FIRE & EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICE

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Promulgation

Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh
Limerick City & County Council

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

Made and adopted under the Common Seal of the City & County Council of the County of Limerick this _____day of _____2016

Present when the Common Seal of the City & County Council of the County of Limerick was affixed hereto:

Signed:_____
Chief Fire Officer
Limerick City & County Council

Signed:_____
Director of Services
Limerick City & County Council

Signed:_____
Mayor
Limerick City & County Council

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Section 1: Purpose & Scope

The purpose of this Fire & Emergency Operations Plan is to fulfil Limerick City & County Council's statutory obligation as a Fire Authority as outlined in **Section 26 of the 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 & Emergency Services Section, along with the contribution the Fire Authority makes to Major Emergency Management.

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 over the course of this plan. 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.

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. Limerick Fire Authority is the Fire Authority for all of Limerick City & County Council – "Limerick Fire & Emergency Service is the common name for the Fire Authority and is used throughout this document.*

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 Fire Fighters Handbook"

Junior Fire Officer

"Fire Service personnel at the following grades – Whole time Station Officer, Whole time Sub-Station Officer, Retained Station Officer, Retained Sub Station Officer and Retained Driver Mechanic"

Wholetime Fire Fighter

"Officer and Fire fighters of fire brigade who are permanent and pensionable employees of Limerick City & County Council. They are employed in accordance with the conditions, duties, pay, disciplinary code, etc relating to whole time fire fighters in Limerick Fire & Emergency Service.

Retained Fire Fighter

"Officer and Fire fighters of fire brigades who are part-time, permanent and non-pensionable employees of Limerick City & County Council. They are employed in accordance with the conditions, duties, pay, disciplinary code, etc relating to part-time fire fighters in Limerick Fire & Emergency Service.

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 Siochána, Health Service Executive and Limerick Fire & Rescue Service)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."

Keeping Communities Safe – A Framework for Fire Safety in Ireland (KCS)

'Keeping Communities Safe' is the output from a review in 2012 of fire services and fire safety in Ireland. It aims to provide a comprehensive, balanced strategy to ensure the safety of the public in their homes and other locations, as well as worker safety in providing emergency services. It is an integrated blue-print for further development of the critical public safety roles performed by local authority fire services. 'Keeping Communities Safe' is about managing risk, addressing public safety improvement, incident reduction, response standards and service delivery structures for the decade ahead. 'Keeping Communities Safe' is an evidence-led plan, based on international best practice and with international expert validation

Munster Regional Communications Centre

The Munster Regional Communications Centre based in Mulgrave Street on the grounds of Limerick City Fire Station is one of the 3 regional centres in Ireland for receiving emergency calls for the Fire Service and mobilising fire service resources. Under Section 10(2)(c) of the Fire Services Act, 198, Fire Authorities are required to make adequate provision for the reception of and response to calls for assistance of the Fire Brigade. The seven Fire Authorities in the Munster Region entered into a Section 85 agreement under the Local Government Act with this centre for the provision of these functions. This Centre presently mobilises 65 Retained Stations and 4 Whole Time Fire Stations throughout the Region.
The Management and running of this Centre falls under the control of the Chief Fire Officer of Limerick Fire & Emergency Services.

Section 2: Executive Summary

It can be seen from the Table of Contents Page that there are 12 further sections in this Document after this section. Each section contains information that is relevant to the section. The main objectives that Limerick City & County Council wishes to achieve during the life of this Plan (2016 – 2021) for a particular section are set out in that section. The following is a collection of these main objectives under the relevant section headings;

Section 3 - Organisation

Following the amalgamation of Limerick City & County Fire Authorities, Limerick Fire & Emergency Service now operates with 1 Chief Fire Officer who reports to a Director of Service who in turn reports to the Chief Executive. Under the Chief Fire Officer the management of the Fire Service is divided into a number of areas including Operational, Fire Prevention and Building Control roles in 1 Whole Time Station and 6 No Retained Fire Stations. The Munster Regional Communications Centre and Civil Defence also are managed by the Chief Fire Officer.

Section 4 - Fire Stations

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service will continue to seek Capital Grant Aid Funding to carryout substantial development works at Cappamore Fire Station during the period of this plan. It also intends to carry out development works at Newcastle West Fire Station using Limerick City & County Council's own financial resources, along with carrying out ongoing maintenance at all Fire Stations.

Section 5 - Fire Appliances

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service will apply for Capital Grant Aid from the National Directorate for the replacement of Class B Fire Appliances and an Emergency tender in 2016/2017 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.

Specialist Appliances, in particular Water Tankers have also provided added value to Limerick City & County Council in distributing water supplies during periods of Severe Weather and periods of Water Shortages.

Section 6 – Equipment & PPE

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service will maintain all equipment in accordance with its Equipment Maintenance Policy which outlines the frequency and type of inspection for all equipment. It is not intended at this time to apply for any Capital Aid Grant Funding for any major replacement programme of equipment in the next 5 years. Limerick Fire & Emergency Service will continue to provide the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to all personnel and to procure this PPE to the highest standards. All PPE will be maintained in accordance with the Limerick Fire & Emergency Service Personal Protective Equipment Maintenance Policy.

Section 7 - Water Supplies

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service intends to maintain Water Tankers at 4 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 Limerick. Water Tankers have also provided added value to the Local Authority in distributing water supplies during periods of Severe Weather and periods of Water Shortages. In addition, three of the Water Tankers are fitted with variable message signs to the rear to assist with traffic management at motorway incidents.

Section 8 -Training

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service intends delivering training in accordance with its Training Policy 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 Limerick Fire & Emergency Service to provide 104 hours On-Station training in each Retained Fire Station annually and for the Whole Time Fire Station in Limerick City to comply with the Whole Time Fire Service Operations Training Policy.

Section 9 -Health & Safety

Limerick City & County Council is committed to safeguarding, as far as is reasonably practicable the Safety, Health and Welfare of all employees, contractors and visitors. Limerick Fire & Emergency Service having attained OHSAS 18001 Accreditation, will aim to maintain that accreditation during the life of this plan.

Section 10 - Communications

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service will remain a Fire Authority within the Munster Regional Communications Centre Shared Services Group and will implement new communications technology during the life of this Plan, subject to funding being provided. The upgrading of the Computer Aided Mobilisation System, together with introduction of new Radio Systems is likely to result in an increased financial contribution from Limerick City & County Council to the Munster Regional Communications Centre on an annual basis.

Section 11 - Operational Procedures

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service will attend all incident types as per the Control Room Procedures in the Munster Regional Communications Centre.

Section 12 -Operational Standards

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service will continue to maintain a full time fire station in Limerick City and 6 no Retained Fire Stations in Newcastle West, Rathkeale, Kilmallock, Abbeyfeale, Foynes and Cappamore.

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 Munster 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 Limerick Fire & Emergency 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, Limerick Fire & Emergency 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 Limerick Fire & Rescue Service to meet the KCS Targets for Travel Time for Special Appliances.

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service will monitor all attendance times within the time frame of the plan and aim to improve these where possible.

Limerick Fire & Emergency 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 and Building Control

Limerick Fire & Emergency 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.

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service will continue to introduce initiatives to reduce the Fire Fatality rate in Limerick along with reducing various Incident types. It is intended that Limerick Fire & Emergency Service would work with other sections in Limerick City & County Council, in particular the Social Development Directorate, to develop initiatives to work with the general public and Community Groups to reduce the amount of domestic fires and chimney fires throughout Limerick and also to educate the public to help reduce deaths and injuries from fire.

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.

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service will also work with the Social Development Directorate of Limerick City & County Council with the aim of having a working smoking alarm fitted to 90% of Domestic Dwellings by the end of 2017. It 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

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service will prepare itself for large scale and inter-agency operations through participation in appropriate training and exercises. The Fire & Emergency

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.

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service will continue to participate on the Limerick City & County Council Major Emergency Management Committee along with 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 weatherevents.

