Dublin Fire Brigade

‘Working together for a safer Dublin’

Who We Are

2015
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1. Introduction

Dublin Fire Brigade (DFB), which is part of Dublin City Council, provides a fully integrated Fire, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and emergency rescue service for the four Dublin local authority areas, Dublin City, Fingal, South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown County Councils. DFB protects the communities, business, infrastructure and industry within the four local authority areas covering an area of 356 square miles, with a population of 1.3 million and 464,749 households.

Detailed below is a description of the standard and specialist appliances available to DFB, we continuously review the location of these resources, specifically the specialist appliances, and re-locate them as necessary based on risk. Full Details are provided in Appendix (1) of this document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DFB Area Profile</th>
<th>DFB Emergency Fleet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>356 Sq Miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>1.3 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole-time Fire Stations</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained Fire Stations</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole-time Fire-fighters</td>
<td>765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational Officers</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained Fire-fighters</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Prevention officers</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin Support Staff</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calls</td>
<td>133,000 Annually</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Appliances & Specialist Equipment

2.1 Standard Fire Engines (PUMPS) – (All stations)
These vehicles are configured to carry up to five fire-fighters, have an on board water tank, a water pump and associated hose equipment and deal with an array of emergency situations. These vehicles also carry, road traffic collision rescue equipment, ladders, first aid equipment including Defibrillators and hazardous material protection suits.

2.2 Hydraulic Platform (HP) (No 12 Station Dún Laoghaire)
This is a large fire appliance consisting of three hydraulic booms with a caged platform attached. This appliance can be used at large building fires as a water tower and rescue.

2.3 Emergency Tender (ET) (Dolphins Barn & Phibsboro)
This vehicle operates as a heavy rescue unit and attends incidents of a more serious nature where more specialised and heavier equipment is needed. The vehicle responds to incidents involving Road Traffic Collisions, Motorway Accidents involving Large & Heavy Goods Vehicles; Persons trapped in machinery; Train/Luas Incidents; Building/ Trench Collapse; Major Incidents and Airport/ Aircraft incidents.

2.4 Incident Command Unit (ICU)(HQ)
This vehicle is used at large protracted incidents (5 pumps or more) as a mobile incident command centre. This vehicle is equipped with UHF and VHF radio transmission equipment that enables radio messages to be collated at the incident ground and relayed to the ERCC.

3 Crewing Arrangements
Crews are provided utilising a combination of both Fulltime and Retained Fire-fighters and Officers. Fulltime Crews are made up of a combination of single pump and multi pump stations. Fire-fighters report to a Fulltime Station Officer in each Station, the Station Officers in turn report to the relevant District Officer. Fulltime Fire-fighters work a shift pattern on a rotational basis and are based in the Fire Station for the duration of their shift.
In addition two Senior Fire Officers out of a possible ten rostered Senior Fire Officers are rostered on call on a rotational basis to assist in the handling of more serious emergency incidents along with urgent operational and management issues.
4 Fire Stations

- Two Pump Whole-time Station.
  Two permanently crewed pumping appliances, designated as a result of their present risk and incident activity.

- One Pump Whole-time Station.
  One pumping appliance continually available for immediate response.

- Retained Station
  Stations where cover is provided by retained (part-time) persons

5 DFB Rank Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operations</th>
<th>Fire Safety/ Prevention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Helmet Markings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire fighter</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Helmet Markings" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Officer</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Helmet Markings" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station Officer</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Helmet Markings" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Officer</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Helmet Markings" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Officer</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Helmet Markings" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Fire Prevention Officers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Fire Prevention Officers</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Helmet Markings" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Prevention District Officer</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Helmet Markings" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Fire Prevention Officers</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Helmet Markings" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Executive Fire Prevention Officers</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Helmet Markings" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assistant Chief Fire Officer  ![Helmet Markings](image)

Chief Fire Officer  ![Helmet Markings](image)
6 Incident Command System

The DFB uniformed staff operate within an agreed rank structure. This rank based management structure facilitates the full range of management activities both on station and during operational response. The Incident Command System constitutes the doctrine of the fire service in the context of operational incident management, leadership and the functional command and control processes that flow from it. The Incident Command System is the nationally recognised safe and effective system for managing fire service operations.

