

Dublin Fire Brigade

‘Working together for a safer Dublin’

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

The following is an outlined template of the proposed Fire and Emergency Operations Plan.

Purpose and Scope

The plan will set out the current Fire and Emergency arrangements within the Greater Dublin Region, it will also set out strategic plans and targets for the Fire Authority for the next 5 years. The plan will 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.

The proposed plan will provide a clear explanation of terms and acronyms and will be presented in a clear and easy to digest format.

Organisation

Dublin City Council is the contracting Fire Authority for the four local Authorities that make up the greater Dublin Region, operating generally under the Fire Services Act, 1981 & 2003 and the Building Control Act 1990. Each of the four Local Authorities operates an independent Building Control Authority.

The Fire Authority in Dublin City Council forms part of the Finance Department under the direction of the Head of Finance. The Head of Finance and the Chief Fire Officer are the designated officers for the executive functions under the Fire Services Act 1981.

The plan will provide a comprehensive overview of the various sections and structures that make up the fire service.

Fire Stations

Dublin Fire Service operates 12 full-time and 2 Retained Fire Stations in the following locations:

- No 1 Station - Donnybrook,
- No 2 Station - Dolphins Barn,
- No 3 Station - Phibsboro,
- No 4 Station - North Strand,
- No 5 Station - Finglas,
- No 6 Station – Kilbarrack,
- No 7 Station - Tallaght,
- No 8 Station - Nutgrove, Rathfarnham.
- No 9 Station - Blanchardstown,
- Head-Quarters Station - Dublin City Centre,
- No 12 Station - Dún Laoghaire,
- No 13 Station - Swords,
- No 23 Station - Balbriggan (Retained)
- No 24 Station - Skerries (Retained)

A full description of the stations will be provided including a description of the station area, demographics and the number and type of incidents attended.

Fire Service Fleet

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, Combined Aerial & Pumping Appliances, Water Tankers, Incident Command Units, Hazardous Materials Unit and 4 Wheel Drive Vehicles with off road capabilities.

The fleet also contains 12 front line ambulances for emergency response.

The plan will provide a detailed description of these appliances.

Equipment

Due to the large variety of incident types that Dublin Fire Brigade attends, it is necessary to carry a large range of equipment & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The plan will provide the details on the Type of equipment, preventative maintenance, testing and the certification schedule.

Water Supplies

The plan will outline the various water sources, delivery mechanisms and the fire brigades role in sourcing and delivering efficient water supply for fire fighting.

Training

Fire Authorities are obliged under 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.

Dublin Fire Brigade has a training and development policy in place as outlined in the Training and Development Manual. The plan will set out Dublin Fire Brigade's policy in relation to training and development in meeting service delivery and staff development needs. The document will set out the brigade's strategic objective in relation to training and development and outlines the training programmes currently in place.

Training is primarily delivered on station, locally (DFB training centre), and in some cases regionally, nationally or internationally.

The plan will outline the range of existing and proposed training courses and delivery options for both our Fire-fighters and Officers

Health & Safety

Dublin Fire Brigade are committed to safeguarding, as far as is reasonably practicable the Safety, Health and Welfare of all its employees, contractors and visitors. Health and Safety underpins all aspects of Fire Service response.

The plan will provide a comprehensive outline of how the Brigade manages Health, Safety and welfare.

DFB is currently upgrading the Safety Management System to the OHSAS 18001 standard and intends attaining certification during the period of this plan. DFB has an Ancillary Safety Statement in place supported by a comprehensive suite of Safety Policy documents. These policy documents will be periodically reviewed to ensure they are up to date and relevant.

DFB has adapted the Standard Operating Guidance's (SOGs) produced by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM). Risk Assessments are in place as part of the roll out of SOG's for all incident types.

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 the Local Authorities in the Dublin Region have 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. This facility is known as the Eastern Regional Communications Centre and is located at Townsend Street.

Dublin Fire Brigade utilises a broad range of communications equipment in order to deliver an effective and efficient service. The equipment utilised and the location of such equipment will also be described.

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.

Dublin Fire Brigade employs an all hazards response to risks responding to a broad range of incident types, these will be outlined and described in detail.

In addition, Pre-incident Planning is carried out by Dublin Fire Brigade 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 1203 premises / facilities in Dublin City / County.

Operational Standards

Detailed national guidance has been produced in relation to Operational Standards. The guidance has been provided taking cognisance of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005. This guidance will be taken into account by Dublin Fire Brigade in determining the appropriate Standards of Fire Cover in Dublin City, Fingal, South County Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Council area's;

Fire Safety – Fire Prevention

The plan will also take into consideration the substantial volume of Fire Safety and Fire Prevention work carried out by the Fire Service Section.

Dublin City Council Fire Prevention Staff advise on current fire safety standards required for proposed and existing developments.

- 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.
- Inspection of petroleum installations, retail and bulk, under Dangerous Substances Act, 1979, and associated Regulations.

Fire Officers also carry out inspections of Places of Public Assembly and other high-risk premises

The Plan will detail the wide range of current Fire Prevention and Fire Safety activities and will set challenging targets for a decline in incident numbers. It will also outline a range of community based activities to ensure awareness of fire safety.

Major Emergency Management

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.

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.