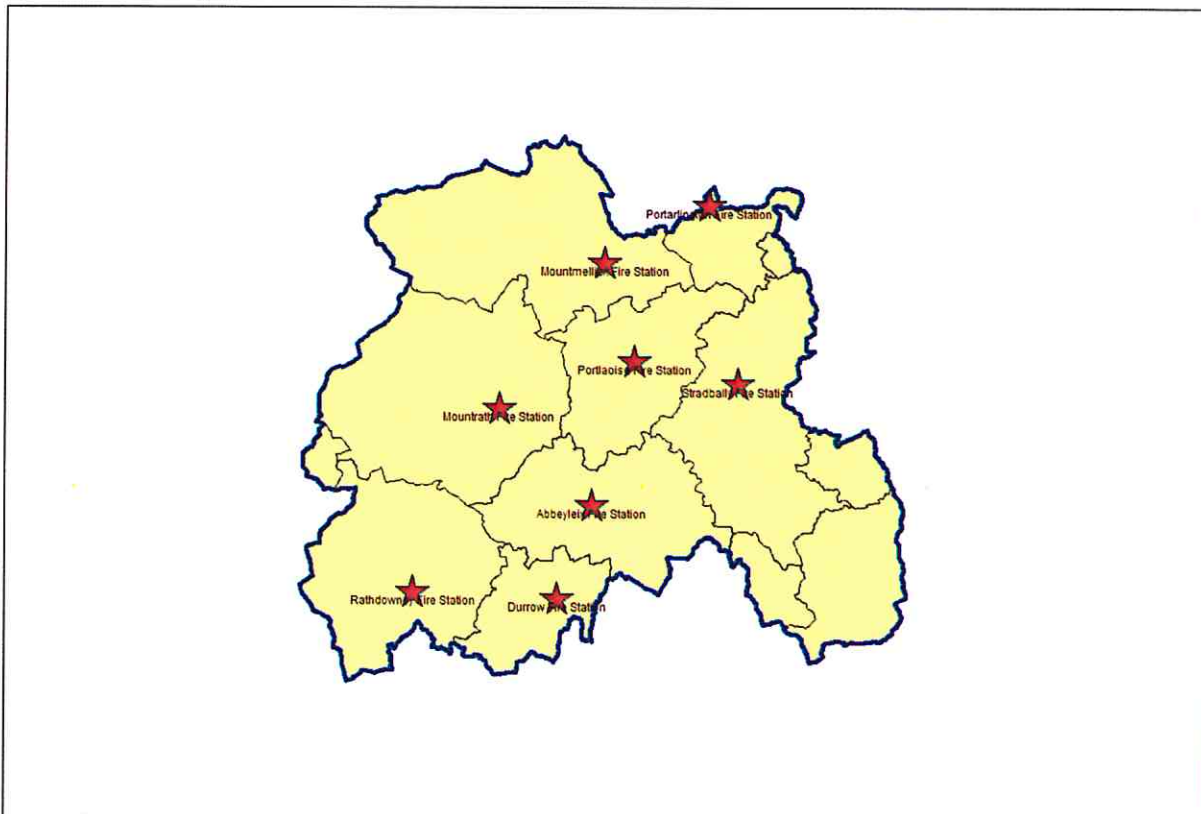
#### Key Objectives

- Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will aim to retain its' current staffing complement of Senior Fire Officers, Administration Personnel and Maintenance Personnel.
- It is intended to continue with the current agency arrangements for the provision of fire cover that are in place with Kildare, Kilkenny, Carlow Tipperary & Offaly County Councils.

## Fire Stations

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service operates 8 Fire Stations in the following locations:

- Portlaoise
- Portarlinton
- Rathdowney
- Durrow
- Mountmellick
- Mountrath
- Abbeyleix
- Stradbally.



**Fire Station locations in Co. Laois.**

### **Key Objectives**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will:-

- Continue to seek Capital Grant Aid Funding to build new fire stations in Rathdowney & Stradbally during the period of this plan.
- It also intends to carry out improvement works at the other fire station using Laois County Fire & Rescue Service's own financial resources.
- Carry out ongoing maintenance at all Fire Stations.

### **Fire Appliances**

Laois County Council maintains fire appliances in 8 Fire Stations throughout the county. There are a variety of different types of appliances in operation, i.e. Class B Pumping Fire Appliance (normal fire appliance), Emergency Tenders, Aerial Appliances, Water Tankers, Incident Support Unit, and 4 Wheel Drive Vehicles with off road capabilities.

### **Key Objectives**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will:-

- Apply for Capital Grant Aid for the replacement of 2 No. Class B Fire Appliances in 2015.
- Will meet with neighbouring Fire Authorities to discuss the disposition of and the arrangements for the use of Special Appliances with neighbouring Fire Authorities.

### **Equipment**

Due to the large variety of incident types Laois County Fire & Rescue Service attend, it is necessary to carry a large range of equipment & PPE. Much of the equipment & PPE is used on a regular basis, however some of the equipment is only occasionally used for specific fires or rescues.

### **Key Objectives**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will:-

- Maintain all equipment in accordance with statutory requirements & manufacturers recommendations which outline the frequency and type of inspection for the relevant equipment.
- Continue to provide the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to all personnel and to procure this PPE to the highest standards.

### **Water Supplies**

Each standard Class B Pumping appliance carries 1800 Litres of water in an on-board tank. This generally provides a 20 minute supply to one high pressure hose-reel and is likely to be capable of extinguishing room fires, vehicle fires, small out-house fires, rubbish fires, chimney fires or roof space fires etc.

### **Key Objectives**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service intends to:-

- Maintain Water Tankers at 2 of its' Fire Stations for the period of this plan
- Work with the relevant Water Authorities to develop access to available water supplies for fire-fighting purposes in County Laois.

### **Training**

Fire Authorities are obliged under both the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003 and the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 to ensure that their Fire-fighters and Officers are adequately trained and competent to deal with tasks and varying roles they may encounter in the performance of their duties.

### **Key Objectives**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will:-

- Deliver training in accordance with its' Training Policy Document for the period of this plan.
- Take account of and where appropriate implement guidance from the NDFEM in relation to training during the life of this Plan.

- Will In addition to Training Courses provide 104 hours On-Station training with an additional 36 hours Quarterly Testing in each station annually.

### **Safety, Health & Welfare.**

Health and Safety underpins all aspects of Fire Service response. Laois County Council is committed to safeguarding, as far as is reasonably practicable the Safety, Health and Welfare of all employees, contractors and visitors. Laois County Fire & Rescue Service operates in accordance with the Laois County Council Safety Management System. Laois County Fire & Rescue Service has a current Ancillary Safety Statement in place for the Fire Service. This Safety Statement has been produced in accordance with guidance provided by the NDFEM for Fire Authorities.

Laois County Fire & Rescue has adopted the Standard Operating Guidance produced by the NDFEM and localised it as required.

### **Key Objectives**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will:-

- Safeguard, as far as is reasonably practicable the Safety, Health and Welfare of all employees, contractors and visitors.

### **Communications**

Section 10(2)(c) of the Fire Services Act, 1981, requires the Fire Authority to make adequate provision for the reception of and response to calls for the assistance of the Fire Brigade. In order to fulfil this function Laois County Fire & Rescue Service has entered into agreement with Dublin City Council, under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 for the provision of a mobilisation facility for fire services in County Laois. This facility is known as the Eastern Regional Communications Centre and is located at Townsend St. Fire Station, Dublin.

## **Key Objectives**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will:-

- Remain a Fire Authority within the Eastern Regional Control Centre.
- Will implement new communications technology, in particular Tetra, during the life of this Plan, subject to funding being provided.

## **Operational Roles and Procedures**

Traditionally Fire Services were formed to attend at incidents involving fires. However, the role of Fire Services has expanded considerably over the years. Section 25 of the Fire Services Act, 1981 & 2003 empowers Fire Authorities to attend emergency incidents other than those involving fires. Section 25 of the Fire Services Act, 1981, states:

*"A Fire Authority may carry out or assist in any operations of an emergency nature, whether or not a risk of fire is involved, and a Fire Authority may accordingly make such provision for the rescue or safeguarding of persons and protection of property as it considered necessary for the purposes of that function."*

## **Key Objectives**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will:-

- Attend all incident types detailed as core incident types in Keeping Communities Safe (KCS).
- Also attend all discretionary incident types detailed in KCS, with specific arrangements relating to Road Hazard Incidents.
- Put arrangements in place to apportion the cost of attendance at these incidents to the appropriate Road Authority.
- Carry out a review with regard to the delivery of specialist response to Hazardous Materials Incidents, Rescues from Heights and River Rescue incidents.
- Continue to work in accordance with Operational Guidance Documents that have been prepared by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM).

- Continue to develop 10 pre-incident plans per annum, giving a total of 170 by the end of 2019.

### **Operational Standards**

Guidance has been provided by the NDFEM in relation to Operational Standards. The guidance has been provided taking cognisance of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

There are no concerns at this time with the capability of Laois County Fire & Rescue Service to meet the KCS Targets for Travel Time for Fire Appliances or Special Appliances.

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service has reviewed the guidance in KCS in relation to responding to Large Scale Incidents, and having considered its' own fleet availability and those of neighbouring Fire Authorities is satisfied that it can mobilise Class B appliances, Special Appliances and an Incident Command Unit in accordance with the guidance provided in Chapter 8 of KCS regarding Large Scale Incidents.

### **Key Objectives**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will:-

- Put arrangements in place during the life of this plan to maintain the current crewing complements at all 8 fire stations in accordance with the guidance in KCS and other NDFEM documentation.
- Put arrangements in place to guarantee the following number of personnel to be available for Call-Outs at each station:- Portlaoise (9), Portarlinton (7), Rathdowney (7), Durrow (7), Mountmellick (7), Mountrath (7), Abbeyleix (7) & Stradbally (7).
- Will ensure that the fire appliances that can respond to an address in the shortest period of time are mobilised.



## **Fire Safety – Fire Prevention and Building Control**

Although the legislation only requires this plan to deal with arrangements made with regard to Fire and Emergency operations, this plan will also take into consideration the substantial volume of Fire Safety and Fire Prevention work carried out by the Fire Service Section.

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service Fire Prevention Staff advise on current fire safety standards required for proposed and existing developments.

### **Key Objectives**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will:-

- Comply with all relevant Fire Prevention and Building Control Legislation and Regulations during the life of this Plan.
- Continue to introduce initiatives to reduce the Fire Fatality rate in County Laois along with reducing various incident types.
- Work with other sections in Laois County Council, in particular the Housing Section and the Community & Enterprise Section, to develop initiatives to work with the general public and Community Groups to reduce the number of fires & increase fire safety.
- Continue to deliver the Primary Schools Fire Safety Programme
- Carry out During Performance Inspections along with targeting specific high risk areas identified through the Risk Based Approach to Emergency Cover when delivering Community Fire Safety Programmes.

### **Major Emergency Management**

Although the legislation only requires this plan to deal with arrangements made with regard to Fire and Emergency operations, this plan will also take into consideration the substantial volume of work carried out by the Fire Service Section in relation to Major Emergency Management both within Co. Laois & the region.

## **Key Objectives**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will:-

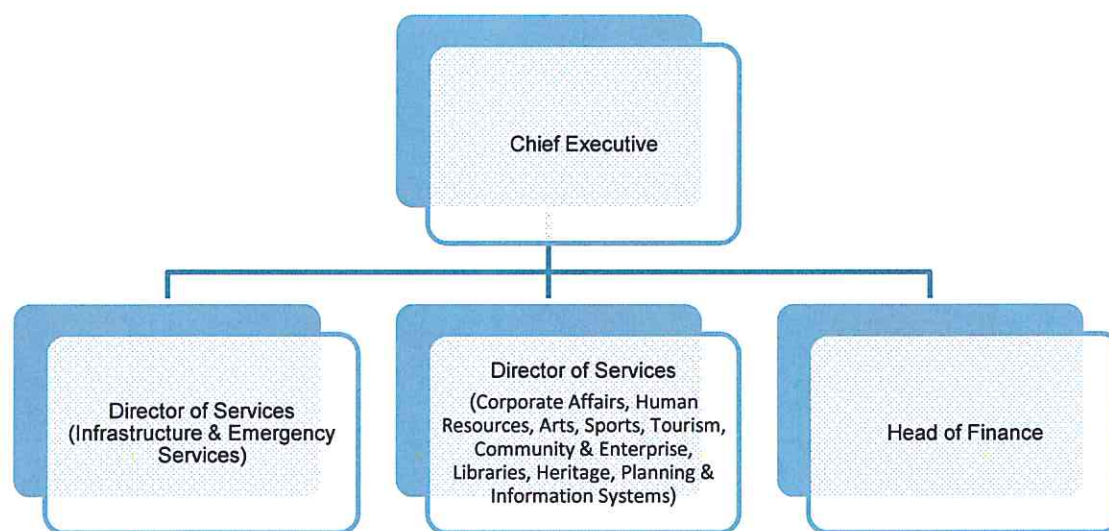
- Prepare for large scale and inter-agency operations through participation in appropriate training and exercises.
- Will further develop relationships with the Civil Defence as appropriate, in particular in preparation for joint assistance in the event of a Major Emergency occurring.
- Will continue to participate on the Laois County Council Major Emergency Management Committee along with the participating on the Regional Working and Steering Groups as appropriate.
- Put in place protocols for using social media outlets to update the public during severe weather events.

### Section 3: Organisation

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Laois County Fire & Rescue Service is the Fire Authority for the total County of Laois operating generally under the Fire Services Acts, 1981 & 2003 & Building Control Act 1990.