DFB have also introduced a performance management audit tool (OPR), designed to measure performance against the agreed standards.
Currently the DFB operational Area is divided into 6 districts; these districts operate within a specific management/ rank structure.
7. East Regional Control Centre (E.R.C.C)

The ERCC receives calls for Dublin and all counties in the Eastern region. The E.R.C.C also responds all Dublin Fire Brigade ambulances to most parts of the greater Dublin Region excluding areas of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

8. Training

The fire brigade annual training programme is developed each year following a training needs analysis. This analysis ensures that the training meets the specific needs of the firefighters and officers. We will continue to train our staff to the highest standard, which is fundamental to protecting our operational crews and achieving our vision of making our communities safer places to live, work and visit.

The Brigade has its own large training centre in Dublin with a large breathing apparatus complex, ship fire fighting complex, parade ground, fire towers, various lecture rooms, dormitories etc. As well as facilitating the training of Dublin Fire-fighters the training centre is also available for courses run by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM). DFB have previously hosted and managed National and International courses on behalf of the NDFEM and other agencies.

The recruit fire-fighter training course lasts for about 4 months before the recruit firefighters go operational. The modules include a 3 week Breathing Apparatus (B.A.) course, 1 week road traffic collision (RTC), 1 week pump operators, 9 weeks Paramedic and a variety of other items as well as constant fire fighting training. At present the Royal College of Surgeons along with the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (P.H.E.C.C.) certify the Paramedic Course.

New skills which have been introduced to the Brigade in the last few years include the Swift-water Rescue Technician Course, Marine Emergency Response (ship fire-fighting), Tunnel Fire-fighting and Highline/ Rope rescue.
9. Fire Safety/ Prevention

The Fire Safety section principally works under three pieces of legislation, namely the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003 (FSA), the Building Control Act 1990 and the Dangerous Substances Act 1972. This Section provides a Fire Prevention service for the four Dublin Local Authorities.

The activities conducted under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003 are considered to be our core responsibility. Building and management inspections are conducted on a wide range of building types, with the exception of domestic dwellings, in a risk based prioritised inspection system for both a reactive and proactive inspection programme.

Officers have strong enforcement powers under the FSA 1981&2003, including prosecutions, Fire safety Notices, High Court orders and Closure notices.

Other duties include;

- Inspect and comment to the Circuit and District Court on licence applications.
- Inspect and comment on licensing of the retail and bulk storage of petroleum to the Health & Safety Authority.
- Comment on; - Fireworks importation notifications for events, waste licensing, road closures, street furniture applications etc.

Since 1992 the processing of Fire Safety Certificate applications, provided for by the Building Control Act 1990, are also part of the duties. The Section validates and assesses Fire Safety Certificate applications, Revised Fire Safety Certificates and Regularisation Certificates for the City and the county areas. We also have enforcement powers under the Building Control Act 1990.

This Section consults with operations with regard to the large or complex buildings to include operational requirements and engages with Operations to improve operational intelligence for pre-incident planning.

Under the Fire Services Act, the section also gives advice to the public and to the fire safety profession, i.e. consultants, architects, engineers, other agencies etc, along with advice internally to the four Dublin Local Authorities.

The Section provides Fire safety advice and consultation with regards to Events Management for both the Licenced and Unlicenced outdoor Events for example, St Patrick Day Parade, Marley Park Concerts, Kilmainham festival, Bloom, and Flightfest etc.
DFB Safety Section also provide a customer care service to the public, by providing a duty phone rostered officer to answer calls from the public daily, who can call with a query or request for fire safety advice or to report a fire safety concern about a specific building or event. There are approximately 9000 calls per year for this service.