Section 3: Organisation

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service is the Fire Authority & Building Control Authority for Limerick operating generally under the Fire Services Act, 1981 and 2003 & Building Control Act 1990 & 2007.

Limerick City & County Council Fire Authority forms part of the Regional Services Directorate under the direction of Director of Services. The Director of Services and Chief Fire Officer are the designated officers for the executive functions under the Fire Services Act 1981 and 2003 and the Building Control Act 1990 and 2007.

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 and Emergency Services.

The organisation of the Fire and Emergency Service works as a Hierarchal service as follows

Chief Executive
Director of Service
Chief Fire Officer
Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Assistant Fire Officer
Graduate Fire Officer
Station Officer
Sub Station Officer
Driver Mechanic
Fire Fighter

1. **Fire Prevention**:

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 processing of Fire Safety Certificates and carrying out Licensing Inspections in relation to Dance & Liquor Licence Applications.

2. **Building Control:**

These positions primarily involve inspections and the monitoring of compliance on new buildings in relation to 1997 Building Regulations in accordance with the Department's circulars issued under Building Control Regulations 1997.

3. **Operational Fire Service**:

The operational role of the fire service manages the training, fleet, equipment, health & safety, major emergency management, staffing, procurement, pre-fire planning etc within the seven fire stations in Limerick;
In the context of the amalgamation of Limerick City and County Councils, Limerick Fire and Emergency Service will be examining and implementing options for more efficient and effective delivery of service.

4. Administration Personnel

All administration of the Fire and Emergency Service including, Fire Fighter Pay, Incident Billing, Training Records, Building Control Admin, Fire Prevention Admin and Administrative Support for Civil Defence is done by the Administrative Team based in Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle, Limerick.

5. Maintenance Personnel

Due to the extent, variety and complexity of fire appliances and equipment used by Limerick Fire & Emergency Service, there is a continuing ongoing requirement to service and maintain

fire appliances and equipment to the highest standards. These fire appliances and equipment are maintained by a combination of a Brigade Mechanic and External Contractors..

6. Munster Regional Communications Centre

The Munster Regional Communications Centre based in Mulgrave Street on the grounds of Limerick City Fire Station is one of the 3 regional centres in Ireland for receiving emergency calls for the Fire Service and mobilising fire service resources. Under Section 10(2)(c) of the Fire Services Act, 198, Fire Authorities are required to make adequate provision for the reception of and response to calls for assistance of the Fire Brigade. The seven Fire Authorities in the Munster Region entered into a Section 85 agreement under the Local Government Act with this centre for the provision of these functions.

This Centre presently mobilises 65 Retained Stations and 4 Whole Time Fire Stations throughout the Region. The Management and running of this Centre falls under the control of the Chief Fire Officer of Limerick Fire & Emergency Services.

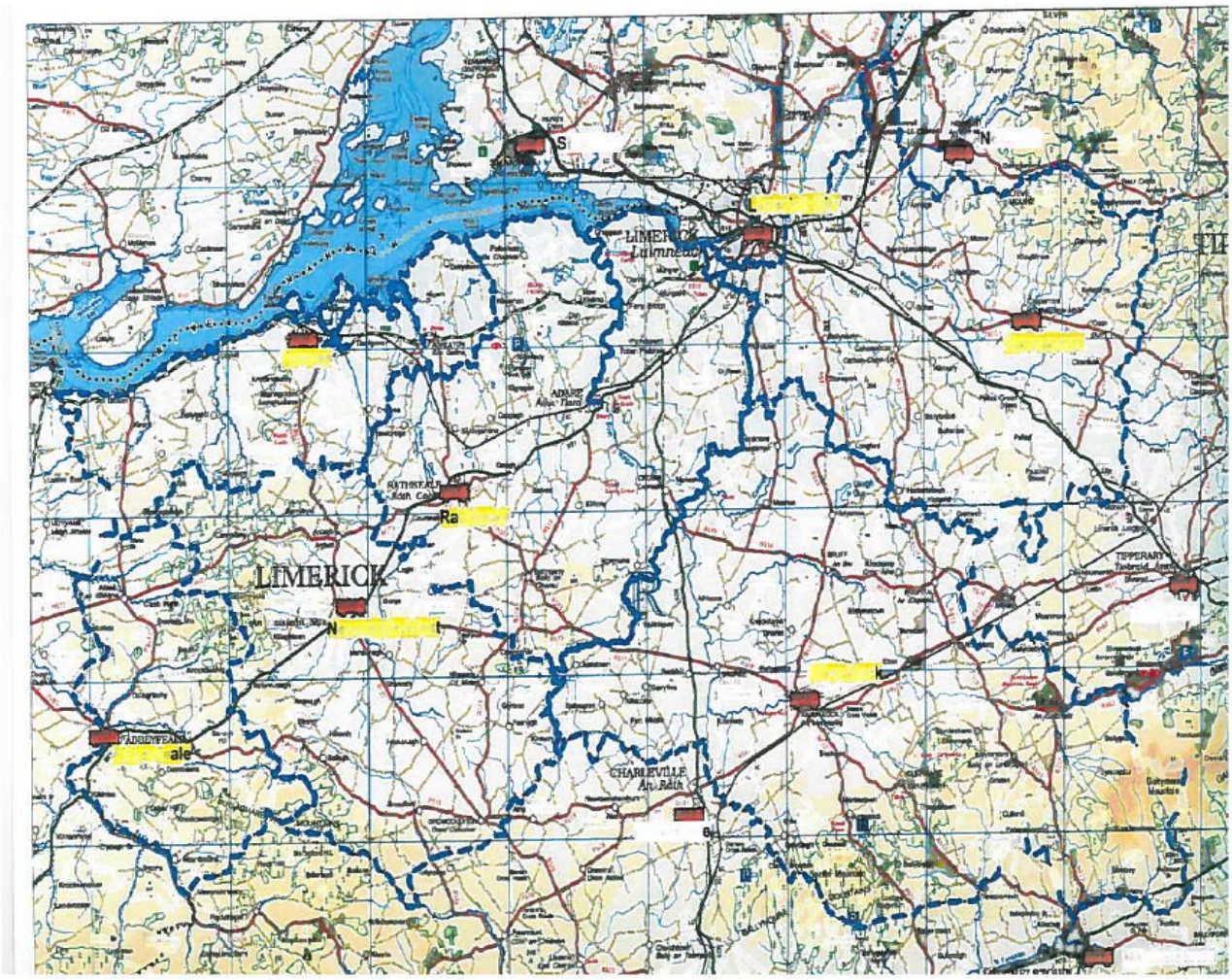
7. Civil Defence

The Management of the Civil Defence falls under the control of the Chief Fire Officer of Limerick Fire & Emergency Services. The arrangements for the delivery of Civil Defence are not included in this plan.

Section 4: Fire Stations

Limerick Fire & Emergency Services operates seven Fire Stations in the following locations:

- Limerick City Fire Station (Mulgrave Street)
- Newcastle West Fire Station
- Rathkeale Fire Station
- Kilmallock Fire Station
- Abbeyfeale Fire Station
- Foynes Fire Station
- Cappamore Fire Station



1. Limerick City Fire Station (Call Sign LI11)

Station Address:	Limerick City Fire Station, Mulgrave Street, Limerick
Fireground Population:	110,049 (per NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report 04/05/2011)
Fireground Area:	359.26 Sq KM s
Total number of call-outs/annum:	2008: 1727 2009: 1619 2010: 1645 2011: 1381 2012: 1224 2013: 1179 2014: 1098 2015: 1060

The Fire Station in Limerick City was completed in 1985. It contains;

- A whole time Fire Station
- Office area
- Training Centre
- Munster Regional Communications Centre

The whole time Fire Station accommodation and facilities consists of;

- A 4 double length appliance bays
- Muster Bay
- Locker Room
- Lecture Room
- Station Officer's Office
- Sub Station Officers Office
- Gym
- Canteen / Kitchenette
- Breathing Apparatus Servicing Room

- Breathing Apparatus Compressor Room
- Drying Room
- Female Toilet & Shower facilities
- Male Toilet & Shower facilities
- Drill Yard
- DrillTower
- Storeroom
- Maintenance Bay / Garage