The Fire Authority in Laois County Council forms part of the Infrastructure & Emergency Services Directorate under the direction of the Director of Services for Infrastructure & Emergency Services. The Director of Services for Infrastructure & Emergency Services and Chief Fire Officer are the designated officers for the executive functions under the Fire Services Acts 1981 & 2003.



**Figure 3:1: Senior Management Organisational Structure of Laois County Council**

The Fire Services are organised under the Chief Fire Officer who is a professional technically qualified officer. The Chief Fire Officer has primary responsibility for the delivery of Fire Services.

The Chief Fire Officer is assisted by the following personnel (note, the Chief Fire Officer, Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officers and the Assistant Chief Fire Officers are professional technically qualified officers).

**Fire Prevention:**

1 No. Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer

1 No. Assistant Chief Fire Officer

The fire prevention officers are generally engaged in inspections of buildings under the Fire Services Act 1981; assessment and provision of reports on Planning; the assessing of Fire Safety Certificates and carrying out Licensing Inspections in relation to Dance & Liquor Licence Applications.

**Operational Fire Service including Major Emergency Management:**

1 No. Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer

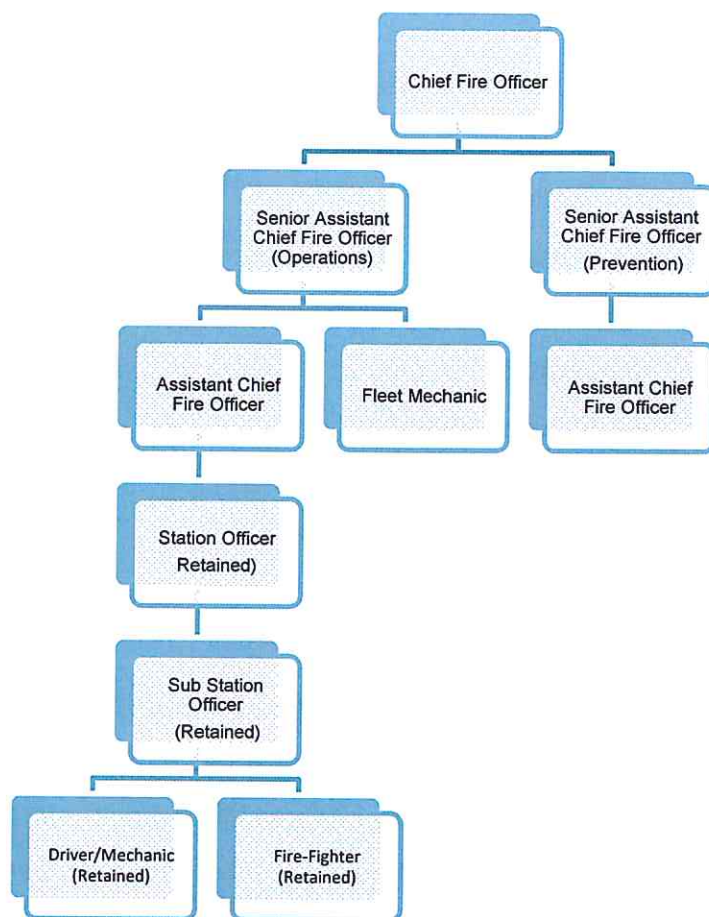
1 No. Assistant Chief Fire Officer (H&S, Pre-Incident Planning, MEM)

8 No. Retained Station Officers

9 No. Retained Station Sub-Officers

9 No. Driver Mechanics

49 No. Retained Fire-fighters



**Figure 3:2: Organisational Structure of Laois County Fire & Rescue Service**

Following the completion of an Area Risk Categorisation Process as detailed in the Keeping Communities Safe (KCS) Document (2013) and the Task Analysis & Crewing Levels Guidance (2014), the complement of personnel will remain the same.

Crews are provided by Retained fire-fighters reporting to a Retained Station Officer in each Station, The Station Officers in turn report to the Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Operations) .Fire-fighters carry a pager and are expected to report to Fire Station and go mobile to the incident within 5 minutes as is the norm for rural counties in Ireland at present. In addition, one Senior Fire Officer out of five is rostered on call each week to assist in the handling of more serious emergency incidents.

There are 8 Fire Stations located in County Laois as follows: -

- Portlaoise
- Portarlinton
- Rathdowney
- Durrow
- Mountmellick
- Mountrath
- Abbeyleix
- Stradbally.

Fire cover is provided on an agency basis by Kildare County Fire Service to parts of East Laois around Ballylinan & surrounding townlands. Fire cover is provided on an agency basis by Tipperary Fire Service to parts of West Laois around Ballaghmore. Fire cover is provided on an agency basis by Kilkenny Fire Service to parts of Southern Laois around Crettyard & Newtown. Fire cover is provided on an agency basis by Carlow County Fire Service to parts of South East Laois around Killeshin, Ballickmoyler & Arles.

Fire Cover is provided by Laois County Fire & Rescue Service on an agency basis into Southern Offaly in Portarlinton, Cloneygowan and the surrounding area.

Dublin City Council provides the statutory obligation as regards call-out of the Fire Service for Laois County Fire & Rescue Service on an agency basis through the Eastern Regional Communications Centre attached to Townsend Street Fire Station. The Keeping Communities Safe (KCS) Document (2013) provides a mechanism for determining a Risk Category for each station ground. This in turn is linked to guidance in relation to the crew required to mobilise to incidents. Further information on this is provided in section 12 of this document, along with the associated recommended crew complements and crewing arrangements for each station.

### **Administrative Support**

Administrative support is currently provided by the Environment Section of Laois County Council.

### **Maintenance Personnel**

Due to the extent, variety and complexity of fire appliances and equipment used by Laois County Fire & Rescue Service, there is a continuing ongoing requirement to service and maintain fire appliances and equipment to the highest standards. Specialist equipment is maintained by external contractors, but the bulk of the equipment is maintained by the following Laois County Fire & Rescue Service maintenance personnel;

1 No. Fitter Mechanic.

### **Arrangements with other Fire Services**

Due to the nature and extent of training, procurement and technical expertise requirements of a modern fire service, all the capabilities required will generally not be available within a particular fire service. Accordingly, expertise is shared between various fire services, generally on a reciprocal arrangement. This results in personnel from Laois County Fire & Rescue Service instructing for other fire services, and personnel from other fire services instructing on Laois County Fire & Rescue Service courses.

Personnel from Laois County Fire & Rescue Service have also worked on secondment from time to time for the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management on national projects and delivering national training courses.

### **Objectives for the Period of this Plan:**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will aim to retain its' current staffing complement of Senior Fire Officers, Administration Personnel and Maintenance Personnel.

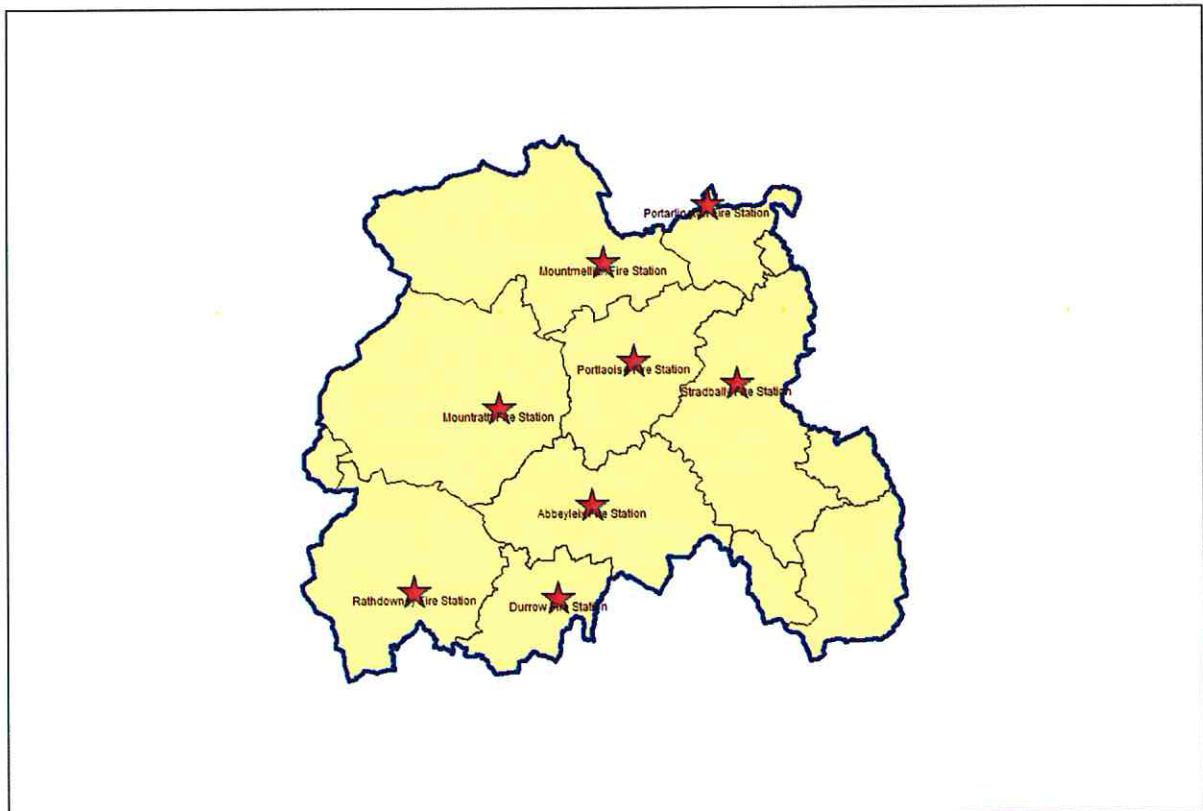
It is intended to continue with the current agency arrangements for the provision of fire cover that are in place with Kildare, Kilkenney, Carlow Tipperary & Offaly County Councils.

## Section 4: Fire Stations

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Laois County Fire & Rescue Service operates 8 Fire Stations in the following locations:

- Portlaoise
- Portarlington
- Rathdowney
- Durrow
- Mountmellick
- Mountrath
- Abbeyleix
- Stradbally.



**Figure 4:1 Fire Station locations in Co. Laois.**



All major construction projects, including major refurbishment projects at Fire Stations received Capital Funding from the NDFEM. Ongoing day to day maintenance of Fire Stations is funded from the Fire Authorities own Revenue Budget.

A brief description of all Fire Stations is outlined below.

**1. Portlaoise (Call Sign LS11)**



Station Address:	Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
Fireground Population:	24,268 (per NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report May 2012)
Fireground Area:	153Km <sup>2</sup>
Total number of call-outs/annum:	2010: 267 2011: 274 2012: 177 2013: 268 2014: 264

Portlaoise Fire Station was completed in 2003. It is a Retained Fire Station.

The Retained Station accommodation and facilities consists of;

- A 6 bay appliance room housing 2 No. standard Class B appliances, 1 No. Emergency Tender appliance, 1 no Technical Rescue unit, 1 No. water tanker, 1 No. Aerial Appliance, and 1 No. 4 Wheel Drive Appliance.
- The Spare Appliance sheds store 1 4 x 4 vehicle, 1 No. Incident Support Unit, 1 No. Spare Appliance and 1 No. boat & trailer along with other spare equipment.
- Parking Spaces
- Muster Bay
- Locker Room
- Watch Room
- Lecture Room
- Station Officer's Office
- Kitchenette
- Breathing Apparatus Servicing Room
- Breathing Apparatus Compressor Room
- Drying Room
- Female Toilet & Shower facilities
- Male Toilet & Shower facilities
- Drill Yard
- Drill Tower
- Storerooms
- Maintenance Bay
- Boiler Room

**2. Portarlington Fire Station LS12**



Portarlington Fire Station was completed in 2007. It is a Retained Fire Station.

Station Address:	Link Road, Portarlington, Co. Laois.
Fireground Population:	14,463 (per NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report May 2012)
Fireground Area:	225Km <sup>2</sup>
Total number of call-outs/annum:	2010: 127 2011: 100 2012: 103 2013: 157 2014: 124

The Retained Station accommodation and facilities consists of;

- A 2 bay appliance room housing 1 No. standard Class B appliance and 1 No. 4 Wheel Drive Appliance
- Parking Spaces
- Muster Bay
- Locker Room
- Watch Room
- Lecture Room
- Station Officer's Office
- Kitchenette
- Drying Room
- Female Toilet & Shower facilities
- Male Toilet & Shower facilities
- Drill Yard
- Drill Tower
- Storeroom
- Boiler Room

### 3. Rathdowney Fire Station LS13



The Fire Station in Rathdowney was built in 1954. The Retained Station accommodation and facilities consists of;

- A 1 bay appliance room housing 1 No. standard Class B appliances
- An adjoining garage housing 1 No. 4 Wheel Drive appliance
- Watch Room
- Toilet & WHB.

Station Address:	Newtownperry, Rathdowney, Co. Laois.
Fireground Population:	5,014 (per NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report May 2012)
Fireground Area:	216Km <sup>2</sup>
Total number of call-outs/annum:	2010: 47 2011: 60 2012: 40 2013: 35 2014: 45

Sanction & 100% grant aided funding has been sought from NDFEM to replace the existing fire station. A site was purchased for a new fire station in 2002. Fully detailed drawings have been completed for the new station.

#### 4. Durrow Fire Station LS14



Station Address:	Abbeyleix Road, Durrow, Co. Laois.
Fireground Population:	2,705 (per NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report May 2012)
Fireground Area:	91Km <sup>2</sup>
Total number of call-outs/annum:	2010: 48 2011: 51 2012: 34 2013: 38 2014: 44

The Fire Station in Durrow was built in 1979. The Retained Station accommodation and facilities consists of;

- A 2 bay appliance room housing 1 No. standard Class B appliances, 1No. water tanker & 1 No. 4 Wheel Drive appliance
- Parking Spaces

- Muster Bay
- Watch Room
- Lecture room
- Male Toilet & Shower facilities
- Store room.