Most deaths and injuries that occur due to fire occur in private dwellings, consequently the brigade try to advise people in fire safety / fire prevention matters in an effort to prevent these fires from happening. To promote fire safety in domestic dwellings the fire safety section carries out Community Fire Safety programmes. For example an annual art competition resulting in a Calendar being produced with a prize giving in the Mansion House. Media campaigns on foot of these campaigns have been highly successful and a far reaching conduit for the Fire Safety message. Additionally, officers provide talks to groups and schools.

10. Health & Safety
The safety of our staff is a top priority and we will continue to do everything we can to secure their health and safety. Special consideration is given to those operational fire-fighters who as part of their duties may be exposed to hostile environments in their efforts to protect the community. DFB recognises the legal obligations on the organisation as an employer, to ensure the health and safety of its employees.

Fire-fighting is considered by many as an inherently dangerous occupation, however, the number of injuries occurring in the DFB is minimal compared to other high risk industries. This low frequency is representative of the way DFB manage the health and safety risks associated with fire service activities. The incident ground is a workplace, whether it is a burning building, road traffic collision (RTC) or hazardous material spill. Generally, the expectation of the community is that fire-fighters arrive in a prompt manner and take calculated risks to save lives and property and restore some level of normality. Given the context of the working environment, DFB implements a range of risk management strategies which focus on making the workplace safer, applying safer practices and creating a safer person. DFB will continue to ensure that the standards and practices that underpin the Health and Safety of its personnel continue and indeed will be reinforced with evolving best practice.
As part of this commitment DFB have developed safe systems of work for all aspects of operational activity, a suite of Standard Operational Guidelines (SOG’s), specialised equipment and an ongoing training regime exists to mitigate against accidents. We will also continue to work with colleagues around the country, international colleagues and other stakeholders to make sure best practice is exchanged and that we can learn from the experience of others.

11. Pre-Incident Planning
DFB has in place a pre-fire planning programme, operational intelligence and local knowledge help identify premises/sites having a sufficient risk or of being sufficiently complex as to require a pre-incident plan. This information is made available to attending officers and fire-fighters to assist them in their decision making.

12. Primary Schools Programme
The Primary Schools Fire Safety Programme seeks to educate third class pupils about Fire Safety in the home. Dublin Fire Brigade is a strong advocate of the National fire safety schools programme. It is designed to teach children the dangers of fire and how to use a simple home safety check to make their own homes safer. This fire safety strategy has seen Dublin fire-fighters deliver the National Fire Safety programme to 3rd class children in primary schools across the city and County with great success. This programme facilitates delivery of key fire safety messages to the home and is seen as a significant factor in the continuing reduction of domestic fire incidents and nuisance calls. There has been very positive reaction to this initiative, with a view that children/families have benefited greatly from the programme.

13. The Fire Authority
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 & Building Control Act 1990. Each of the four Local Authorities operates an independent Building Control Authority.
14. Human Resources (H.R.) / Industrial Relations (I.R.)

Dublin Fire Brigade H.R. / I.R. section is responsible for general employee relations, recruitment activities, policy development and maintaining personnel and related files. Other areas of direct involvement include overseeing the grievance and disciplinary Procedures and managing the Critical Incident Stress Programme. This Section is also involved in the development and administration of selection methods for DFB’s internal promotion system.

D.F.B management and Unions have established procedures and escalating mechanisms for progressing industrial relations. Both sides meet regularly and were possible agreement is reached locally.

15. Major Emergency Management (MEM)

DFB continue to make a major contribution in advancing Major Emergency management, DFB possess within its staff a cohort of emergency management experts with extensive practical and academic expertise and experience. Some of the priorities in this area are;

- Assess the risks of a major emergency happening.
- Maintain & review plans to enable all sections of the L/A continue to carry out functions in the event of a major emergency.
- Plan to prevent emergencies happening in the first place, and to minimise its effects if it does happen.
- Assist the four local Authorities to prepare emergency plans, to train their staff and to exercise the plans to make sure they are robust.
- Continue to lead/ support the MEM committee within the L/A
- Prepare/ train DFB & L/A staff for emergency management roles for the co-ordination of such events.
- Continue to contribute to the East Regional inter-agency groups/ committees
- Integrate Civil Defence with DFB/ L/A MEM roles
- Further integrate local communities and voluntary groups with emergency management structures.
16. Measuring Performance

We want to make sure our service provides best value for money and operates efficiently and effectively. During the last few years we have improved our planning processes and the way we manage and use performance information. The linkage of corporate, department and section performance measures, KPI’s and management systems are currently under review for improvement.