There is a separate Training Building Accommodation dedicated to training purposes and larger meetings. This building is utilised for training for various Fire related training courses including National Directorate Courses. The Training Building consists of;

- Lecture Room(s)
- Female Toilet facilities
- Male Toilet facilities
- Instructors Office
- InterviewRoom
- Canteen
- Store
- Changing Facilities

The senior officer Fire Office area consists of;

- 1 No. Open Plan Office
- 1 No. Office
- Female Toilet & Shower facilities
- Male Toilet & Shower facilities
- Store
- Meeting Room
- Canteen / Kitchenette

It proposed to add additional Bays to the existing bays in the future subject to funding being available. This will allow for the covering of some of the appliances that currently are stored in the rear yard, (Uncovered)

2. Newcastle West Fire Station (Call Sign LK11)

Station Address:	Newcastle West Fire Station,
Fireground Population:	17,061 (per NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report 04/05/2011)
Fireground Area:	419.19 Sq KM s
Total number of call-outs/annum:	2008: 193 2009: 183 2010: 184 2011: 153 2012: 112 2013: 102 2014: 120 2015: 110

Newcastle West Fire Station was originally opened in 1942 and the present fire station was completed in 1978 and renovated with a new roof and office to the front in 2009. It contains;

- 5 appliance bays
- Parking Spaces
- Muster Bay
- Watch Room
- Lecture Room
- Station Officer's Office
- Canteen / Kitchenette
- Breathing Apparatus Servicing Room
- Breathing Apparatus Compressor Room
- Drying Room
- Female Toilet & Shower facilities
- Male Toilet & Shower facilities

- Drill Yard
- Drill Tower
- Storeroom
- Maintenance Garage

The internal layout of the Fire Station is currently being re-designed and refurbished. It is proposed to have this work completed within the time frame of this plan. The work is being assisted by the fire fighters within the station to minimise costs and is being funded by the Fire and Emergency Service's budget.

3. Rathkeale Fire Station (Call Sign LK12)

Station Address:	Rathkeale Fire Station,
Fireground Population:	16,265.41 (per NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report 04/05/2011)
Fireground Area:	383.04 Sq KM s
Total number of call-outs/annum:	2008: 194 2009: 210 2010: 192 2011: 178 2012: 129 2013: 123 2014: 134 2015: 91

Rathkeale Fire Station was the first retained Fire Station in Limerick and originally opened in 1942. The current Fire Station was built and completed in 1988. It contains;

- 3 appliance bays
- 1 no appliance shed / store shed to the rear of the station
- Parking Spaces
- Muster Bay
- Watch Room

- Lecture Room on 1st floor
- Station Officer's Office
- Canteen / Kitchenette
- Breathing Apparatus Servicing Room
- Breathing Apparatus Compressor Room
- Drying Room
- Female Toilet & Shower facilities
- Male Toilet & Shower facilities
- Drill Yard
- Drill Tower
- Storeroom

There is no significant development works planned for Rathkeale Fire Station during the period of this plan. Ongoing maintenance works will be carried out from Limerick Fire & Emergency's Services financial resources.

4. Kilmallock Fire Station (Call Sign LK13)

Station Address:	Kilmallock Fire Station,
Fireground Population:	17,878.45 (per NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report 04/05/2011)
Fireground Area:	568.00 Sq KM s
Total number of call-outs/annum:	2008: 137 2009: 145 2010: 137 2011: 128 2012: 85 2013: 95 2014: 113 2015: 93

Kilmallock Fire Station was originally established in 1950. The current Fire Station was built and completed in 2010. It contains;

- 3 appliance bays
- Parking Spaces
- Muster Bay
- Watch Room
- Lecture Room on 1st floor
- Station Officer's Office
- Canteen / Kitchenette
- Breathing Apparatus Servicing Room
- Breathing Apparatus Compressor Room
- Drying Room
- Female Toilet & Shower facilities
- Male Toilet & Shower facilities
- Drill Yard
- Drill Tower
- Storeroom
- Store Shed to Rear

There are no significant development works planned for Kilmallock Fire Station during the period of this plan. Ongoing maintenance works will be carried out from Limerick Fire & Emergency Service's financial resources.

5. Abbeyfeale Fire Station (Call Sign LK14)

Station Address:	Abbeyfeale Fire Station,
Fireground Population:	11,029.08 (per NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report 04/05/2011)
Fireground Area:	408.16 Sq KM s
Total number of call-outs/annum:	2008: 104 2009: 127 2010: 162 2011: 95 2012: 81 2013: 85 2014: 69 2015: 85

Abbeyfeale Fire Station was originally established in 1968. The current Fire Station in Abbeyfeale was extended in 2004. It contains;

- 2 appliance bays
- Parking Spaces
- Muster Bay
- Watch Room / Station Officer's Office
- Lecture Room
- Station Officer's Office
- Canteen / Kitchenette
- Breathing Apparatus Servicing Area
- Breathing Apparatus Compressor Room
- Drying Room
- Female Toilet & Shower facilities
- Male Toilet & Shower facilities
- Drill Yard
- Drill Tower

- Storeroom

There are no significant development works planned for Abbeyfeale Fire Station during the period of this plan. Ongoing maintenance works will be carried out from Limerick Fire & Emergency Service's financial resources.

6. Foynes (Call Sign LK15)

Station Address:	Foynes Fire Station,
Fireground Population:	7,729.81 (per NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report 04/05/2011)
Fireground Area:	240.29 Sq KM s
Total number of call-outs/annum:	2008: 57 2009: 77 2010: 66 2011: 76 2012: 44 2013: 44 2014: 53 2015: 45

Foynes Fire Station was originally established in 1982. The current Fire Station was built and completed in 1986. It contains;

- 2 appliance bays
- 3 bay appliance shed to the rear of the station.
- Parking Spaces
- Muster Bay
- Watch Room
- Lecture Room on 1st floor
- Station Officer's Office
- Canteen / Kitchenette

- Breathing Apparatus Servicing Room
- Breathing Apparatus Compressor Room
- Drying Room
- Female Toilet & Shower facilities
- Male Toilet & Shower facilities
- Drill Yard
- Drill Tower
- Storeroom
- Changing / Briefing shed for Training Courses
- Store Shed to Rear

There is an appliance shed to the rear of Foynes Fire Station. This shed was erected in 2012 and is designed to hold the training appliances used by Limerick Fire and Emergency Services. Foynes Fire Station is regularly used as the primary training centre for the Retained Fire Service as it holds Recruit Fire Fighters Training, Sub Station Officer Training and Compartment Fire Behaviour Training Courses for both Limerick Fire and Emergency service's staff and for the rest of the Country.

There is no significant development works planned for Foynes Fire Station during the period of this plan. Ongoing maintenance works will be carried out from Limerick Fire & Emergency Service's financial resources.

7. Cappamore Fire Station (Call Sign LK16)

Station Address:	Cappamore Fire Station,
Fireground Population:	14,245.22 (per NDFEM Risk Based Approach Report 04/05/2011)
Fireground Area:	374.24 Sq KM s
Total number of call-outs/annum:	2008: 121 2009: 136 2010: 171 2011: 92 2012: 99 2013: 91 2014: 109 2015: 67

Cappamore Fire Station was originally established in 1974 in its current location. There have been several additions to the Station over the last number of years to provide a canteen, lecture room, appliance shed and storage facilities. The main facilities in the Fire Station are as follows:

- 2 appliance bays
- Parking Spaces
- Muster Bay
- Watch Room / Station Officer's Office
- Lecture Room
- Station Officer's Office
- Canteen / Kitchenette
- Breathing Apparatus Servicing Area
- Breathing Apparatus Compressor Area
- Drying Room
- Female Toilet & Shower facilities
- Male Toilet & Shower facilities
- Drill Yard

- Storeroom

Approval was granted by the NDFEM to build a new Fire Station on the grounds of the existing Fire Station. Plans have been drawn up and agreed for this new development. Limerick Fire and Emergency Service is awaiting approval from the NDFEM to seek section 8 planning approval. Following this, funding approval will be sought from the NDFEM. Pending this approval, ongoing maintenance works will be carried out from Limerick Fire & Emergency Service's financial resources.