## 5. Mountmellick Fire Station LS15



Station Address:	Irishtown, Mountmellick, Co. Laois.
Fireground Population:	10,184 (per NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report May 2012)
Fireground Area:	275Km <sup>2</sup>
Total number of call-outs/annum:	2010: 141 2011: 114 2012: 81 2013: 120 2014: 102

The Fire Station in Mountmellick was originally a garage & was purchased by Laois County Council in the late 1970s for conversion into a fire station.

The Retained Station accommodation and facilities consists of;

- A 2 bay appliance room housing 1 No. standard Class B appliance & 1 No. 4 Wheel Drive appliance
- Parking Spaces

- Muster Bay
- Watch Room
- Lecture room
- Male Toilet & Shower facilities
- Store room.

**6. Mountrath Fire Station LS16**



Station Address:	Shannon Road, Mountrath, Co. Laois.
Fireground Population:	6,400 (per NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report May 2012)
Fireground Area:	303Km <sup>2</sup>
Total number of call-outs/annum:	2010: 84 2011: 72 2012: 66 2013: 72 2014: 70

The Fire Station in Mountrath was built in 1968 as part of a Fire Station, Library & Courthouse complex. The Library & Courthouse were incorporated into the Fire Station in the early 2000s. The Retained Station accommodation and facilities consist of;

- A 1 bay appliance room housing 1 No. standard Class B appliance and 1 No. 4 Wheel Drive appliance
- Parking Spaces
- Muster Bay
- Watch Room
- Lecture Room/kitchenette
- Toilet & Shower facilities.

## 7. Abbeyleix Fire Station LS17



Station Address:	Portlaoise Road, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.
Fireground Population:	6,228 (per NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report May 2012)
Fireground Area:	187Km <sup>2</sup>
Total number of call-outs/annum:	2010: 74 2011: 63 2012: 51 2013: 56 2014: 75

A new Fire Station was completed at Abbeyleix in 2008. The Retained Station accommodation and facilities consists of;

- A 2 bay appliance room housing 1 No. standard Class B appliance and 1 No. 4 Wheel Drive appliance

- Parking Spaces
- Muster Bay
- Watch Room
- Lecture Room/kitchenette
- Station Officer's Office
- Kitchenette
- Drying Room
- Female Toilet & Shower facilities
- Male Toilet & Shower facilities
- Drill Yard
- Drill Tower.

There are no significant development works planned for Abbeyleix Fire Station during the life of this Plan. Ongoing maintenance works will be carried out from Laois County Fire & Rescue Service's own financial resources.

## 8. Stradbally Fire Station LS18



Station Address:	Main Street, Stradbally, Co. Laois.
Fireground Population:	5,726 (per NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report May 2012)
Fireground Area:	228Km <sup>2</sup>
Total number of call-outs/annum:	2010: 62 2011: 61 2012: 44 2013: 87 2014: 93

The Fire Station in Stradbally was built in 1954. The Retained Station accommodation and facilities consists of;

- A 1 bay appliance room housing 1 No. standard Class B appliances
- An adjoining garage housing 1 No. 4 Wheel Drive appliance
- Watch Room
- Toilet & WHB

It is intended to carry out the following works in the coming years from Laois County Fire & Rescue Service's own financial resources;

- Construction of store room

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters operates from offices at Áras an Chontae. Administrative support is provided by Laois County Council's Environment Section.

**Objectives for the Period of this Plan:**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will continue to seek Capital Grant Aid Funding to build new fire stations in Rathdowney & Stradbally during the period of this plan. It also intends to carry out improvement works at the other fire station using Laois County Fire & Rescue Service's own financial resources, along with carrying out ongoing maintenance at all Fire Stations.



## Section 5: Fire Appliances

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Laois County Council maintains fire appliances in 8 Fire Stations throughout the county.

There are a variety of different types of appliances in operation, i.e. Class B Pumping Fire Appliance (normal fire appliance), Emergency Tenders, Aerial Appliances, Water Tankers, Incident Support Unit, and 4 Wheel Drive Vehicles with off road capabilities.

The following Tables show the Fire Authority vehicles based at each station;

### Portlaoise Fire Station

<b>Appliance type</b>	<b>Call Sign</b>
Class B pumping appliance	LS11A1
Class B pumping appliance	LS11A2
Wildland fire appliance	LS11A3
Emergency tender	LS11B1
Technical Rescue Unit	LS11B2
Hydraulic Platform	LS11E1
Water Tanker	LS11K1
4x4 vehicle	LS11J1
4x4 vehicle	LS11J2
Incident Support Unit	LS11C1

### Portarlinton fire station

<b>Appliance type</b>	<b>Call Sign</b>
Class B pumping appliance	LS12A1
4x4 vehicle	LS12J1

### Rathdowney Fire Station

<b>Appliance type</b>	<b>Call Sign</b>
Class B pumping appliance	LS13A1
4x4 vehicle	LS13J1

### Durrow Fire Station

<b>Appliance type</b>	<b>Call Sign</b>
Class B pumping appliance	LS14A1
4x4 vehicle	LS14J1
Water Tanker	LS14K1

### Mountmellick Fire Station

<b>Appliance type</b>	<b>Call Sign</b>
Class B pumping appliance	LS14A1
4x4 vehicle	LS15J1

### Mountrath fire Station

<b>Appliance type</b>	<b>Call Sign</b>
Class B pumping appliance	LS16A1
4x4 vehicle	LS16J1

### Abbeyleix Fire Station

<b>Appliance type</b>	<b>Call Sign</b>
Class B pumping appliance	LS17A1
4x4 vehicle	LS17J1

### Stradbally Fire Station

<b>Appliance type</b>	<b>Call Sign</b>
Class B pumping appliance	LS18A1
4x4 vehicle	LS18J1

In terms of fleet management, the life span of all vehicles would be generally 20 years, in particular with respect to the standard Class B Pumping Fire Appliances this would generally be achieved by using the appliance as first response vehicle for 15 years and as second /third response vehicle for 5 years. A number of spare and training appliances may be older than this.

The above criteria would mean that the following appliances will need to be changed over the next 5 years;

- 4 No. Class B pumping appliance to replace 1993, 1999, 2001 & 2003 registered appliances.

Laois County Council intends seeking Capital Grant Aid Assistance from the NDFEM to replace each of these appliances when they are due for renewal.

Special Appliances are appliances such as Emergency Tenders, Aerial Appliances, Water Tankers and Incident Support Units. The age profile of Special Appliances in Laois County Fire & Rescue Service is relatively new at this stage and it is not expected that any such vehicles will reach their end of life within the life of this Plan. In accordance with KCS, Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will meet with neighbouring Fire Authorities to discuss the disposition of and the arrangements for the use of Special Appliances with neighbouring Fire Authorities.

All appliances are maintained by the Brigade Mechanic & occasionally by external contractors as appropriate. All appliances are serviced on an annual basis and ongoing repairs are carried out as required. All appliances are tested to a Roadworthiness Standard by an external agent on an annual basis. In addition, all

fire appliances are checked weekly by the Driver Mechanic outside of normal call-out and training hours as part of their duties. These checks are recorded in an Appliance Weekly Check Log Book.

**Objectives for the Period of this Plan:**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will apply for Capital Grant Aid for the replacement of 2 No. Class B Fire Appliances in 2015 and will meet with neighbouring Fire Authorities to discuss the disposition of and the arrangements for the use of Special Appliances with neighbouring Fire Authorities.

## Section 6: Equipment & PPE

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### 6.1 Introduction

Due to the large variety of incident types Laois County Fire & Rescue Service attend, it is necessary to carry a large range of equipment & PPE. Much of the equipment & PPE is used on a regular basis, however some of the equipment is only occasionally used for specific fires or rescues.

### 6.2 Equipment

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service has the core equipment on each Class B Pumping Appliance to deal with all normal incidents. Equipment for dealing with Specialist Heavy Rescue and Hazardous Materials incidents is carried on the Emergency Tender Appliance in Portlaoise. Water Tankers also carry a limited amount of equipment to allow for the operation of these appliances. Appendix A contains a non-exhaustive lists of typical items of equipment that are carried on these appliances. Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will continue to research the latest technologies and equipment that are available and to procure and introduce new equipment as appropriate subject to funding being made available by Laois County Council.

The ongoing preventative maintenance and standard testing of this equipment is a major role of the Operations Section of Laois County Fire & Rescue Service.

There is equipment reaching its end of life on an ongoing basis. This equipment is generally replaced using Revenue Financial Resources within Laois County Council. Some major items of equipment will also be Grant Aided by the NDFEM.

All fire appliances are checked weekly by the Driver Mechanic as part of their Duties.

All equipment on Fire Appliances is also standard tested at periodic periods. The normal period is 3 months but some equipment is tested annually. These standard tests of the equipment are carried out by the crews in the Stations when they come

in for a day every 3 months to check the equipment. Records of the standard tests for all equipment are available.

Due to the specialist nature of some of the equipment, it needs to be inspected / maintained by specialist external contractors, note this also includes equipment that is fixed in the buildings.

<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Frequency of Inspection / Testing</b>	<b>Responsible for Inspecting / Testing</b>
Hydraulic RTC Equipment	Annual	External Contractor
Main Pumps	Quarterly	Station Officer
Portable Pumps	Quarterly	Station Officer
Breathing Apparatus Sets	Annual	External Contractor
Breathing Apparatus Compressors	Annual	External Contractor
Breathing Apparatus Cylinders	5 yearly	External Contractor
Air Lifting Equipment	Annual	External Contractor
Ladders	Annual	External Contractor
Chainsaws	Annual	Brigade Mechanic / chainsaw operators
Abrasive Wheels	Annual	Brigade Mechanic
Chemical Protective Suits	As per manufacturers recommendations	External Contractor
Working at Heights Equipment	Quarterly	Fire-Fighters trained in inspection of WAH equipment
Line Rescue Equipment	Quarterly	Fire-Fighters trained in inspection of WAH equipment
Diesel Exhaust Extract System	Annual	External Contractor
Fire Extinguishers	Annual	External Contractor

Lifejackets	Annual	External Contractor
Slings (dragging only)	Annual	External Contractor
Winches	Annual	External Contractor

It is the intention of Laois County Fire & Rescue Service to continue to maintain the equipment as detailed above on all appliances. The following table lists the major items of equipment that will reach their end of life within the next 5 years and the estimated cost of replacing this equipment. It should be noted that this equipment will need to be replaced using Revenue Financial Resources within Laois County Council.

Item	Due to be Replaced	Estimated Cost
Airbags	2017	€24,000
Ladders	2017,2018, 2019	€20,000
Gas Tight Suits x16	4 each year in 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019	€32,000

### 6.3 PPE

Due to the hazards associated with many aspects of operational activity, wearing appropriate PPE is one of the main control measures utilised to reduce the risk. The standard PPE issued to all personnel for normal operations (Attendance at Call-Outs and Training) is as follows;

- 2 No. Fire fighting tunics to BS EN 469
- 2 No. Fire fighting leggings to BS EN 469
- 1 No. Fire Helmet BS EN 443.
- 2 pairs of Water-proof gloves with thermal lining to BS EN 659,
- 2 No. Anti-Flash hoods (shoulder length) to BS EN 13911,
- 1 Pair of Fire-fighters' boots to BS EN 15090

- 1 No. wild land fire fighting helmet to EN 12492
- 1 No. Wildland fire-fighting coverall to EN 15614

In addition to the above, the following PPE is also available for specialist operations;

- Chemical Protective Clothing Suits
- Chainsaw PPE
- Flooding Response Dry suits & personal flotation devices
- Life jackets

All PPE is maintained in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations.

**Objectives for the Period of this Plan:**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will maintain all equipment in accordance with statutory requirements & manufacturers recommendations which outline the frequency and type of inspection for all equipment. Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will continue to provide the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to all personnel and to procure this PPE to the highest standards.



## Section 7: Water Supplies

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Each standard Class B Pumping appliance carries 1800 Litres of water in an on-board tank. This generally provides a 20 minute supply to one high pressure hose-reel and is likely to be capable of extinguishing room fires, vehicle fires, small out-house fires, rubbish fires, chimney fires or roof space fires etc.

In addition Laois County Fire & Rescue Service has 2 water tankers based at the following stations with the following capacities;

<b>Water Tanker Location</b>	<b>Water Tanker Capacity</b>
Portlaoise	11350 litres
Durrow	10000 litres

These water tankers assist in rural fires where local water supplies may be deficient and also assist to augment mains supplies in urban areas.

Where water mains, open source supplies or stored water supplies are available, each Class B Pumping appliance has the capability to pump between 2,000 and 3,000 litres per minute depending on the supply / source.

Each Fire Brigade surveys the condition, accessibility, water flow and marking, of all public fire hydrants in its operational area on a regular basis. Feedback is provided to the Water Services Section of Laois County Council. Each Fire Brigade is familiar with the public piped water supply in each area and is familiar with main open sources in its' Operational Fire Ground.

GIS Maps are available of the network and many of the hydrant locations are Geo-Coded. It is intended to work with the relevant Water Authorities as requested in order to carry out a comprehensive survey "to examine the location and adequacy of water supplies for fire fighting purposes" as required by Section 10 (10) of the Fire Services Act 1981. Maps are available in the Class B Pumping Fire Appliances of

the Water Network and the location of hydrants. These maps are also available in digital format in appliances fitted with Mobile Data Terminals.

Laois County Council also advise on requirements for water supply for commercial and housing developments when dealing with planning referrals.