One key element of effective performance management is to ensure that employees, Stations and Districts have clearly defined personal and group objectives, that delivery is regularly reviewed through constructive feedback, and that operational capability and safety are maintained. At a team and individual level, the Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) provide a framework within which management and staff can improve work performance and develop the knowledge and skills of staff. It is intended to build on this system and review District and Station planning & performance management arrangements.

17. Delivering value for money

Over recent years progress has been achieved in delivering reform and improving value for money in DFB especially in the following areas.

- Reduced staffing levels in the ERCC
- Civilianisation of the ERCC
- Restructuring of senior management team,
- Redeployment of staff from non operational to operational duties
- Reduction in expenditure on Training and non pay items.

Discussions with staff representatives on a number of new initiatives will continue.
### Appendix (1)

**Stations & Resources**

**Full-Time Stations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Fire Pinfire</th>
<th>EMS</th>
<th>Specialist Vehicles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Alpha</td>
<td>Donnybrook</td>
<td>2 Water Tenders, 1 D/O</td>
<td>1 Ambulance</td>
<td>1 Hazmat Unit + 1 Water Tanker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bravo</td>
<td>Dolphins Barn</td>
<td>2 Water Tenders, 1 D/O</td>
<td>1 Ambulance</td>
<td>1 Emergency Tender (ET)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Charlie</td>
<td>Phibsboro</td>
<td>2 Water Tenders, 1 D/O (Charlie District)</td>
<td>1 Ambulance</td>
<td>1 Emergency Tender, Reserve Ambulances, 1 Highline Rescue Unit, 1 Water Tanker, 1 Foam Tanker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>North Strand</td>
<td>2 Water Tenders, 1 Tunnel Response Vehicle (TRV), 1 D/O</td>
<td>1 Ambulance</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Foxtrot</td>
<td>Finglas</td>
<td>1 Water Tender, D/O</td>
<td>1 Ambulance</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>Kilbarrack</td>
<td>1 Water Tender</td>
<td>1 Ambulance</td>
<td>Water support pod and prime mover</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bravo</td>
<td>Tallaght</td>
<td>2 Water Tenders</td>
<td>1 Ambulance</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Alpha</td>
<td>Rathfarnham</td>
<td>1 Water Tender</td>
<td>1 Ambulance</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Charlie</td>
<td>Blanchardstown</td>
<td>1 Water Tender</td>
<td>1 Ambulance</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Echo</td>
<td>Tara Street - HQ</td>
<td>2 Water Tenders, 2 Turntable Ladders, 2 D/O</td>
<td>2 Ambulances,</td>
<td>2 Rescue Boats, 2 Transport Vehicles, Brigade Support Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Alpha</td>
<td>Dun Laoghaire</td>
<td>2 Water Tenders, 1 Hydraulic Platform</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 Reserve Hydraulic Platform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Foxtrot</td>
<td>Swords</td>
<td>1 Water Tender</td>
<td>1 Ambulance</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>ERCC</td>
<td>East Regional Control Centre - TARA ST</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 Incident Command Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>OBI</td>
<td>O’Brien Institute - Training Centre</td>
<td>Fire Training Centre</td>
<td>EMS Training Centre (DFB-RCSI)</td>
<td>1 Marine Emergency Rescue Unit, Training units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Charlie</td>
<td>Garage/ Stores - Grange Gorman</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Brigade workshops vehicle, Brigade Support Units, Reserve Units</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Retained Stations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Fire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Foxtrot</td>
<td>Balbriggan</td>
<td>1 Water Tender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Foxtrot</td>
<td>Skerriens</td>
<td>1 Water Tender</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>