Section 5: Fire Appliances

Limerick Fire & Emergency Services maintains fire appliances in 7 Stations in Limerick.

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 Command Units, Hazardous Materials Unit and 4 Wheel Drive Vehicles with off road capabilities.

The following Table shows the current inventory of Limerick Fire Authority vehicles. These are deployed in the seven fire stations and are interchangeable between fire stations and use depending on operational considerations;

INVENTORY:

- 16 no Class B Water Tenders
- 3no High Reach Appliances
- 2no Emergency Tenders
- 4no Water Tankers
- 1no Hazardous Materials Truck
- 1no Transit Van
- 4no 4 wheel drive vehicle
- 1no Rescue Boat
- 1no On Site Coordination vehicle
- 3no Training appliances
- 1no Mechanic's Transit van
- 1no RSFO vehicle

In terms of life span, the maximum life span of all vehicles would generally be 20 years. In particular, with respect to the standard Class B Pumping Fire Appliances, this would generally be achieved by using the fire 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 mean that there will be 3 no appliances that will need to be changed over the next 5 years;

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service intends seeking Capital Grant Aid Assistance from the NDFEM to replace each of these appliances when they are due for renewal.

In accordance with KCS, Limerick Fire & Emergency 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. Water Tankers have also provided added value to the Local Authority in distributing water supplies during periods of Severe Weather and periods of Water Shortages and also carry Variable Messaging Signs for use on Motorways and major Road Based Incidents. The location and distribution of various Appliances will be subject to on-going review throughout the period of the plan.

All appliances in fire stations are maintained by a combination of a Brigade Mechanic and External Contractors. All appliances are serviced on an annual basis and ongoing repairs are carried out as required. Although exempt from testing, in order to get an independent assessment on the Roadworthiness of each appliance, all appliances are tested to a Roadworthiness Standard by an external agent on an annual basis. Limerick Fire and Emergency Service replaces all tyres at the end of their service life, i.e. 10 years.

In addition, all fire appliances are checked weekly at Station level in Retained Fire Stations and at the beginning of each shift in the whole time fire service. These checks are recorded in an Appliance Log Book.

Section 6: Equipment & PPE

6.1 Introduction

Due to the large variety of incident types the Fire and Emergency Services in Limerick attend, it is necessary to carry an extensive range of equipment & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Much of the equipment & PPE is used on a regular basis; however some of the more specialised equipment is only occasionally used for specific fires or rescues.

6.2 Equipment

Limerick Fire & Emergency 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 Appliances. Water Tankers also carry a limited amount of equipment to allow for the operation of these appliances. Limerick Fire & Emergency Service will continue to research the latest technologies and equipment that are available and to procure and introduce new equipment as appropriate subject to budgetary constraints. .

The ongoing preventative maintenance and standard testing of this equipment is a major role of Limerick Fire & Emergency Service.

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

6.3 Personal Protective Equipment (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 Firefighters' boots to BS EN 15090
- In addition to the above, the following PPE is also available for specialist operations;
- Chemical Protective Clothing Suits
- Chainsaw PPE
- Swift water Rescue Dry suits
- Flooding Response Dry suits
- Buoyancy Aids (Lifejackets, Personal Flotation Devices)
- Working at Heights Fall Arrest Protection

All PPE is maintained in accordance with statutory requirements.

Section 7: Water Supplies

Each standard Class B Pumping appliance carries 1800Litres 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 Limerick Fire & Emergency Service has 4 Water Tankers. Tankers are based at strategic locations in Limerick and have a capacity of 9,000 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. Tankers can be mobilised separately to assist the operations of Fire Brigades in other areas and Authorities.

Some water tankers also carry Electronic Sign boards and are used on Motorways and Roads to help provide fend-off protection to fire-fighters dealing with on road incidents.

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 4,000 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 the 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.

The Water Services Section of the Council has GIS Maps of the network and Geo-Coded the location of hydrants. Limerick Fire and Emergency Service will continue to work with the Water Services Section and Irish Water in the coming years 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 Acts 1981 & 2003. Printed maps that are periodically refreshed and updated are available in the Class B Pumping Fire Appliances

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

Limerick Fire and Emergency Service 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 & 2003, 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 other acceptable International Standards.

To ensure compliance with the Building Regulations, new buildings or compartments of buildings having a ground floor area exceeding 1,000m^2 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^2 of ground floor area.

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.

Section 8: Training

8.1 Introduction

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.

Chapter 4 of KCS defines what are the core and discretionary roles for the Fire Service. All personnel responding to Fire Service Incidents require a minimum level of training to meet core requirements. In addition many personnel will also require further training for specialist or supervisory roles. Furthermore a number of Fire Service personnel will 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.

8.2.1 On-Station Training Retained Stations

Regular On-Station Training is seen as the key to ensuring equipment is regularly checked and skills are continually kept up to date. Guidance is provided in the NDFEM Training Policy Document that a minimum of 80 hours On-Station Training is carried out annually in Retained Fire Stations. It is the policy of Limerick Fire & Emergency Service to provide 104 hours On-Station training.

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service currently follows the guidance provided by the Department of the Environment in relation to the delivery of On-Station Training. This guidance is currently being updated by the NDFEM. It is intended to follow the revised guidance in relation to On-Station Training when such guidance has been published.

8.2.2 On-Station Training Full Time Station

The Whole Time Fire Fighters in Limerick City Fire Station carry out circa 290 hours of on-station training per year.

8.2.3 Core & Specialist Training

Based on the guidance provided in the NDFEM, Limerick Fire & Emergency Service has generated a Training Policy. This policy outlines details of the following;

1 Background

- 1.1 Legislation
- 1.2 Training Strategy – National Perspective
- 1.3 Current Training Provision

2 Developing a Common Framework

- 2.1 National Training Support
- 2.2 Training Needs Analysis
- 2.3 Competency Based
- 2.4 Training Management

3 Training for Rank and Other Roles

- 3.1 Fire-fighters
- 3.2 Officers
- 3.3 Instructors
- 3.4 Personnel – Maintenance
- 3.5 Control Room Operators and Supervisors
- 3.6 Training for Support & Administration Personnel

8.3 Training Records

The Training Policy 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 outlines a range of specialist courses that Fire-fighters and Officers may attend.

It is recognised in the NDFEM Training Policy 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. Limerick Fire & Emergency Service will take account of this and where appropriate implement guidance from the NDFEM in relation to training during the period of this Plan.

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

Section 9: Health & Safety

Health and Safety underpins all aspects of Fire Service response. Limerick Fire & Emergency Service has Ancillary Safety Statements in place for all Fire Authority fixed work locations. These Ancillary Safety Statements have been produced in accordance with guidance provided by the NDFEM for Fire Authorities.

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service has adopted the Standard Operating Guidance produced by the NDFEM and localised it as required. Risk Assessments are in place for all incident types, work places, equipment and chemicals.

Health & Safety Representatives have been nominated in all Fire Stations.

Training is provided to Health & Safety Representatives in the delivery of their role. They can participate in the monthly safety inspections within their own stations, investigate accidents and identify issues as they arise. Many issues can be resolved locally at station level, but issues that cannot be resolved are brought to the attention of the relevant Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer.

Limerick City & County Council's Safety Officer meets with Fire Service Management when required to discuss Health & Safety issues within the Fire Service.

All Health &Safety Representatives meet as part of the Council's Safety Representative Committee on an annual basis.

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service has also achieved OHSAS 18001 accreditation.

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service uses the National Incident Command System to manage Safety on the Incident ground. It provides for managing risk using a Dynamic Risk Assessment Process.