Under Section 29 of the Fire Services Act 1981, the

*(1) The functions of a sanitary authority for the provision of a supply of water shall extend to the supply of water for fire-fighting purposes and the provision and maintenance of fire hydrants at such places as the fire authority requires.*

*(2) Where a fire authority represents to a sanitary authority that reasonable provision has not been made for a supply of water for fire-fighting purposes, the sanitary authority shall consult with the fire authority as to the measures required and shall take such measures as may be agreed.*

With respect to commercial developments the following requirements apply:

Adequate water supply shall be provided for fire fighting purposes in accordance with the requirements of the Fire Authority and **BS5306: Part 1: 1988 - "Fire Extinguishing Installations and Equipment on Premises Hydrant Systems, Hose Reels and Foam Inlets"**.

Buildings or compartments of buildings having a ground floor area exceeding 1,000m<sup>2</sup> shall have provided within land in the same occupation as the building, fire hydrants at a distance of not less than 6m or not more than 46m from the building. Hydrants shall be provided within 30m of a vehicle access roadway if required. Hydrants shall be provided on the Scale of 1 hydrant to every 1000m<sup>2</sup> of ground floor area. The hydrants shall comply with BS 750:1984.

With respect to housing developments the following requirements apply:

Overall Site Development shall comply with Department of the Environment & Local Government "Recommendations for Site Development Works for Housing Areas 1998" as regards the following;

- Section 4 Water Supply for firefighting / fire hydrants.
- Layout of roads and turning circles for Fire Appliance shall comply with Section 2 of above recommendations.

As part of the Planning Referral Process, the Fire Authority provide advice to the Planning Authority where a need is identified for additional water supplies for firefighting purposes is required

With respect to Fire Brigade access the site shall comply with Section 5.2 of Technical Guidance Document B to the 2006 Building Regulations and the Department of the Environment & Local Government "Recommendations for Site Development Works for Housing Areas 1998."

**Objectives for the Period of this Plan:**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service intends to maintain Water Tankers at 2 of its' Fire Stations for the period of this plan and to work with the relevant Water Authorities to develop access to available water supplies for fire-fighting purposes in County Laois.

## **Section 8: Training**

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### **8.1 Introduction**

Fire Authorities are obliged under both the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003 and the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 to ensure that their Fire-fighters and Officers are adequately trained and competent to deal with tasks and varying roles they may encounter in the performance of their duties.

Chapter 4 of KCS defines Core Roles for the Fire Service and roles that are discretionary. (see further details in Section 11 of the plan). All personnel responding to Fire Service Incidents require a minimum level of training to meet core requirements. Many personnel will also require additional training for specialist or supervisory roles. A number of Fire Service personnel will also complete Instructor courses in order that they in turn can instruct and direct delivery of training sessions/ courses. Personnel also require appropriate refresher training in all of the above throughout their careers, generally delivered either through on-station training or through specific refresher courses.

Training has traditionally been delivered at varying levels (e.g. local station, fire authority, region, national and international) and through a variety of arrangements.

### **8.2 On-Station Training**

Regular On-Station Training is seen as the key to ensuring equipment is regularly checked and skills are continually kept up to date. It is the policy of Laois County Council to provide 104 hours On-Station in each station annually.

### **8.3 Core Training & Specialist Training**

Based on the guidance provided in the NDFEM, Laois County Fire & Rescue Service has generated a Training Policy Document. This document outlines details of the following in the Sections listed below;

#### **1. Introduction**

#### **2. Background**

2.1. Legislation

2.2. Training Strategy – National Perspective

2.3. Current Training Provision

#### **3. Developing a Common Framework**

3.1. National Training Support

3.2. Training Needs Analysis

3.3. Review Process

3.4. Competency Based

3.5. Training Management

3.6. Annual Training Plans

#### **4. Training for Rank and Other Roles**

4.1. Fire-fighters

4.2. Officers

4.3. Specialist Training

4.4. Instructors

4.5. Personnel – Maintenance

4.6. Training for Support & Administration Personnel

#### **5. Training Records**

The Training Policy document contains a Training Management Template for delivering a course. It also outlines the Core Training Requirements for each rank and Role (Fire-fighters, Driver Mechanics, Junior Officers, Senior Officers, Administration and Maintenance Personnel), along with the appropriate Refresher Period for each course as applicable.

The Training Policy Document outlines a range of specialist courses that Fire-fighters and Officers may attend. It is recognised in the NDFEM Training Policy Document that, although ideally all personnel should be trained as soon as possible

in all of the relevant courses listed, it is not always possible to deliver all training required in a short time frame due to budgetary and operational constraints. Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will take account of this and where appropriate implement guidance from the NDFEM in relation to training during the life of this Plan.

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will develop a Training Plan on an annual basis based on the guidance provided in the Training Policy Document. The provision of training will be prioritised based on a Training Needs Analysis and on the available Revenue Expenditure Budget.

**Objectives for the Period of this Plan:**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service intends delivering training in accordance with its' Training Policy Document for the period of this plan and to take account of and where appropriate implement guidance from the NDFEM in relation to training during the life of this Plan.

In addition to Training Courses it is the policy of Laois County Fire & Rescue Service to provide 104 hours On-Station training with an additional 36 hours Quarterly Testing in each station annually.

## **Section 9: Safety, Health & Welfare**

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Health and Safety underpins all aspects of Fire Service response. Laois County Council is committed to safeguarding, as far as is reasonably practicable the Safety, Health and Welfare of all employees, contractors and visitors. Laois County Fire & Rescue Service operates in accordance with the Laois County Council Safety Management System. Laois County Fire & Rescue Service has a current Ancillary Safety Statement in place for the Fire Service. This Safety Statement has been produced in accordance with guidance provided by the NDFEM for Fire Authorities.

Laois County Fire & Rescue has adopted the Standard Operating Guidance produced by the NDFEM and localised it as required. Risk Assessments are in place as part of the roll-out of Standard Operating Guidance for all incident types. Work is currently underway to rollout Risk Assessments for all equipment utilised by the Fire Service – update as appropriate. In addition, Risk Assessments are in place for both Fixed & Temporary Workplaces. Dynamic Risk Assessments are carried out at Emergency Work locations and where appropriate the appointment of a safety officer is employed. Other guidance as outlined in KCS is also utilised by this Fire Authority.

Health & Safety Representatives have been elected in all Fire Stations. A representative from this group also attends the Laois County Council Safety Monitoring Committee.

Health & Safety Representatives have been trained in the delivery of their role. They carry out a quarterly audit of Health & Safety within their own stations, and identify issues as they arise. Many issues can be resolved locally at stations level, but issues that cannot be resolved are brought to the attention of the Senior Fire Officer with responsibility for Operations.

All contractors and service providers have been assessed as to their Health & Safety competency in providing service to Laois County Fire & Rescue Service.

In addition, Senior Fire Officers and the Health & Safety Officer for the Fire Service carry out inspections of workplaces throughout the year. An audit of the Fire Service is also carried out on an annual basis.

A Local Authority Health and Safety Officer assists the Fire Service in the delivery of its' Health & Safety obligations. The advisor meets with Fire Service Management annually to review Health & Safety issues within the Fire Service.

All Health & Safety Representatives meet with Fire Service Management and the Local Authority Health and Safety Advisor on annual basis.

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service uses the National Incident Command System to manage Safety on the Incident ground and on Training Courses. It provides for managing risk using a Dynamic Risk Assessment Process.

Due to the nature of activities carried out by Fire Services, Laois County Fire & Rescue Service is very conscious of continually striving to make the workplace as safe as possible. The continual improvement in all aspects of Fire Service enhances Health and Safety for Fire Service employees. The ongoing developments are reflected throughout this document and are reflected in the following areas (not this is not an exclusive list);

- Organisation and Structure
- Crewing Arrangements
- Fire Station Infrastructure
- Fire Appliance Fleet
- Equipment and PPE
- Water Supplies
- Training
- Communications
- Operational Procedures
- Operational Standards
- Fire Safety



- Preparation for Major Emergencies
- Safety Statement
- Supervision of Work
- Team Working
- Accident Reporting, Recording and Investigation
- Information for Employees
- Consultation with Staff
- Safety Representatives
- Safety Audit Inspections
- Standard Operating Guidelines
- Brigade Orders
- Pre-Incident Planning.

**Objectives for the Period of this Plan:**

Laois County Council is committed to safeguarding, as far as is reasonably practicable the Safety, Health and Welfare of all employees, contractors and visitors.

## Section 10: Communications

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### 10.1 Response to Calls

Section 10(2)(c) of the Fire Services Act, 1981, requires the Fire Authority to make adequate provision for the reception of and response to calls for the assistance of the Fire Brigade. In order to fulfil this function Laois County Fire & Rescue Service has entered into agreement with Dublin City Council, under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 for the provision of a mobilisation facility for fire services in County Laois. This facility is known as the Eastern Regional Communications Centre and is located at Townsend St. Fire Station, Dublin.

The Eastern Regional Communications Centre presently mobilises 14 counties in Leinster & Ulster. The system is financed by the participating local authorities through a process known as the average of averages formula where the level of contribution is determined by the total average of the population, number of fire calls and rateable evaluation for each authority.

The service is provided on an agency basis by Dublin City Council & is managed by a committee including representatives from each of the participating authorities.

The Management Committee is supported by the Executive Committee/Technical Liaison Group (TLG) that consists of Chief Fire Officers from the participating authorities, the Control Centre Manager and a member of the Management Committee (Chairman).

All requests for the attendance of the Fire Brigade are directed via the 999/112 Emergency Call Answering System (ECAS) to the Regional Communications Centre ('Control'). 'Control' uses a computerised system (involving an address database, a log of all available appliances and a pre-determined attendance for each address) to determine the appropriate response and agreed weight of initial response. The appropriate Fire Appliances are then alerted by 'Control'. The Retained Fire Service

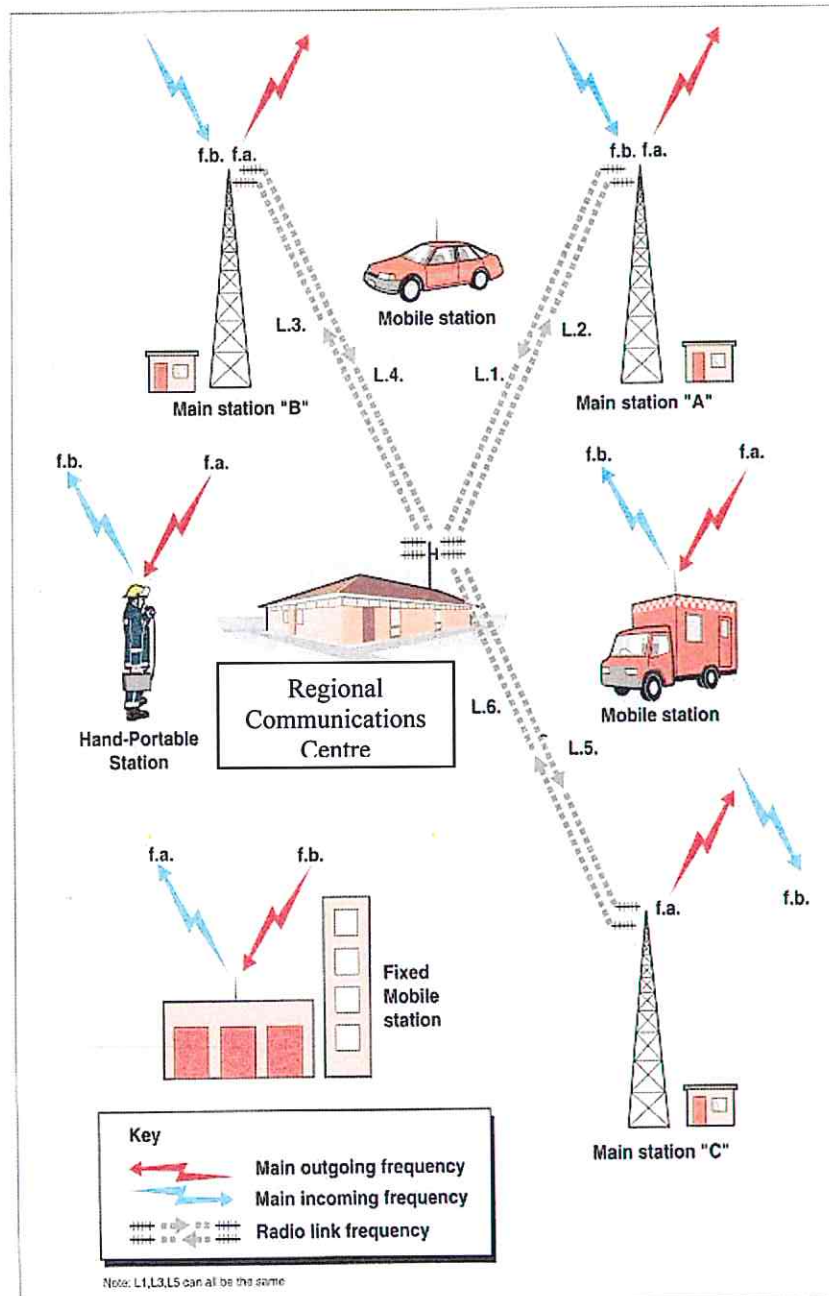
personnel are notified of call-outs by means of personal alerters / A printed message with the call details is sent to the Station.

It is important to note that while 'Control' offers a mobilisation service, it has no command function. Command is always exercised by the Incident Commander as defined by the Fire Services Act, 1981.

A major technical review of the provision of Computer Aided Mobilisation is currently underway by the NDFEM. This project is addressing issues such as major software updates including a common operating Command & Control Software Package in all 3 Fire Service Regional Communications Centres in Ireland, changeover to Tetra mobilisation and radio systems, inter-operability between the 3 Communications Centre and a link to the new proposed Post Coding Database. This will allow for enhanced resilience and additional technical capabilities in each of the Regional Communications Centres. Apart from the potential introduction of Tetra Radio Handsets, this project will have minimal visual impact on day to day operations in Laois County Fire & Rescue Service, however, it is likely to result in an increased financial contribution from Laois County Council to the Eastern Regional Communications Centre on an annual basis.

## 10.2 Communications Equipment

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service utilises a broad range of communications equipment in order to deliver an effective and efficient service (see figure 10.1). The equipment utilised and the location of such equipment is detailed below.



**Figure 10.1: Communications Links and Equipment**

### **10.2.1 Equipment located in Fire Stations**

- Base VHF Radio

This is a mains operated radio in the Station. This radio is can be used to communicate with both the appliances on the road as well as 'Control'. A project is currently being rolled out by the NDFEM which is examining the feasibility of using Tetra Radios instead of the traditional VHF Radios. Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will consider and where feasible and appropriate implement guidance that will issue in relation to the introduction of Tetra Radios.

- GD-92 Receiver

This radio receives notification of an incident from 'Control' and its function is to convert the signalling and relay this to the MG4 transmitter.

- MG4 Transmitter

The MG4 transmitter will set off the Fire Fighter's alerter on receipt of communication from the 'Control' radio in the event of an incident.

- Telephone

The telephone is used for administration purposes as well as for communication with those who have mobile phones at incident e.g. Senior Fire Officers.

### **10.2.2 Equipment located in Appliances**

- VHF Mobile Radio

These radios are used to relay messages through the repeaters on the Regional Communications Systems radio network back to ERCC.

- UHF fixed radio

These radios are used to communicate directly with Fire-fighters on the ground and other appliances.

- Mobile Phone

The mobile phone is used to compliment the radio system in areas of poor coverage and also in the relaying of sensitive communication.

- Hand-Held UHF

These mobile radios are used by the Fire-fighters for fireground communication.

### **10.2.3 Equipment used by Fire-fighters**

- Alerters

The alerter is carried by all Fire-fighters and is the means by which the Fire Fighter is informed of an incident. The MG4 transmitter relays the message from the 'Control' radio to the alerter. The alerters are programmed to recognise only the signal from the MG4 transmitter in their home Station.

### **10.2.4 Equipment used by Senior Officers**

- Mobile Phones

All Senior Fire Officers carry mobile phones. These can be used for communication with the appliances as well as with the Stations.

### **Satellite Telephone**

A Satellite Telephone is available for the Rostered Senior Fire Officer in the event of a failure of the Mobile Phone & for major emergency management use.

### **Objectives for the Period of this Plan:**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will remain a Fire Authority within the Eastern Regional Control Centre and will implement new communications technology, in particular Tetra, during the life of this Plan, subject to funding being provided. The upgrading of the Computer Aided Mobilisation System, together with introduction of Tetra Radio Systems is likely to result in an increased financial contribution from Laois County Council to the Eastern Regional Control Centre on an annual basis.

## Section 11: Operational Roles & Procedures

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### 11.1 Fire Authority Operations

Traditionally Fire Services were formed to attend at incidents involving fires. However, the role of Fire Services has expanded considerably over the years. Section 25 of the Fire Services Act, 1981 & 2003 empowers Fire Authorities to attend emergency incidents other than those involving fires. Section 25 of the Fire Services Act, 1981, states:

*"A Fire Authority may carry out or assist in any operations of an emergency nature, whether or not a risk of fire is involved, and a Fire Authority may accordingly make such provision for the rescue or safeguarding of persons and protection of property as it considered necessary for the purposes of that function."*

KCS provides guidance on the incident types that all Fire Authorities should attend and Laois County Fire & Rescue Service conforms to this guidance by attending the following incident types;

- Aircraft (Emergency Standby / Incident)
- Automatic Fire Alarm
- Boat Fire – Moored
- Boat Incident with Persons Reported – Moored
- Bog / Gorse / Forestry Fire
- Building Collapsed – Persons Reported
- Caravan Fire
- Chimney Fire
- Electrical Incident (Wires Down / Electrocution)
- Explosion
- Fire Dwelling House / Apartment (includes reports of smoke from buildings and warm walls)
- Fire Industrial / Institutional / Harbour / Tunnel & Underground Structure / Explosive Store / Prison & Secure Accommodation / Multi-Residential Building /

High-Rise Building / Underground Car Park / Multi-Storey Car Park / Public Assembly Building / Vacant Building / Sandwich Panel Building / Basements (including reports of smoke from buildings and warm walls)

- Flooding – Life at Risk and warning role
- An Garda Síochána Request for Attendance
- Gas (Smell / Leak)
- Hay barn & Farm Fire
- Hazardous Material Incident, including Acetylene
- Lock In – Life at Risk
- Lock Out – Life at Risk
- Outdoor Fire (Bonfire / Fence / Hedge / Grass / Tree / Gorse / Forestry / Rubbish / Skip / Tiphead / Oil / Petrol)
- Radiation Hazard
- Railway Incident
- Rescue General – Persons Reported
- Road Traffic Accident – persons reported (other than Road Cleanup)
- Sewer / Trench Collapse - Person Trapped
- Vehicle Fire (Motorcycle / Car / Truck / Bus / Coach / Dangerous Goods Vehicle)

In addition KCS lists discretionary incident types that individual Local Authorities are required to make a local decision on whether or not to attend these incident types. Laois County Fire & Rescue Service has considered this list, taken into account response capabilities of other sections of the Local Authority and other agencies, along with reviewing historical data, Risk Based Approach to Emergency Cover Data and particular specific local hazards and has decided that Laois County Fire & Rescue Service shall respond to the following incident types;

- Ambulance Assist & CFR (HSE NAS)
- Body Recovery (other than from Water)
- Building Collapsed – No Persons Reported
- Confined Space Rescues (Sewers / Silos)
- Flooding - No Life at Risk (eg pumping out)



- Lift – Person(s) trapped
- Rescue from heights
- Oil spillage
- Pollution and environmental incidents
- River Rescue (in association with IRCG)
- Road Hazard (Cleanup after RTA, trees down, oil or other substance,
- Flooding on road, dangerous building at the side of the road etc).

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service has decided that it is not appropriate for Fire Service Resources to be normally deployed to the incident types listed below. These include situations where there are other more appropriate services to which any calls in these categories should be directed. Further, the deployment of fire services to such calls would render them unavailable, or could delay them, in responding to their core public safety roles. The situations listed below are considered inappropriate therefore for fire services response, subject to requests from An Garda Síochána to assist in specific ways. This list takes account of organizations which are likely to be involved in these types of incidents (shown in brackets as follows NAS – National Ambulance Service; IRCG – Irish Coast Guard; AGS – An Garda Síochána; EOD – Explosives Ordnance Division; MCR Mountain and Cave Rescue; RSPCA – Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals);

- Boat – Not Moored (IRCG)
- Bomb Alert (AGS)
- Burglar Alarm (AGS)
- Cave Rescue (AGS)
- Civil Disturbance (AGS)
- Incidents involving Explosives / Suspect Devices or Cylinders – unless requested by An Garda Síochána to attend on standby in the event of a fire (AGS/ EOD)
- Lock In – No Life at Risk
- Lock Out – No Life at Risk
- Missing Person, unless requested by the An Garda Síochána to attend for specific role –(AGS/ Civil Defence)

- Mountain Rescue, unless requested by An Garda Síochána to attend in support (AGS/ MCR Voluntary Sector)
- Rescue of Animals (RSPCA)
- Ship – Not Moored (IRCG)

Operational Procedures on how to deal with the above core & discretionary incident types is provided by the NDFEM in various Procedural and Guidance Documents. A number of these documents require local consideration and adoption. The following is a list of documents used by Laois County Fire & Rescue Service to provide procedures and guidance on dealing with these incidents;

- Firefighter Handbook – Fire Services Council (2001)
- Junior Officer Handbook – Fire Services Council (2001)
- Senior Officer Handbook – Fire Services Council (2001)
- National Incident Command System – DoEHLG (2007)
- Fire Service Ancillary Safety Statement Template - DoEHLG (2007)
- The Use of Breathing Apparatus in the Fire Service – DoEHLG (2007)
- Road Traffic Accident Handbook (2009)
- Guidance on the Provision and Assessment of BA Training (2010)
- Guidance for Compartment Fire Behaviour Training (2010)
- Guidance on Emergency Traffic Management (ETM) by the Fire Service at Road-based Incidents (2011)
- Standard Operating Guidance (SOGs) (2010 – 2013)
- Common Specification for Fire Appliances (2011)
- Brigade Orders

In addition, Pre-incident Planning is carried out by Laois County Fire & Rescue Service on premises / facilities that are deemed to be a specific risk. Pre-incident Plans are prepared in advance of an incident and contain an overview of the facility and tabulated information about the risk summarising the critical aspects of a building from a Fire Service response. Pre-incident Plans are currently available for 120 premises / facilities in County Laois.

It is intended to continue to develop 10 Pre-incident plans per annum, giving a total of 170 by the end of 2019.

**Objectives for the Period of this Plan:**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will attend all incident types detailed as core incident types in Keeping Communities Safe (KCS). It will also attend all discretionary incident types detailed in KCS, with specific arrangements relating to Road Hazard Incidents, in particular those normally dealt with by the Roads Section of Laois County Council or the Area Office during normal working hours or by the National Road Authority on Motorways at all times – the Fire Service will assist in these operations if requested by an Area or Road Engineer, by An Garda Síochána or the National Roads Authority. It is also intended to put arrangements in place to apportion the cost of attendance at these incidents to the appropriate Road Authority. It is intended to carry out a review with regard to the delivery of specialist response to Hazardous Materials Incidents, Rescues from Heights and River Rescue incidents.

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will continue to work in accordance with Operational Guidance Documents that have been prepared by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM).

It is intended to continue to develop 10 pre-incident plans per annum, giving a total of 170 by the end of 2019.

## **Section 12: Operational Standards**

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Guidance has been provided by the NDFEM in relation to Operational Standards.

The guidance has been provided taking cognisance of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

### **12.1 Area Risk Categorisations**

Guidance from the NDFEM provides a methodology for applying a Risk Categorisation to each Fire Station Ground. The following documents provide the guidance and data that have been used by Laois County Fire & Rescue Service when preparing a report setting out the Risk Categorisation of each Station Ground:

- NDFEM Keeping Communities Safe – Chapter 7 & Appendix C
- NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report Version 1, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012
- NDFEM Risk Based Approach Phase 1 – Supplementary Report, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Each station ground in the county has been analysed in accordance with the Guidance provided in KCS to determine what the Area Risk Categorisation is for that area. In some cases, Stations Grounds are mixed across more than one Risk Categorisation Category; however, an overall Risk Categorisation has been determined for each Station Ground.

The following Table is a Summary of the overall Risk Grading Categorisation of each Station Ground;

<b>Station Area</b>	<b>Risk Grading Categorisation</b>
Portlaoise	C1 (Medium)
Portarlinton	D1 (Low)
Rathdowney	D2 (Low)
Durrow	D2 (Low)
Mountmellick	D1 (Low)
Mountrath	D1 (Low)
Abbeyleix	D1 (Low)
Stradbally	D2 (Low)

The following Table summarises the Weight of Attack (Appliances and Crew) and the Staffing Arrangements that are in place in these stations in order to comply with KCS;

<b>Station Area</b>	<b>No. Of Class B Pumping Appliances</b>	<b>No. Of Personnel Available to Mobilise to Incidents</b>	<b>Staffing Arrangements</b>
Portlaoise	2	12	Retained Complement of 12 managed at Station level by the Station Officer to guarantee a minimum availability of 9 personnel to mobilise
Portarlinton	1	9	Crew Complement of 9 managed at Station level by the Station Officer to guarantee a minimum

			availability of 7 personnel to mobilise
Rathdowney	1	9	Crew Complement of 9 managed at Station level by the Station Officer to guarantee a minimum availability of 7 personnel to mobilise
Durrow	1	9	Crew Complement of 9 managed at Station level by the Station Officer to guarantee a minimum availability of 7 personnel to mobilise
Mountmellick	1	9	Crew Complement of 9 managed at Station level by the Station Officer to guarantee a minimum availability of 7 personnel to mobilise
Mountrath	1	9	Crew Complement of 9 managed at Station level by the Station Officer to guarantee a minimum availability of 7 personnel to mobilise
Abbeyleix	1	9	Crew Complement of 9 managed at Station level by the Station Officer to guarantee a minimum availability of 7 personnel to mobilise
Stradbally	1	9	Crew Complement of 9

			managed at Station level by the Station Officer to guarantee a minimum availability of 7 personnel to mobilise
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Further details are provided in Chapters 3 (Organisation) and 5 (Fire Appliances) regarding the above Table.

### 12.1.1 Portlaoise Fire Station

Portlaoise Fire Station Ground is deemed to have an overall area risk Categorisation of C1 in accordance with the Risk Categorisation Table provided in Chapter 7 of the Keeping Communities Safe (KCS) Document (2013).

Portlaoise Fire Station can mobilise 2 No. Class B Pumping Appliances or 1 No. Class B pumping appliance plus special appliances and this is deemed appropriate for the Risk Categorisation for their station ground.

The current crew complement at Portlaoise Fire Station is 12 personnel as follows;

- 1 No. Retained Station Officer
- 2 No. Retained Station Sub-Officers
- 2 No. Retained Driver Mechanics
- 7 No. Retained Fire-Fighters

The current crewing arrangement for these personnel is as follows:

- An arrangement is in place to provide for a minimum number of 9 retained personnel to respond for call-outs at Portlaoise Fire Station.
- In general at least one officer must respond.