Due to the nature of activities carried out by Fire Services, Limerick Fire & Emergency Service is very conscious of continually striving to make the workplace as safe as possible. The continual improvement in all aspects of the 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 (note 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

Section 10: Communications

10.1 Response to Calls

Section 10(2)(c) of the Fire Services Acts, 1981 & 2003, 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 Limerick City & County Council as lead authority entered into agreements with other Munster fire authorities under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 for the provision of a mobilisation facility for their fire services. This facility is known as the Munster Regional Communications Centre and is located at Limerick City Fire Station.

Prior to the introduction of the Regional Communications Centre, calls were routed directly by the Department of Post & Telegraphs and following privatisation, Telecom Eireann and its successor Eircom to the watch room of the full-time fire station and in the case of the retained fire stations to the home of the Station Officer's home from where the Fire Station Siren was activated together with the night-time bells linked by dedicated leased private phone lines to each retained fire fighter's home. The Regional Communications Centre was created to improve the overall speed of response and efficiency of the Call-Out System for the Fire Authorities in the Munster Region and became operational in 1991.

The Munster Regional Communications Centre presently mobilises 65 Retained Stations and 4 full time stations. 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 Munster Regional Communications Centre was awarded the ISO 9001 Certification on 3rd February 2006.

The service is provided on an agency basis by Limerick City & County Council and is managed by a committee including representatives from NDFEM and County & City Managers from each of the participating authorities. The participating authorities are;

- Cork City Council

- Tipperary County Council
- Waterford City and County Council
- Limerick City & County Council
- Clare County Council
- Cork County Council
- Kerry County Council

The Management Committee is supported by the Executive Committee/Technical Liaison Group (TLG) that consists of Chief Fire Officers from the participating authorities, the Communications Centre Manager, a representative from the NDFEM, 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. It 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 hence Fire Stations are then alerted by 'Control'. Retained Fire Service personnel are notified of call-outs by means of personal pagers and full-time personnel are alerted to call-outs by means of a siren in their station. A printed message with the call details is sent to the Fire Station.

It is important to note that while 'Control' offers a mobilisation service, it has no command function. Command is always exercised by the Officer in Charge as defined by the Fire Services Acts, 1981 & 2003.

10.2 Communications Equipment

Limerick Fire and Emergency Services 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.

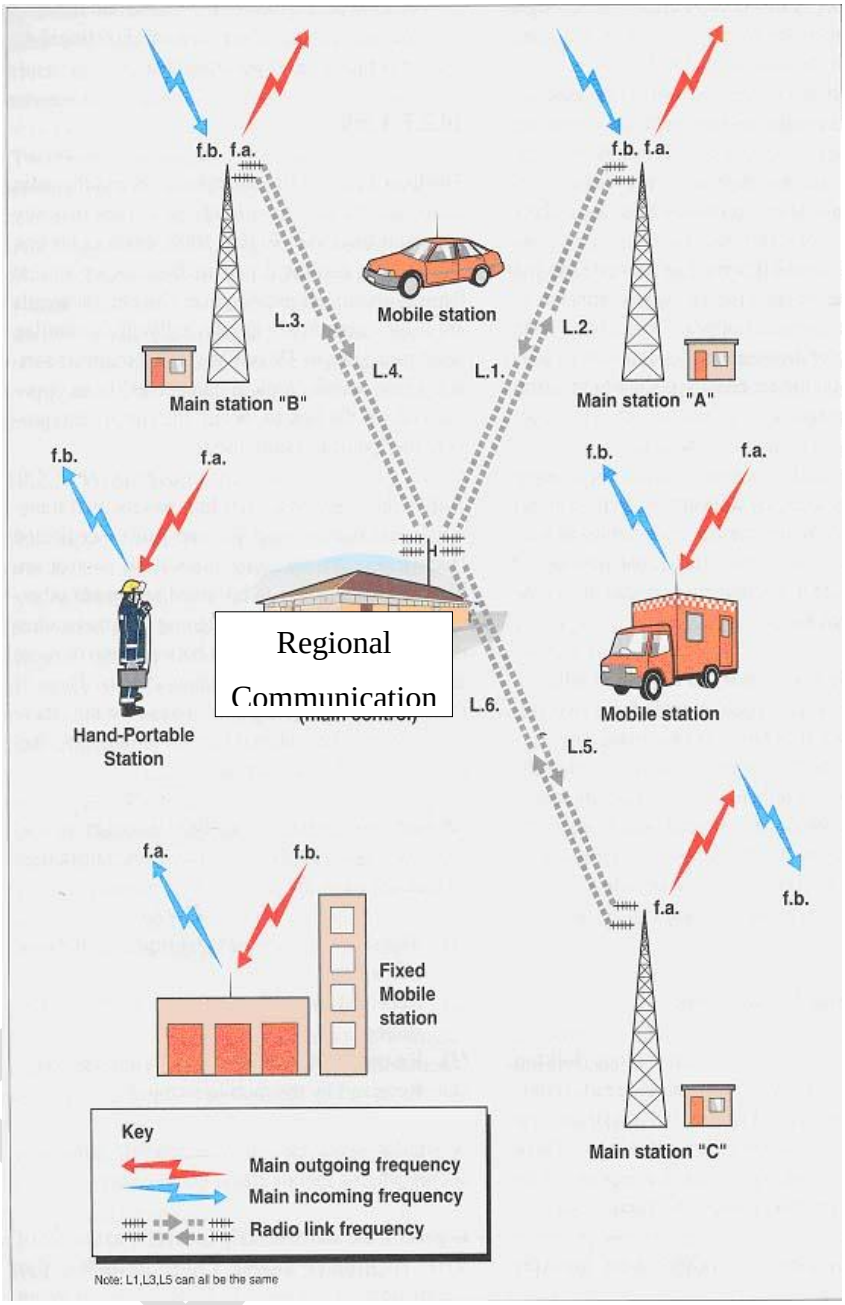


Figure 10.1: Communications Links and Equipment

10.2.1 Equipment located in Fire Stations

- Base VHF Radio

  This is a mains powered 2-way radio located in the Station's watchroom. This radio is used to communicate with both the appliances on the road as well as 'Control'.

- GD-92 Receiver

  This radio receives notification of an incident from 'Control' and its function is to trigger the MG4 pager transmitter and also by way of a radio modem, convey details of the incident to the turnout printer. The first Fire Fighter to arrive at the Station will press the *acknowledge* button on this box to confirm to 'Control' that the message has been received in the station.

- MG4 Transmitter

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

- UHF/VHF Cross-Band Repeaters

  A UHF/VHF cross-repeater provides a talk through capability from a UHF handheld radio to a VHF voice channel allowing for wider area communications including other VHF radios sharing the same channel and Control.

- Fax Machine

  The fax machine is used primarily for administration purposes but will also be used in the event that chemical data is requested from 'Control' in the event of an incident. 'Control' will fax the relevant chemical data to the Fire Station and this will then be relayed by radio to the appliance when there is no mobile fax machine on an attending appliance.

- Mobile Data

  Five fire appliances are fitted with Mobile Data Terminals. These terminals are effectively touch screen computer screens fitted in the cabs of the Fire Appliances that have been pre-loaded with information such as GPS Maps, Hazardous Materials Data,

Data in relation to various premises, cars etc. Information can also be transmitted to these Data Terminals directly from 'Control'.

- Landline Telephone

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

10.2.2 Equipment located in Appliances

10.2.2.1 Class B Pumping Appliances

- VHF Mobile Radio

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

- 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 fire ground communication.

10.2.2.2 Emergency Tender Appliances

- UHF/UHF Repeater

  As well as the communications equipment detailed for Class B Pumping Appliances, one Emergency Tender appliance has a UHF/UHF repeater.

10.2.2.3 Other Appliances

- VHF Mobile Radio

  These radios are used to relay messages through the Regional Communications Systems Radio Network.

- Hand-held UHF

  These mobile radios are used by the Fire Fighters for fireground communication

- Mobile Fax

  These portable fax machines operating on the mobile phone network radios are used for fire ground communication and exchange of technical data.