It is not proposed to alter the current crew complement arrangement at Portlaoise Fire Station.

#### **12.1.4 Portarlington Fire Station**

Portarlington Fire Station Ground is deemed to have an overall area risk categorisation of D1 in accordance with the Risk Categorisation Table provided in Chapter 7 of the Keeping Communities Safe (KCS) Document (2013).

Portarlington Fire Station can mobilise 1 No. Class B Pumping appliance. This is deemed appropriate for the Risk Categorisation for their station ground.

The full crew complement for the station in accordance with the Guidance provided in the KCS Document for a D1 Risk Category Station is 9 retained personnel as follows:

- 1 No. Retained Station Officer
- 1 No. Retained Station Sub-Officer
- 1 No. Retained Driver Mechanic
- 6 No. Retained Fire-Fighters

The current crewing arrangement for these personnel is as follows;

- An arrangement is in place to provide for a minimum number of 7 retained personnel to be available to respond for call-outs at Portarlington Fire Station.
- In general, at least one officer must respond (either the Retained Station Officer or the Retained Station Sub-Officer).

It is proposed to leave the current crew complement and the crewing arrangement at Portarlington Fire Station unaltered.

#### **12.1.4 Rathdowney Fire Station**

Rathdowney Fire Station Ground is deemed to have an overall area risk categorisation of D2 in accordance with the Risk Categorisation Table provided in Chapter 7 of the Keeping Communities Safe (KCS) Document (2013).

Rathdowney Fire Station can mobilise 1 No. Class B Pumping appliance. This is deemed appropriate for the Risk Categorisation for their station ground.

The full crew complement for the station in accordance with the Guidance provided in the KCS Document for a D2 Risk Category Station is 9 retained personnel as follows:

- 1 No. Retained Station Officer
- 1 No. Retained Station Sub-Officer
- 1 No. Retained Driver Mechanic



- 6 No. Retained Fire-Fighters

The current crewing arrangement for these personnel is as follows;

- An arrangement is in place to provide for a minimum number of 7 retained personnel to be available to respond for call-outs at Rathdowney Fire Station,
- In general, at least one officer must respond (either the Retained Station Officer or the Retained Station Sub-Officer)

It is proposed to leave the current crew complement and the crewing arrangement at Rathdowney Fire Station unaltered.

#### **12.1.4 Durrow Fire Station**

Durrow Fire Station Ground is deemed to have an overall area risk categorisation of D2 in accordance with the Risk Categorisation Table provided in Chapter 7 of the Keeping Communities Safe (KCS) Document (2013).

Durrow Fire Station can mobilise 1 No. Class B Pumping appliance. This is deemed appropriate for the Risk Categorisation for their station ground.

The full crew complement for the station in accordance with the Guidance provided in the KCS Document for a D2 Risk Category Station is 9 retained personnel as follows:

- 1 No. Retained Station Officer
- 1 No. Retained Station Sub-Officer
- 1 No. Retained Driver Mechanic
- 6 No. Retained Fire-Fighters

The current crewing arrangement for these personnel is as follows;

- An arrangement is in place to provide for a minimum number of 7 retained personnel to be available to respond for call-outs at Durrow Fire Station,
- In general, at least one officer must respond (either the Retained Station Officer or the Retained Station Sub-Officer).

It is proposed to leave the current crew complement and the crewing arrangement at Durrow Fire Station unaltered.

#### **12.1.4 Mountmellick Fire Station**

Mountmellick Fire Station Ground is deemed to have an overall area risk categorisation of D1 in accordance with the Risk Categorisation Table provided in Chapter 7 of the Keeping Communities Safe (KCS) Document (2013).

Mountmellick Fire Station can mobilise 1 No. Class B Pumping appliance. This is deemed appropriate for the Risk Categorisation for their station ground.

The full crew complement for the station in accordance with the Guidance provided in the KCS Document for a D1 Risk Category Station is 9 retained personnel as follows:

- 1 No. Retained Station Officer
- 1 No. Retained Station Sub-Officer
- 1 No. Retained Driver Mechanic
- 6 No. Retained Fire-Fighters

The current crewing arrangement for these personnel is as follows;

- An arrangement is in place to provide for a minimum number of 7 retained personnel to be available to respond for call-outs at Mountmellick Fire Station.
- In general, at least one officer must respond (either the Retained Station Officer or the Retained Station Sub-Officer).

It is proposed to leave the current crew complement and the crewing arrangement at Mountmellick Fire Station unaltered.

#### **12.1.4 Mountrath Fire Station**

Mountrath Fire Station Ground is deemed to have an overall area Risk Categorisation of D1 in accordance with the Risk Categorisation Table provided in Chapter 7 of the Keeping Communities Safe (KCS) Document (2013).

Mountrath Fire Station can mobilise 1 No. Class B Pumping appliance. This is deemed appropriate for the Risk Categorisation for their station ground.

The full crew complement for the station in accordance with the Guidance provided in the

KCS Document for a D1 Risk Category Station is 9 retained personnel as follows:

- 1 No. Retained Station Officer
- 1 No. Retained Station Sub-Officer

- 1 No. Retained Driver Mechanic
- 6 No. Retained Fire-Fighters

The current crewing arrangement for these personnel is as follows;

- An arrangement is in place to provide for a minimum number of 7 retained personnel to be available to respond for call-outs at Mountrath Fire Station
- In general, at least one officer must respond (either the Retained Station Officer or the Retained Station Sub-Officer).

It is proposed to leave the current crew complement and the crewing arrangement at Mountrath Fire Station unaltered.

#### **12.1.4 Abbeyleix Fire Station**

Abbeyleix Fire Station Ground is deemed to have an overall area Risk Categorisation of D1 in accordance with the Risk Categorisation Table provided in Chapter 7 of the Keeping Communities Safe (KCS) Document (2013).

Abbeyleix Fire Station can mobilise 1 No. Class B pumping appliance. This is deemed appropriate for the Risk Categorisation for their station ground.

The full crew complement for the station in accordance with the Guidance provided in the KCS Document for a D1 Risk Category Station is 9 retained personnel as follows:

- 1 No. Retained Station Officer
- 1 No. Retained Station Sub-Officer
- 1 No. Retained Driver Mechanic
- 6 No. Retained Fire-Fighters

The current crewing arrangement for these personnel is as follows;

- An arrangement is in place to provide for a minimum number of 7 retained personnel to be available to respond for call-outs at Abbeyleix Fire Station.
- In general, at least one officer must respond (either the Retained Station Officer or the Retained Station Sub-Officer).

It is proposed to leave the current crew complement and the crewing arrangement at Abbeyleix Fire Station unaltered.

#### **12.1.4 Stradbally Fire Station**

Stradbally Fire Station Ground is deemed to have an overall area Risk Categorisation of D2 in accordance with the Risk Categorisation Table provided in Chapter 7 of the Keeping Communities Safe (KCS) Document (2013).

Stradbally Fire Station can mobilise 1 No. Class B pumping appliance. This is deemed appropriate for the Risk Categorisation for their station ground.

The full crew complement for the station in accordance with the Guidance provided in the KCS Document for a D2 Risk Category Station is 9 retained personnel as follows:

- 1 No. Retained Station Officer
- 1 No. Retained Station Sub-Officer
- 1 No. Retained Driver Mechanic
- 6 No. Retained Fire-Fighters

The current crewing arrangement for these personnel is as follows;

- An arrangement is in place to provide for a minimum number of 7 retained personnel to be available to respond for call-outs at Stradbally Fire Station
- In general, at least one officer must respond (either the Retained Station Officer or the Retained Station Sub-Officer).

It is proposed to leave the current crew complement and the crewing arrangement at Stradbally Fire Station unaltered.

#### **12.2 Pre-Determined Attendances**

Chapter 11 of this document (Operational procedures) identified the incidents that Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will normally respond to. Appendix A of KCS identifies the normal Pre-Determined Attendance for each of these incidents (number and type of Fire Appliances that will respond). The Eastern Regional Communications Centre will mobilise Fire Appliances for Laois County Fire & Rescue Service in accordance with these Pre-Determined Attendances.

Station boundaries will be reviewed when Phase 2 of the Risk Based Approach Project is released by the NDFEM (data set that will advise the quickest travel time for initial and subsequent Fire Service Responses into each addressable location)

and in conjunction with analysis from the Eastern Regional Communications Centre to ensure that the Fire Appliances that can respond to an address in the shortest period of time are mobilised.

### **12.3 Mobilising Times**

KCS provides guidance regarding expected and target times for the first fire appliance to mobilise to an incident. It is expected that the average time for the first fire appliance to mobilise from any Fire Station should be less than 6 minutes for retained, however the target is and 5 minutes for retained. The following Table shows that current average time to mobilise from each Fire Station in the Fire Authority as follows;

<b>Station</b>	<b>Current Average Time to Mobilise</b>
Portlaoise	5 mins 19 secs
Portarlinton	4 mins 23 secs
Rathdowney	4 mins 09 secs
Durrow	3 mins 20 secs
Mountmellick	4 mins 04 secs
Mountrath	3 mins 24 secs
Abbeyleix	5 mins 32 secs
Stradbally	3 mins 51 secs

### **12.4 Travel Times**

KCS provides guidance on target travel times for the first and subsequent Class B pumping Appliances to arrive at Primary and Secondary incidents. KCS provides a 75% confidence level, i.e. 75% of the call-outs within a Fire Brigade should meet the criteria.

Currently data is only available from the Eastern Regional Communications Centre for the travel time for the first attending Class B Fire Appliance (Standard Fire appliance) for all call-outs (i.e. Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Incidents). When data becomes available for subsequent Class B appliances and Special Appliances, the Data will be analysed to determine if Laois County Fire & Rescue Service conforms to this guidance.

In addition, guidance is also provided in relation to the travel times for special appliances, specifically Aerial and Emergency Tender Appliances.

Currently all of the above special types are based at Portlaoise Fire Station with a second water tanker based in Durrow Fire Station. Accordingly, it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.

#### **12.4.1 Portlaoise Fire Station - Overall Station Risk Categorisation C1**

The following appliances are currently based at Portlaoise Fire Station (further details are available in Chapter 5):

- 2 No. Class B Appliances
- 1 No. Wildland fire appliance
- 1 No. Emergency Tender Appliance
- 1 No. Technical Rescue Unit
- 1 No. Hydraulic Platform
- 1 No. Water Tanker
- 2 No. 4 Wheel Drive Appliances
- 1 No. Incident Support Unit

The following Table summarises the guidance in KCS regarding Travel Times for Class B Appliances:

<b>Number of Class B Appliances</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time to primary and secondary incidents (for 75% of Call-outs)</b>
1 Appliance	10 minutes
2 Appliances	20 minutes
3 Appliances	30 minutes

Based on data from the Eastern Regional Communications Centre covering the period 2012 – 2014 Portlaoise attend of 90% all calls with the first Class B appliance within 20 mins so it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Class B Appliances.

The following guidance is also provided in relation to the travel times for special appliances, specifically Aerial Appliances, Emergency Tender Appliances, Incident Command Units and Water Tankers for Portlaoise Fire Station:

<b>Appliance Type</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time</b>
Aerial Appliance	30 minutes
Emergency Tender Fire Appliance	45 minutes
Incident Command Unit	75 minutes
Water Tanker Appliance	75 minutes

Currently all of the above special types are based at Portlaoise Fire Station. Accordingly, it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.

### 12.4.3 Portarlinton Fire Station - Overall Station Risk Categorisation D1

The following appliances are currently based at Portarlinton Fire Station (further details are available in Chapter 5):

- 1 No. Class B Appliance
- 1 No. 4 Wheel Drive Appliance

The following Table summarises the guidance in KCS regarding Travel Times for Class B Appliances:

<b>Number of Class B Appliances</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time to primary and secondary incidents (for 75% of Call-outs)</b>
1 Appliance	20 minutes
2 Appliances	40 minutes

Based on data from the Eastern Regional Communications Centre covering the period 2012 – 2014 Portarlinton attend of 95% all calls with the first Class B appliance within 20 mins so it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Class B Appliances.

The following guidance is also provided in relation to the travel times for special appliances, specifically Aerial Appliances, Emergency Tender Appliances, Incident Command Units and Water Tankers for Portarlinton Fire Station:

<b>Appliance Type</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time</b>
Aerial Appliance	60 minutes
Emergency Tender Fire Appliance	60 minutes
Incident Command Unit	90 minutes
Water Tanker Appliance	90 minutes



Currently a Hydraulic Platform, Emergency Tender, Water Tanker and an Incident Command Unit is based at Portlaoise Fire Station. A Water Tanker is also based in Durrow Fire Station. Accordingly, it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.

### 12.4.3 Rathdowney Fire Station - Overall Station Risk Categorisation D2

The following appliances are currently based at Rathdowney Fire Station (further details are available in Chapter 5):

- 1 No. Class B Appliance
- 1 No. 4 Wheel Drive Appliance

The following Table summarises the guidance in KCS regarding Travel Times for Class B Appliances:

<b>Number of Class B Appliances</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time to primary and secondary incidents (for 75% of Call-outs)</b>
1 Appliance	20 minutes
2 Appliances	40 minutes

Based on data from the Eastern Regional Communications Centre covering the period 2012 – 2014 Rathdowney attend of 82% all calls with the first Class B appliance within 20 mins so it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Class B Appliances.

The following guidance is also provided in relation to the travel times for special appliances, specifically Aerial Appliances, Emergency Tender Appliances, Incident Command Units and Water Tankers for Rathdowney Fire Station:

<b>Appliance Type</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time</b>
Aerial Appliance	60 minutes
Emergency Tender Fire Appliance	60 minutes
Incident Command Unit	90 minutes
Water Tanker Appliance	90 minutes

Currently a Hydraulic Platform, Emergency Tender, Water Tanker and an Incident Command Unit is based at Portlaoise Fire Station. A Water Tanker is also based in Durrow Fire Station. Accordingly, it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.

### **12.4.3 Durrow Fire Station - Overall Station Risk Categorisation D2**

The following appliances are currently based at Durrow Fire Station (further details are available in Chapter 5):

- 1. No. Class B Appliance
- 1 No. Water Tanker
- 1 No. 4 Wheel Drive Appliance

The following Table summarises the guidance in KCS regarding Travel Times for Class B Appliances:

<b>Number of Class B Appliances</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time to primary and secondary incidents (for 75% of Call-outs)</b>
1 Appliance	20 minutes
2 Appliances	40 minutes

Based on data from the Eastern Regional Communications Centre covering the period 2012 – 2014 Durrow attend of 83% all calls with the first Class B appliance

within 20 mins so it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Class B Appliances.

The following guidance is also provided in relation to the travel times for special appliances, specifically Aerial Appliances, Emergency Tender Appliances, Incident Command Units and Water Tankers for Durrow Fire Station:

<b>Appliance Type</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time</b>
Aerial Appliance	60 minutes
Emergency Tender Fire Appliance	60 minutes
Incident Command Unit	90 minutes
Water Tanker Appliance	90 minutes

Currently a Hydraulic Platform, Emergency Tender, Water Tanker and an Incident Command Unit is based at Portlaoise Fire Station. A Water Tanker is also based in Durrow Fire Station. Accordingly, it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.

#### **12.4.3 Mountmellick Fire Station - Overall Station Risk Categorisation D1**

The following appliances are currently based at Mountmellick Fire Station (further details are available in Chapter 5):

- 1 No. Class B Appliance
- 1 No. 4 Wheel Drive Appliance

The following Table summarises the guidance in KCS regarding Travel Times for Class B Appliances:

<b>Number of Class B Appliances</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time to primary and secondary incidents (for 75% of Call-outs)</b>
1 Appliance	20 minutes
2 Appliances	40 minutes

Based on data from the Eastern Regional Communications Centre covering the period 2012 – 2014 Mountmellick attend of 86% all calls with the first Class B appliance within 20 mins so it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Class B Appliances.

The following guidance is also provided in relation to the travel times for special appliances, specifically Aerial Appliances, Emergency Tender Appliances, Incident Command Units and Water Tankers for Mountmellick Fire Station:

<b>Appliance Type</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time</b>
Aerial Appliance	60 minutes
Emergency Tender Fire Appliance	60 minutes
Incident Command Unit	90 minutes
Water Tanker Appliance	90 minutes

Currently a Hydraulic Platform, Emergency Tender, Water Tanker and an Incident Command Unit is based at Portlaoise Fire Station. A Water Tanker is also based in Durrow Fire Station. Accordingly, it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.

### 12.4.3 Mountrath Fire Station - Overall Station Risk Categorisation D1

The following appliances are currently based at Mountrath Fire Station (further details are available in Chapter 5):

- 1 No. Class B Appliance
- 1 No. 4 Wheel Drive Appliance

The following Table summarises the guidance in KCS regarding Travel Times for Class B Appliances:

<b>Number of Class B Appliances</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time to primary and secondary incidents (for 75% of Call-outs)</b>
1 Appliance	20 minutes
2 Appliances	40 minutes

Based on data from the Eastern Regional Communications Centre covering the period 2012 – 2014 Mountrath attend of 84% all calls with the first Class B appliance within 20 mins so it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Class B Appliances.

The following guidance is also provided in relation to the travel times for special appliances, specifically Aerial Appliances, Emergency Tender Appliances, Incident Command Units and Water Tankers for Mountrath Fire Station:

<b>Appliance Type</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time</b>
Aerial Appliance	60 minutes
Emergency Tender Fire Appliance	60 minutes
Incident Command Unit	90 minutes
Water Tanker Appliance	90 minutes

Currently a Hydraulic Platform, Emergency Tender, Water Tanker and an Incident Command Unit is based at Portlaoise Fire Station. A Water Tanker is also based in Durrow Fire Station. Accordingly, it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.

### **12.4.3 Abbeyleix Fire Station - Overall Station Risk Categorisation D1**

The following appliances are currently based at Abbeyleix Fire Station (further details are available in Chapter 5):

- 1 No. Class B Appliance
- 1 No. 4 Wheel Drive Appliance

The following Table summarises the guidance in KCS regarding Travel Times for Class B Appliances:

<b>Number of Class B Appliances</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time to primary and secondary incidents (for 75% of Call-outs)</b>
1 Appliance	20 minutes
2 Appliances	40 minutes

Based on data from the Eastern Regional Communications Centre covering the period 2012 – 2014 Abbeyleix attend of 84% all calls with the first Class B appliance within 20 mins so it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Class B Appliances.

The following guidance is also provided in relation to the travel times for special appliances, specifically Aerial Appliances, Emergency Tender Appliances, Incident Command Units and Water Tankers for Abbeyleix Fire Station:

<b>Appliance Type</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time</b>
Aerial Appliance	60 minutes
Emergency Tender Fire Appliance	60 minutes
Incident Command Unit	90 minutes
Water Tanker Appliance	90 minutes

Currently a Hydraulic Platform, Emergency Tender, Water Tanker and an Incident Command Unit are based at Portlaoise Fire Station. A Water Tanker is also based in Durrow Fire Station. Accordingly, it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.

#### **12.4.3 Stradbally Fire Station - Overall Station Risk Categorisation D2**

The following appliances are currently based at Stradbally Fire Station (further details are available in Chapter 5):

- 1 No. Class B Appliance
- 1 No. 4 Wheel Drive Appliance

The following Table summarises the guidance in KCS regarding Travel Times for Class B Appliances in risk category D:

<b>Number of Class B Appliances</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time to primary and secondary incidents (for 75% of Call-outs)</b>
1 Appliance	20 minutes
2 Appliances	40 minutes

Based on data from the Eastern Regional Communications Centre covering the period 2012 – 2014 Portarlinton attend of 95% all calls with the first Class B appliance within 20 mins so it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Class B Appliances.

The following guidance is also provided in relation to the travel times for special appliances, specifically Aerial Appliances, Emergency Tender Appliances, Incident Command Units and Water Tankers for Stradbally Fire Station:

<b>Appliance Type</b>	<b>KCS Guidance for Target Travel Time</b>
Aerial Appliance	60 minutes
Emergency Tender Fire Appliance	60 minutes
Incident Command Unit	90 minutes
Water Tanker Appliance	90 minutes

Currently a Hydraulic Platform, Emergency Tender, Water Tanker and an Incident Command Unit is based at Portlaoise Fire Station. A Water Tanker is also based in Durrow Fire Station. Accordingly, it is not envisaged that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.



## **12.5 Large Scale Incidents**

Guidance is provided in KCS regarding a response to Large Scale Incidents (these are incidents other than Major Emergencies which require large resources or a proliferation of smaller incidents). Depending on the designated risk categorisation of an area / station ground, Fire Authorities are required to consider their ability to respond to a Large Scale Incident in accordance with the guidance provided. Laois County Fire & Rescue Service has considered this guidance together with those of neighbouring Fire Authorities and is satisfied that it can mobilise Class B appliances, Special Appliances and an Incident Command Unit in accordance with the guidance provided in Chapter 8 of KCS regarding large scale incidents.

### **Objectives for the Period of this Plan:**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will aim to put arrangements in place during the life of this plan to maintain the current crewing complements at all 8 fire stations in accordance with the guidance in KCS and other NDFEM documentation, in particular a Task Analysis Document that sets out the roles various personnel may carry out at an incident.

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will aim to put arrangements in place to guarantee the following number of personnel to be available for call-outs at each station:- Portlaoise (9), Portarlinton (7), Rathdowney (7), Durrow (7), Mountmellick (7), Mountrath (7), Abbeyleix (7) & Stradbally (7).

It is intended that in general there will be either a Retained Station Officer or a Retained Station Sub-Officer available for call-out at all times in each fire station.

Station fire ground boundaries will be reviewed when Phase 2 of the Risk Based Approach Project is released by the NDFEM (data set that will advise the quickest travel time for initial and subsequent Fire Service Responses into each addressable location) and in conjunction with analysis from the Eastern Regional Communications Centre to ensure that the fire appliances that can respond to an address in the shortest period of time are mobilised.

The first Laois County Fire & Rescue Service Class B Appliance is currently attending Incidents well within the Target Travel Times set out in KCS. As more data

becomes available from the NDFEM, Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will review the data and make changes to the current arrangements if appropriate.

There are no concerns at this time with the capability of Laois County Fire & Rescue Service to meet the KCS Targets for Travel Time for Special Appliances.

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service has reviewed the guidance in KCS in relation to responding to Large Scale Incidents, and having considered its' own fleet availability and those of neighbouring Fire Authorities is satisfied that it can mobilise Class B appliances, Special Appliances and an Incident Command Unit in accordance with the guidance provided in Chapter 8 of KCS regarding Large Scale Incidents.

## **Section 13: Fire Safety - Fire Prevention – Community Fire Safety**

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As previously outlined in Section 1 above, although the legislation only requires this plan to deal with arrangements made with regard to Fire and Emergency operations, this plan will also take into consideration the substantial volume of Fire Safety and Fire Prevention work carried out by the Fire Service Section.

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service Fire Prevention Staff advise on current fire safety standards required for proposed and existing developments.

### **13.1 Fire Prevention**

The following are discretionary functions under Fire Services Act 1981;

- Providing advice to Laois County Council Planning Authority under Section 13 of the Fire Services Act, 1981.
- Providing advice on Fire Safety and inspection of existing public premises under Section 18 of the Fire Services Act, 1981, and associated Regulations.
- Carrying out inspections of licensed premises under Section 24 of Fire Services Act, 1981, and associated Licensing Acts. These include renewal of public licences, dance licences, transfer of publican licences, Club, Gaming/Lottery, Ad Interim, Occasional, Hotel and Restaurant licences.
- Reviewing domestic housing development proposals.
- Inspection of petroleum installations, retail and bulk, under Dangerous Substances Act, 1972, and associated Regulations.

Fire Officers also carry out inspections of Places of Public Assembly, Hostels and other high risk premises in the county. Inspections are prioritised, particularly nursing homes and other premises providing residential care in County Laois on an ongoing cyclical basis.

### **13.1.5 During Performance Inspections on Places of Public Assembly**

During Performance Inspections are carried out by Fire Service personnel under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003. During performance inspections are carried out on a risk basis.

### **13.1.6 Large Crowd Events**

Fire Service personnel work with other agencies (An Garda Síochána, Health Services Executive, Local Authority, etc.) in pre-planning for large crowd events. In the absence of national guidance, local arrangements are in place for such meeting to take place either at An Garda Síochána HQ or at Local Authority HQ, depending generally on the type of event and number attending.

### **13.2 Safety Roles**

In accordance with KCS, the primary role of Laois County Fire & Rescue Service in relation to Fire Safety is to reduce the number of fire incidents occurring in this functional area, limit damage and prevent escalation and extinguish fires where fires occur. KCS provided guidance in relation to objectives and targets for fire safety. Table 13.7 outlines these objectives and targets that apply at National level, and how Laois County Fire & Rescue Service is currently performing in relation to these.

<b>National Objective / Target</b>	<b>National Target</b>	<b>Laois County Fire &amp; Rescue Service Current Performance (2008 – 2010)</b>
3 Year Fire Fatality Rate	Reduce from 8.4/Million population to 6/Million population by 2017	0.695 /100,000 Population (2005 -2014)
Domestic Dwelling Fire Rate	80 Fires /100,000 Population	83
Chimney Fire Rate	Reduce to 75 Fires/100,000 Population by 2015	265
Overall Fire Rate	600 fires /100,000 Population by 2018	638
Overall Incident Rate	1000 Incidents /100,000 Population (2017)	994

**Table 13.7 Safety Objectives, National Targets and Current Performance**

Two additional targets have been set as follows;

- 22% Reduction in Tertiary Fires over 5 Years
- 30% Decrease in Chimney Fires over 3 Years

The following Table highlights the required improvement in relation to these targets with Laois County Fire & Rescue Service.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Current Number of Fires within Laois County Fire &amp; Rescue Service</b>	<b>Target Number of Fires within Laois County Fire &amp; Rescue Service</b>
22% Reduction in Tertiary Fires over 5 Years	488 (2008 – 2010)	380 ( by end of 2018)
30% Decrease in Chimney Fires over 3 Years	265 (2008 – 2010)	186 (by end of 2016)

There are a very high number of chimney fires in County Laois compared to the National average and particularly the national target, as seen the table above. This has also the main reason that the Overall Fire Rate and the Overall Incident Rate in County Laois exceeds the national target currently. The easy access to turf as a heating fuel contributes significantly to the high rate of chimney fires. It is intended that Laois County Fire & Rescue Service would work with other sections in Laois County Council, in particular the Housing Section and the Community & Enterprise Section, to develop initiatives to work with the general public and Community Groups to reduce the number of Chimney Fires in the County.

### **13.3 Community Fire Safety (CFS)**

Apart from the Fire Safety objectives and targets outlined above, a number of specific Community Fire Safety (CFS) Initiatives have been outlined in KCS.

The main initiative and most cost effective method of reducing fire deaths is to have working smoke alarms fitted to domestic dwellings. KCS advises that there should be a minimum of 90% of domestic dwellings fitted with working smoke alarms by 2015. Laois County Fire & Rescue Service is working with the Community Section of Laois County Council to assist it in achieving this target. Ideally, there should be two

smoke alarms fitted to all single storey dwellings and four fitted to two-storey dwellings.