10.2.3 Equipment used by Fire Fighters

- Pager

  The pager is carried by all Retained Fire Fighters and is the means by which the Retained Fire Fighter is informed of an incident. The on station MG4 transmitter relays the trigger message from the 'Control' radio to the pager. The pagers are programmed to recognise only the signal from the MG4 transmitter of the wearer's home Station.

  Fire Fighters in the Whole Time Fire Station are mobilised via a sounder system that sounds when a call is received.

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 Fire Stations.

- Landline Telephones

  All Senior Fire Officers have land line telephones in their homes. These can be used for communication with the appliances via onboard mobile phone as well as with the Fire Stations.

Section 11: Operational Procedures

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."

Limerick Fire & Emergency Service attends calls in accordance with current Munster Regional Communications Centre's Control Room Procedures.

Operational Procedures on how to deal with the above 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 Limerick Fire & Emergency 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 – 2011)
- Common Specification for Fire Appliances (2011)
- List of Brigade Instructions (2013)

In addition, Pre-incident Planning is carried out by Limerick Fire & Emergency 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.

It is intended to continue to develop Pre-Fire Plans throughout the duration of this plan and to review and update many of the existing pre-fire plans to ensure they are up to date and current. It is intended to have all these plans available electronically on all 1st turnout appliances.

Section 12: Operational Standards

Guidance has been provided by NDFEM in relation to Operational Standards. The guidance has been provided taking cognisance of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005. The following process has been adopted by Limerick Fire & Emergency Service in determining the Standards of Fire Cover that are to be applied in Limerick;

12.1 Area Categorisations

1. Each station ground in Limerick has been analysed in accordance with the Guidance provided in KCS to determine what the Area Risk Categorisation is for that area. An overall Risk Categorisation has been determined for each Station Ground.
2. The required speed and weight of attack for each area has been identified
3. Staffing arrangements will be put in place in accordance with the KCS guidance to deliver the required weight and speed of attack for the particular Risk Categorisation. It is intended to plan to move to this KCS guidance during the period of the plan.

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

Station Area	Risk Grading Categorisation
Limerick City	A2
Newcastle West	C2
Rathkeale	C2
Kilmallock	D1
Abbeyfeale	D1
Foynes	C1
Cappamore	D1

The following Table summarises a description of each of the 7 Fire Stations within Limerick Fire & Rescue Service;

Station Area	**Staffing Arrangements**
Limerick City	Whole Time Fire Station working a shift system to guarantee Fire crew is available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year on Station. Each shift is managed by a Station Officer and 2 Sub Station Officers
Newcastle West	Retained Fire Station with a crew managed by Station and Sub Station Officers who ensure a crew is available on a retained basis within the town of Newcastle West 24 hours a Day, 365 Days of the year.
Rathkeale	Retained Fire Station with a crew managed by Station and Sub Station Officers who ensure a crew is available on a retained basis within the town of Rathkeale 24 hours a Day, 365 Days of the year.
Kilmallock	Retained Fire Station with a crew managed by Station and Sub Station Officers who ensure a crew is available on a retained basis within the town of Kilmallock 24 hours a Day, 365 Days of the year.
Abbeyfeale	Retained Fire Station with a crew managed by Station and Sub Station Officers who ensure a crew is available on a retained basis within the town of Abbeyfeale 24 hours a Day, 365 Days of the year.
Foynes	Retained Fire Station with a crew managed by Station and Sub Station Officers who ensure a crew is available on a retained basis within the town of Foynes 24 hours a Day, 365 Days of the year.
Cappamore	Retained Fire Station with a crew managed by Station and Sub Station Officers who ensure a crew is available on a retained basis within the town of Cappamore 24 hours a Day, 365 Days of the year.

12.2 Pre-Determined Attendances

The Munster Regional Communications Centre will mobilise Fire Appliances for Limerick in accordance with the Control Room Procedures & Pre-Determined Attendances.

Station boundaries will be reviewed in accordance with the data available from the Risk Based Approach Project and in conjunction with analysis from the Munster Regional Communications Centre to ensure that the Fire Appliances that can attend an incident 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 1.5 minutes for whole time and 6 minutes for retained. However, the target is 1 minute for full-time and 5 minutes for retained. The following Table shows that current average time to mobilise from each Fire Station in the Limerick Fire Authority as follows;

Station	**Current Average Time to Mobilise (Mins)**
Limerick City	1 min 20 secs
Newcastle West	5 mins 25 secs
Rathkeale	5 mins 12 secs
Kilmallock	5 mins 43 secs
Abbeyfeale	4 mins 48 secs
Foynes	3 mins 25 secs
Cappamore	5 mins 36 secs

12.4 Travel Times

KCS provides guidance on target travel times for the first and subsequent Class B Fire Appliances (Standard Fire Appliances) for Primary and Secondary incidents. The targets are for a 75% confidence level of Primary and Secondary Call-Outs (i.e. the target is only applicable to 75% of Call-Outs).

Currently data is only available from the Munster 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 Limerick Fire & Emergency Service conforms to this guidance.

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

The following Tables summarise the target travel time for various appliance types and the average Travel Time for the first Class B Fire Appliance for all incident types.

12.4.1 Limerick City Fire Station – Overall Risk Categorisation A2

The following Table details the guidance in KCS regarding Travel Times for Class B Appliances and Special Appliances such as Aerial Appliances, Emergency Tenders, Incident Command Units and Water Tankers for the Limerick City Fire Ground Area:

Appliance Types	KCS Guidance for Target Travel Times to Primary and Secondary Incidents for 75% of Call-Outs
1st Class B Appliance	8 minutes
2nd Class B Appliance	10 minutes
3rd Class B Appliance	15 minutes
4th Class B Appliance	17 minutes
Aerial Appliance	15 minutes
Emergency Tender	30 minutes
Incident Command Unit	30 minutes
Water Tanker	75 minutes

The current Average Travel Time (based on data from the Munster Regional Communications Centre for Average Travel Time) for the last number of years for the First Class B Appliance from Limerick City Fire Station for all Call-Out Types is **5 minutes 34 seconds,** so it is not envisioned that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Class B Appliances.

It is not envisioned that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.

12.4.2 Newcastle West Fire Station – Overall Risk Categorisation C2

The following Table details the guidance in KCS regarding Travel Times for Class B Appliances and Special Appliances such as Aerial Appliances, Emergency Tenders, Incident Command Units and Water Tankers for Newcastle West Fire Ground Area:

Appliance Types	KCS Guidance for Target Travel Times to Primary and Secondary Incidents for 75% of Call-Outs
1st Class B Appliance	10 minutes
2nd Class B Appliance	20 minutes
3rd Class B Appliance	30 minutes
Aerial Appliance	30 minutes
Emergency Tender	45 minutes
Incident Command Unit	75 minutes
Water Tanker	75 minutes

The current Average Travel Time (based on data from the Munster Regional Communications Centre for Average Travel Time) for the last number of years for the First Class B Appliance from Newcastle West Fire Station for all Call-Out Types is **9 minutes 33 seconds,** so it is not envisioned that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Class B Appliances.

It is not envisioned that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.

12.4.3 Rathkeale Fire Station – Overall Risk Categorisation C2

The following Table details the guidance in KCS regarding Travel Times for Class B Appliances and Special Appliances such as Aerial Appliances, Emergency Tenders, Incident Command Units and Water Tankers for Rathkeale Fire Ground Area:

Appliance Types	KCS Guidance for Target Travel Times to Primary and Secondary Incidents for 75% of Call-Outs
1st Class B Appliance	10 minutes
2nd Class B Appliance	20 minutes
3rd Class B Appliance	30 minutes
Aerial Appliance	30 minutes
Emergency Tender	45 minutes
Incident Command Unit	75 minutes
Water Tanker	75 minutes

The current Average Travel Time (based on data from the Munster Regional Communications Centre for Average Travel Time) for the last number of years for the First Class B Appliance from Rathkeale Fire Station for all Call-Out Types is **9 minutes 59 seconds,** so it is not envisioned that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Class B Appliances.

It is not envisioned that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.