Ongoing public messaging campaigns will be maintained to encourage members of the public to test their smoke alarms once a week to ensure that they are working.

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service also delivers the NDFEM Schools Programme. It is targeted at all 9 year old children. The arrangements for delivering this Programme vary between Fire Station Ground Areas but in general the programme is delivered annually to all children attending school in County Laois between the ages of 8 and 10.

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will also respond positively to requests for presentations on fire safety from community groups along with distributing and making available fire safety promotional material in County Laois.

#### **Objectives for the Period of this Plan:**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service intends to comply with all relevant Fire Prevention and Building Control Legislation and Regulations during the life of this Plan. There is a sharing of information between Fire Prevention and Operations, particularly for high risk premises.

It will continue to introduce initiatives to reduce the Fire Fatality rate in County Laois along with reducing various incident types. It is intended that Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will work with other sections in Laois County Council, in particular the Housing Section and the Community & Enterprise Section, to develop initiatives to work with the general public and Community Groups to reduce the exceptionally high number of chimney fires in the County.

Ongoing public messaging campaigns will be maintained to encourage members of the public to install smoke alarms and to test their smoke alarms once a week to ensure that they are in working order.

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will also continue to deliver the Primary Schools Fire Safety Programme and carry out During Performance Inspections along with targeting specific high risk areas identified through the Risk Based Approach to Emergency Cover when delivering Community Fire Safety Programmes.

## **Section 14: Major Emergency Management**

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As previously outlined in Section 1 above, although the legislation only requires this plan to deal with arrangements made with regard to Fire and Emergency operations, this plan will also take into consideration the substantial volume of work carried out by the Fire Service Section in relation to Major Emergency Management both within Co. Laois & the region.

### **14.1 Definition**

A Major Emergency is defined as any event which, usually with little or no warning, causes or threatens death or injury, serious disruption of essential services or damage to property, the environment or infrastructure beyond the normal capabilities of the principal emergency services in the area in which the event occurs, and requires the activation of specific additional procedures and the mobilisation of additional resources to ensure an effective, co-ordinated response.

### **14.2 Background to Major Emergency Planning**

The National Framework for Major Emergency Management (2006) replaced the Framework for Co-Ordinated Response to Major Emergency, which underpinned Major Emergency preparedness and response capability since 1984. The 2006 Framework was prepared under the aegis of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Major Emergencies and was approved by Government decision. It enables the three principal emergency response agencies, An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and the Local Authority to prepare and make a co-ordinated response to Major Emergencies including fires, transport accidents, hazardous substances and severe weather.

In 2006 the government approved a two-year Major Emergency Development Programme 2006-2008 (MEDP) to allow for the structured migration from existing arrangements to an enhanced level of preparedness via the new emergency



management process. The production of a new Major Emergency Plan was overseen by Laois County Council Major Emergency Development Committee - with representation from all sections within the Local Authority, marking the culmination of an extensive process of development. In 2008 a new Major Emergency Plan was released consistent with 'A Framework for Emergency Management' (2006) as issued by the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government and in accordance with the guidance provided by the Department in relation to Major Emergency Management. This Plan was subsequently reviewed and updated in 2014 & is updated on an annual basis.

The purpose of the Major Emergency Plan is to put in place arrangements that will enable Laois County Council to effectively manage a Major Emergency in co-operation with other Principal Response Agencies, An Garda Síochána and the Health Service Executive. The document sets out mechanisms for co-ordination of the Principal Response Agencies at all levels of Major Emergency Management - on site, at local level and at regional level. In addition it defines a common language and terminology to facilitate inter-agency working. It also provides for linking to national level emergency management. Major Emergency Management continues to be a key challenge and a priority issue for Laois County Council.

### **14.3 Inter-Agency Arrangements**

Any one of the principal response agencies may declare a major emergency and the mobilisation procedures of the Major Emergency Plans of the three relevant agencies will be activated immediately they are notified of the declaration. The Major Emergency Plan of each agency sets out that agency's response, as well as its contribution to the combined response of all agencies.

The other Principal Response Agencies responsible for Emergency Services in this area are:-

- Health Service Executive
- Laois/Offaly Garda Division.

#### **14.4 Laois County Council Response to a Major Emergency in County Laois**

In the event of a major emergency, the primary role of Laois County Council is to ensure life safety by providing a top class emergency service in the form of the Fire Service and Civil Defence. In general, the Fire & Rescue Service will be the first section of the Local Authority to respond to any Major Emergency.

Laois County Councils' main roles in the event of a Major Emergency occurring in County Laois are as follows;

- Immediate Response
- Extinguishing Fires
- Rescue
- Dealing with Flooding Incidents
- Spillages
- Storm / Severe Weather Response
- Provision of an On-Site Controller of Operations / On-Site Co-Coordinator
- Provision of On-Site Co-Ordination Facilities
- Facilitating and Participating in the Crisis Management Team.

The Fire Service will prepare itself for large scale and inter-agency operations through participation in appropriate exercises. The Fire Service will also further develop relationships with Civil Defence as appropriate, in particular in preparation for joint assistance in the event of a Major Emergency occurring. The fire service will also work with local community and voluntary groups as appropriate in the event of a major Emergency occurring.

#### **14.5 Laois County Council's Major Emergency Management Committee**

Following the two year development phase and the production of a New Major Emergency Plan in 2008, the role of the Major Emergency Development Committee was changed to a Management Committee with responsibility for the ongoing overview of Major Emergency Management within the Local Authority. The group has membership from all sections of Laois County Council including Laois County Fire & Rescue Service. The group reviews the Major Emergency Plan and associated Sectional plans as appropriate, arranges site visits and arranges and participates in Major Emergency Exercises. The group meets on a quarterly basis.

#### **14.6 Co-Ordination Roles and Facilities**

The designated on-site Co-Coordinator of Operations for Laois County Council is the Director of Services for Infrastructure & Emergency Services. A number of alternates are also identified in the Major Emergency Plan. The On-Site Co-Coordinator is alerted in the event of an incident by the Eastern Regional Communications Centre. Depending on the nature of the incident, Laois County Council may assume the role of Lead Agency (the agency with overall responsibility for coordinating a response to the incident) and the On-Site Coordinator may assume the role of the On-Site Controller of Operations. Facilities for the On-Site Coordination Team are kept in a trailer in Portlaoise Fire Station.

Laois County Council shall participate in the Local Co-Ordination Group. The Chief Executive of Laois County Council or alternate shall represent Laois County Council on the Local Co-Ordination Group. The Executive Conference Room is fully prepared to operate as the local Co-Ordination Centre in the event of a major emergency being declared on Co. Laois.

Both the On-Site and Local Co-Ordination groups shall be assisted by the Crisis Management Team. This team shall meet as required at Áras an Chontae in the event of a Major Emergency and shall provide technical and administration support to both the On-Site and Local Co-Ordination groups. Several rooms adjacent to the

Local Co-Ordination Centres have been prepared to accommodate the various Crisis Management Teams.

Further details regarding the above are provided in the Major Emergency Plan for Laois County Council

#### **14.7 Major Emergency Management in the Midlands Region & National Groups**

Laois County Council is part of the Midlands Region for Major Emergency Planning. The Principle Response Agencies responsible for Emergency Services in the Midlands region are as follows;

##### Local Authorities

- Laois County Council
- Offaly County Council
- Longford County Council
- Westmeath County Council

##### Health Services Executive

- Dublin, Mid Leinster Region

##### An Garda Síochána

- Laois/Offaly Garda Division

There is both a Steering Group and a Working Group for Major Emergency Management in the Midlands Region. Laois County Council is represented on the Midlands Regional Steering Group by the Chief Executive and is represented on the Regional Working Group by The Chief Fire Officer.

These Regional Groups in turn report into the National Working Groups. The National Working Groups have membership from the three Principle Response Agencies and the NDFEM.

**Objectives for the Period of this Plan:**

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will prepare itself for large scale and inter-agency operations through participation in appropriate training and exercises. The Fire Service will also further develop relationships with the Civil Defence as appropriate, in particular in preparation for joint assistance in the event of a Major Emergency occurring.

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service will continue to participate on the Laois County Council Major Emergency Management Committee along with the participating on the Regional Working and Steering Groups as appropriate. It is intended that during the life of this Plan the Major Emergency Management Committee would examine the feasibility of and put in place protocols for using social media outlets to update the public during severe weather events.

## REFERENCES

1. Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003
2. Keeping Communities Safe –A Framework for Fire Safety in Ireland NDFEM (2013)
3. Keeping Communities Safe –Support Document – Fire Service Training NDFEM (2013)
4. Keeping Communities Safe – Research Document – Fire Services Task Analysis and Crewing Levels Version 2.2 NDFEM (2013)
5. Keeping Communities Safe – Fire Services Training Version 3.5 NDFEM (2013)
6. Keeping Communities Safe – Managing Safety in Fire Services Version 2.7 NDFEM (2013)
7. A Framework for Major Emergency Management – Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government
8. Risk Based Approach Report Version 1, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012 – NDFEM
9. Risk Based Approach Report Phase 1 – Supplementary Report, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013 – NDFEM
10. Equipment Maintenance Policy - Laois County Fire & Rescue Service
11. Training Policy - Laois County Fire & Rescue Service
12. Personal Protective Equipment Maintenance Policy - Laois County Fire & Rescue Service

# **Appendix A**

## **Summary of the Equipment carried on various appliance Types**

## **Class B Pumping Appliance**

*Note, not all equipment detailed below will be carried on all Alpha 2 appliances, but the equipment will generally be carried on at least the Alpha 1 appliance*

- Air Lifting Mats
- Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's)
- Body Bags
- Bolt Cutters
- Branches – Foam
- Branches – Water
- Breaches – Dividing
- Breathing Apparatus Sets
- Life jackets
- Carrying Sheet
- Chains
- Chainsaws
- Fire Extinguishers
- First Responder Bags
- Floating Rescue Throw Line
- General Purpose Line
- Generators – Portable
- Gas Monitors
- Glass Management Kit
- Hearth Kit & Hand Tools
- Hose Reel Equipment (incl. Hoses)
- Hoses – Delivery
- Hoses – Suction
- Hydraulic Cutters
- Hydraulic Duo Pumps
- Hydraulic Hoses
- Hydraulic Pedal Cutters
- Hydraulic Pumps
- Hydraulic Rams



- Hydraulic Spreaders
- Ladders – 9 m or 10.5m
- Ladders – 13.5m
- Ladders – Double / Triple Extension
- Ladders – Roof
- Ladders – Telescopic
- Lowering Lines
- Oxygen Cylinders
- Pneumatic Tools
- Portable Flood Lighting
- Pumps – Light Weight Portable (LPP)
- Pumps – Main
- Reach & Rescue Poles
- Radios
- Reciprocating Saws
- Road Lights
- Road Signs
- RTC Ancillary Equipment – Airbag Restraint Kits
- RTC Ancillary Equipment – Blocks
- RTC Ancillary Equipment – Chains
- RTC Ancillary Equipment – Sill Supports
- RTC Ancillary Equipment – Step Chocks
- RTC Ancillary Equipment - Wedges
- Shackles
- Slings
- Small Gear
- Spill Management Kit
- Vehicle Stabilisation Equipment
- Standpipes (incl. Extensions, Keys & Bars)
- Stirrup Pump
- Spinal Board
- Thermal Imaging Camera

- Torches / Lamps
- Working at Heights Equipment

### **Emergency Tender Appliance**

- Air Lifting Mats
- Backpack Sprayer
- Bolt Cutters
- Breathing Apparatus Cylinders
- Breathing Apparatus Sets
- Buoyancy Aids
- Chains
- Chemical HazMat Bags
- Consaw
- Fire Extinguishers (on Fire Appliances)
- First Responder Bags (First Aid Equipment)
- First Aid Sharps Boxes & Clinical Waste Bags
- Floating Rescue Throw Line
- Generators – Portable
- Glass Management Kit
- Grinder
- Halligan Tool
- Hearth Kit & Hand Tools
- Hydraulic Combi-Tools
- Hydraulic Cutters
- Hydraulic Duo Pumps
- Hydraulic Hoses
- Hydraulic Mini Combi-Tools
- Hydraulic Mini Cutters
- Hydraulic Pedal Cutters
- Hydraulic Pumps
- Hydraulic Rams
- Hydraulic Spreaders

- Hydraulic Telescopic Ram Jack
- Pneumatic Tools
- Portable Flood Lighting
- Reach & Rescue Poles
- Radios
- Reciprocating Saws
- Rescue Platform (HGV Platform)
- Rim Adaptor
- Road Light
- Road Signs
- RTC Ancillary Equipment – Airbag Restraint Kits
- RTC Ancillary Equipment – Blocks
- RTC Ancillary Equipment – Chains
- RTC Ancillary Equipment – Sill Supports
- RTC Ancillary Equipment – Step Chocks
- RTC Ancillary Equipment - Wedges
- Shackles
- Slings
- Small Gear
- Spill Management Kit
- Vehicle Stabilisation Equipment
- Technical Rescue Equipment
- Torches / Lamps
- Winch - Tirfor
- Winch – Vehicle Mounted
- Working at Heights Equipment

### **Hydraulic Platform**

- Fire Extinguishers
- High Rise Packs
- Hoses – Delivery
- Radios

- Road Lights
- Road Signs

#### **Water Tanker**

- Fire Extinguishers
- Hoses – Delivery
- Hoses – Suction
- Radios
- Road Lights
- Road Signs
- Standpipes (incl. Extensions, Keys & Bars)
- Water Dam
- Pumps - Floating