12.4.4 Kilmallock Fire Station – Overall Risk Categorisation D1

The following Table details the guidance in KCS regarding Travel Times for Class B Appliances and Special Appliances such as Aerial Appliances, Emergency Tenders, Incident Command Units and Water Tankers for Kilmallock Fire Ground Area:

Appliance Types	KCS Guidance for Target Travel Times to Primary and Secondary Incidents for 75% of Call-Outs
1st Class B Appliance	20 minutes
2nd Class B Appliance	40 minutes
Aerial Appliance	60 minutes
Emergency Tender	60 minutes
Incident Command Unit	90 minutes
Water Tanker	90 minutes

The current Average Travel Time (based on data from the Munster Regional Communications Centre for Average Travel Time) for the last number of years for the First Class B Appliance from Kilmallock Fire Station for all Call-Out Types is **8 minutes 50 seconds,** so it is not envisioned that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Class B Appliances.

It is not envisioned that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.

12.4.5 Abbeyfeale Fire Station – Overall Risk Categorisation D1

The following Table details the guidance in KCS regarding Travel Times for Class B Appliances and Special Appliances such as Aerial Appliances, Emergency Tenders, Incident Command Units and Water Tankers for Abbeyfeale Fire Ground Area:

Appliance Types	KCS Guidance for Target Travel Times to Primary and Secondary Incidents for 75% of Call-Outs
1st Class B Appliance	20 minutes
2nd Class B Appliance	40 minutes
Aerial Appliance	60 minutes
Emergency Tender	60 minutes
Incident Command Unit	90 minutes
Water Tanker	90 minutes

The current Average Travel Time (based on data from the Munster Regional Communications Centre for Average Travel Time) for the last number of years for the First Class B Appliance from Abbeyfeale Fire Station for all Call-Out Types is **11 minutes 38 seconds,** so it is not envisioned that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Class B Appliances.

It is not envisioned that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.

12.4.6 Foynes Fire Station – Overall Risk Categorisation C1

The following Table details the guidance in KCS regarding Travel Times for Class B Appliances and Special Appliances such as Aerial Appliances, Emergency Tenders, Incident Command Units and Water Tankers for Foynes Fire Ground Area:

Appliance Types	KCS Guidance for Target Travel Times to Primary and Secondary Incidents for 75% of Call-Outs
1st Class B Appliance	10 minutes
2nd Class B Appliance	20 minutes
3rd Class B Fire Appliance	30 minutes
Aerial Appliance	30 minutes
Emergency Tender	45 minutes
Incident Command Unit	75 minutes
Water Tanker	75 minutes

The current Average Travel Time (based on data from the Munster Regional Communications Centre for Average Travel Time) for the last number of years for the First Class B Appliance from Foynes Fire Station for all Call-Out Types is **10 minutes 44 seconds,** so it is not envisioned that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Class B Appliances.

It is not envisioned that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.

12.4.7 Cappamore Fire Station – Overall Risk Categorisation D1

The following Table details the guidance in KCS regarding Travel Times for Class B Appliances and Special Appliances such as Aerial Appliances, Emergency Tenders, Incident Command Units and Water Tankers for Cappamore Fire Ground Area:

Appliance Types	KCS Guidance for Target Travel Times to Primary and Secondary Incidents for 75% of Call-Outs
1st Class B Appliance	20 minutes
2nd Class B Appliance	40 minutes
Aerial Appliance	60 minutes
Emergency Tender	60 minutes
Incident Command Unit	90 minutes
Water Tanker	90 minutes

The current Average Travel Time (based on data from the Munster Regional Communications Centre for Average Travel Time) for the last number of years for the First Class B Appliance from Cappamore Fire Station for all Call-Out Types is **9 minutes 58 seconds,** so it is not envisioned that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Class B Appliances.

It is not envisioned that there will be any issues achieving the KCS Target Travel Times for Special Appliances.

12.5 Large Scale Incidents.

Guidance in 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. Limerick Fire & Emergency Service has considered this guidance together with 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.

Section 13: Fire Safety - Fire Prevention & Building Control

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 Prevention staff of Limerick Fire and Emergency Service.

Limerick Fire and Emergency Services Fire Prevention Staff advise on current fire safety standards required for proposed and existing developments.

13.1 Statutory Functions

The following are discretionary functions under Fire Services Act 1981;

13.1.1 Providing advice to Limerick City & County Council Planning Authority

Under Section 13 of the Fire Services Act, 1981 Limerick Fire Authority offers advice on matters of fire safety to the planning department for commercial and multi-residential developments. The number of commercial & multiple housing applications dealt with by the Fire Department under Planning Acts for the past 6 years was as follows;

Year	Number of Planning Referrals Received	Number of Planning Referrals Dealt with
2010	329	316
2011	328	325
2012	339	335
2013	232	230
2014	266	265
2015	280	265

Table 13.1 Number of Planning Referrals Received and Dealt with

13.1.2 Providing advice under Section 18 of the Fire Services Act, 1981 & 2003.

Under Section 18 of the fire Services Act, 1981 & 2003 Limerick Fire Authority carries out inspections on premises based upon;

i. Risked based inspection programmes,
ii. Complaints from members of the public,
iii. Queries and advice sought by building owners

Based on the above a programme of existing building inspections has been implemented to prioritise inspections in Nursing Homes and Childcare Facilities and other similar high risk premises.

13.1.3 Inspections of licensed premises under Section 24 of Fire Services Act, 1981 & 2003.

The Fire Authority carries out inspection on licensed premises under Section 24 of the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003, and associated Licensing Acts. The number of Licence Applications dealt with by Limerick Fire Authority in the past 6 years is as follows – these include renewal of public licences, dance licences, transfer of publican licences, Club, Gaming/Lottery, Ad Interim, Occasional, Hotel and Restaurant licences;

Year	Number of Licence Applications Received	Number of Licence Applications Dealt with
2010	209	209
2011	214	214
2012	208	208
2013	193	193
2014	199	199
2015	161	161

Table 13.2 Number of Licence Applications Received and Dealt with

13.1.4 Inspections under Dangerous Substances Act, 1979, and associated Regulations.

Limerick Fire Authority carries out inspection of petroleum installations, retail and bulk, under Dangerous Substances Act, 1979, and associated Regulations.

Year	Number of Licence Applications Received
2010	6
2011	1
2012	2
2013	7
2014	1
2015	12

Table 13.3 Number of Dangerous Substance Licence Applications Received

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

13.2 Building Control

13.2.1 Fire Safety Certificates

Limerick Fire and Emergency Services Building Control Staff advise on current Building Regulations including fire safety standards required for proposed developments. The statistics for Fire Safety Certificates for the past 6 years are as follows;

Year	Fire Safety Certificates	Deemed Invalid	Granted	Refused
2010	181	19	161	1
2011	153	10	142	0
2012	162	11	148	0
2013	147	6	128	0
2014	146	9	110	5
2015	177	19	136	2

Table 13.4 Fire Safety Certificates Statistics

13.2.2 Disability Access Certificates

Limerick Fire and Emergency Services Building Control Staff advise on current Building Regulations relating to access and use of non-domestic buildings standards which require a Fire Safety Certificate. The statistics for Disability Access Certificates for the past 6 years are as follows;

Year	Disability Access Certificates	Deemed Invalid	Granted	Refused
2010	100	4	96	0
2011	99	0	99	0
2012	98	1	97	0
2013	106	1	96	0
2014	88	1	71	4
2015	122	1	112	0

Table 13.5 Disability Access Certificate Statistics

13.2.3 Commencement Notices for New Works

The Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government has set a target of 12-15% random monitoring of new works with regards to implementation of the Building Regulations. The following Table shows compliance with this requirement for the past 6 years.

Year	No. of buildings notified by Commencement Notice	No. of Buildings Inspected	% Inspected
2010	514	71	13.8
2011	386	59	15.3
2012	364	54	14.9
2013	343	46	13.4
2014	305	51	16.7
2015	305	48	15.7

Table 13.6 Building Control Inspection Statistics

Since the 1st of March 2014 Limerick Fire and Emergency Services Building Control staff has been administrating the Building Control Management System (BCMS) in accordance with S.I. 9 of 2014.

13.2.4 Fire Safety Notices

The number of formal requests in cases for information under Section 11(3)(C) of Building Control Act and the number of warning notices issued in the past 6 years was as follows;

Year	No. Of Warning Notices Issued
2010	6
2011	6
2012	8
2013	5
2014	0
2015	0

Table 13.7 Building Control Warning Notices

13.3 Safety Roles

In accordance with KCS, the primary role of Limerick Fire Authority 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 13.8 outlines these objectives and targets that apply at National level, and how Limerick Fire Authority is currently performing in relation to these.

National Objective / Target	National Target	Limerick City & County Fire Authority Current Performance *
Fire Fatality Rate	8.4 / Million population (by 2017)	7.3 / Million population
Domestic Dwelling Fire Rate	100 Fires / 100,000 Population (by 2017)	LI** – 198.46/ 100k LK** – 84.26/ 100k
Chimney Fire Rate	75 Fires / 100,000 Population (by 2017)	LI – 82.56/ 100k LK – 153.08/ 100k
Overall Fire Rate	600 Fires /100,000 Population (by 2017)	LI – 1002.11/ 100k LK – 461.1/ 100k
Overall Incident Rate	100 Fires / 100,000 Population (by 2017)	2284.42

** The above rates are based upon the values provided in the NDFEM Risk Based Management Report – National Analysis of 2013*

*** LI – Limerick City (pre-amalgamation) LK – Limerick County (pre-amalgamation)*

Table 13.8 Safety Objectives and 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 Limerick Fire Authority;

Item	Number of Fires within Limerick City & County Fire Authority*	Target Number of Fires within Limerick City & County Fire Authority by 2018
22% Reduction in Tertiary Fires over 5 Years	992**	773
30% Decrease in Chimney Fires over 3 Years	224**	157

** The above rates are based upon the values provided in the NDFEM Risk Based Management Report – National Analysis of 2013*

*** Cumulative figure for Limerick City & County*

Table 13.9 Aspirational Targets for Reduction in Fires

Reviewing the figures of Table 13.8 it can be seen that there have been a high level of domestic fires within Limerick City. This figure is due in part to the decommissioning of existing housing stock within the Regeneration areas of Limerick and the subsequent high number of malicious fires within unoccupied and derelict houses. It is envisaged that this number will reduce in the coming years. Limerick Fire Authority will liaise with the Social Development Directorate to reduce this figure further.

As building regulations change and the subsequent increase in passive houses, there will be a reduction in traditional chimney construction with more stoves, gas appliances and heat recovery systems being installed. It is envisaged that this will result in a reduction of chimney fires. Limerick Fire and Emergency Services Fire Prevention Dept. will continue to help raise awareness and educate people as to the importance of fire safety in the home to help reduce the number of chimney fires.

13.4 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 2017. Limerick Fire Authority is working towards achieving this target.

Limerick Fire Authority also delivers the NDFEM Schools Programme. It is targeted at all 9 year old children. Operational crews and senior officers actively engage with primary schools throughout the city and county to visit 2nd and 3rd classes to deliver this programme.

As an addition to the primary school project, a follow on project has been developed within the Fire Authority to deliver a week long Fire Safety Awareness Course to transition year students. The objective of the course was

- to give students an insight into the career choices that exist within the fire and emergency services and
- to teach them skills such as first aid that they will have for the rest of their lives

Limerick City and County Council has invested significantly in training fire fighters in a wide variety of skills to a professional level. This course sees fire fighters passing this training and some of these life skills onto the community in the form of life skills such as first aid and also to influence people's motivation, self esteem, discipline and confidence.

Limerick Fire and Emergency Services delivers community fire safety talks for any group that request them. Community groups; elderly groups and housing groups request fire safety talks through the year from a fire prevention officer

Limerick Fire and Emergency Services hold open days where members of the public are invited in to the stations to meet the fire fighters and view the fire appliances. With the addition of a new chip-pan demonstration unit, a live fire demonstration can be delivered to

the public. Open days are held during fire prevention week, which runs normally in the first week of October.

Section 14: Major Emergency Management

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 and Emergency Service's Section in relation to Major Emergency Management.

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 Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council Major Emergency Development Committees - with representation from all

sections within the Local Authority, marking the culmination of an extensive process of development. In 2008, new Major Emergency Plans were 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. These Plans were subsequently reviewed and updated on regular basis and included the preparation of a new Major Emergency Plan for the amalgamated Local Authority.

The purpose of the Major Emergency Plan is to put in place arrangements that will enable Limerick City and 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 Limerick City and 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 – West
- An Garda Síochána – Limerick Division

14.4 Limerick Fire and Emergency Service response to a Major Emergency in Limerick

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

Limerick Fire and Emergency Service's main roles in the event of a Major Emergency occurring in Limerick are as follows;

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

The Fire and Emergency Service will prepare itself for large scale and inter-agency operations through participation in appropriate exercises. The Fire and Emergency Service will also work with Civil Defence as appropriate in the event of a Major Emergency occurring. The Fire and Emergency Service will also work with local community and voluntary groups as appropriate in the event of a Major Emergency occurring.

14.5 Limerick City and County Council's Major Emergency Management Committee

Following the two year development phase and the production of New Major Emergency Plans for Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council in September 2008, the role of the Major Emergency Development Committees was changed to Management Committees with responsibility for the ongoing overview of Major Emergency Management within the Local Authorities. These committees had membership from all sections of Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council including the Fire and Emergency Service and secretariat to the group was provided by Fire and Emergency Services. Following the amalgamation of Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council, a new Major Emergency Development Committee was set up for Limerick City and County Council. The committee 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-ordinator of Operations for Limerick City and County Council is the Director of Service for Fire and Emergency Services. A number of alternates are also identified in the Major Emergency Plan. The On-Site Co-Ordinator is alerted in the event of an incident by the Munster Regional Communications Centre. Depending on the nature of the incident, Limerick City and County Council may assume the role of Lead Agency (the agency with overall responsibility for co-ordinating a response to the incident) and the On-Site Co-Ordinator may assume the role of the On-Site Controller of Operations. Limerick City and County Council has an On-Site Co-ordination Unit that can be mobilised to the site of an emergency for the On-Site Co-ordination Team to operate from.

Limerick City and County Council will participate in the Local Co-Ordination Group. The Chief Executive or alternate shall represent Limerick City and County Council on the Local Co-Ordination Group. The designated Local Co-ordination Centre is based in Civic Offices, Merchants Quay.

Both the On-Site and Local Co-Ordination groups will be assisted by the Crisis Management Team. This team will meet as required in the Civic Offices; Merchant's Quay in the event of

a Major Emergency and shall provide technical and administration support to both the On-Site and Local Co-Ordination groups. Members of the Fire and Emergency Service will also participate in this group. Telecommunications facilities (laptops with emergency emails addresses, telephone conferencing etc.) and other facilities (e.g. Whiteboards, stationary etc.) are available for the Crisis Management Team. A facility is also available to implement a Helpline (Call Handling Service) should the need arise during severe weather or other emergency. It is staffed by Local Authority personnel, who have been trained by the fire and emergency service. Further details regarding the above are provided in the Major Emergency Plan for Limerick City and County Council.

14.7 Major Emergency Management in the Mid West Region & National Groups

Limerick City and County Council is part of the Mid West Region for Major Emergency Planning. The Principle Response Agencies responsible for Emergency Services in the Mid West Region are as follows;

Local Authorities

- Limerick City and County Council
- Clare County Council
- Tipperary County Council

Health Services Executive

- Health Service Executive – West

An Garda Síochána

- An Garda Síochána – Limerick Division
- An Garda Síochána – Clare Division
- An Garda Síochána – Tipperary Division

There is both a Steering Group and a Working Group for Major Emergency Management in the Mid-West Region. Limerick City and County Council is represented on the Mid-West Regional Steering Group by the Director of Service and is represented on the Regional Working Group by the Chief Fire Officer or their alternative.

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.