



Cosaint Shibhialta  
**CIVIL DEFENCE**

**2019**





# EDITORIAL

Without doubt, 2018 was a busy year in Civil Defence. Overall Civil Defence personnel undertook 2,795 operations which is a 2% increase on 2017 levels and an 8% increase on 2016 levels. These operations covered both support to the Principal Response Agencies and community support activities.

Storm Emma, at the end of February, featured the heaviest snowfall the country had seen in many years. Traffic ground to a halt in many areas and Civil Defence's four wheel drive capability came into its own. Civil Defence volunteers did tremendous work supporting the Principal Response Agencies. Patients and staff were transported to and from hospitals. In some cases, vehicles from the Principal Response Agencies were rescued from snowdrifts. Food and urgent medical supplies were transported. Overall hundreds of operations were undertaken by Civil Defence in support of the Principal Response Agencies during Storm Emma.

On 17th April, the Taoiseach hosted an event in Dublin Castle to thank those in the Principal Response Agencies and the voluntary sector for their assistance during Storm Emma. Civil Defence was well represented at this event. In acknowledgement of the effort put in by Civil Defence volunteers especially during this period, the Government has allocated an additional €500,000 to Civil Defence from the Dormant Accounts Fund. This money will be used during 2019 to further improve the four wheel drive capability of the already extensive Civil Defence fleet. This substantial investment reflects the Government's commitment to developing the Civil Defence Organisation.

In 2018, the second ever Papal visit to Ireland took place in August. Over 400 Civil Defence volunteers were deployed in both Knock and in the Phoenix Park. Civil Defence played an important role in the smooth running of this large event.

In 2018, Civil Defence introduced its first ever Volunteer Policy. This policy sets out what volunteers can expect from Civil Defence. It also sets out in very clear language what the organisation expects of the men and women who volunteer in its name and wear the uniform with pride. I would encourage all our volunteers to read this short document.

**I particularly want to thank all Civil Defence Officers and Assistant Civil Defence Officers for their hard work in co-ordinating Civil Defence activity in their Units. They are the key people within the Local Authority in the context of Civil Defence. I would like to welcome Katherine Peacock who took over as Civil Defence Officer in Kilkenny during 2018. I also want to welcome Alan Hanafin who was appointed as Assistant Civil Defence Officer in Kerry and Peter O'Connor who was formally appointed as Civil Defence Officer in Wexford. I wish them every success in their new roles.**

Civil Defence is a wonderful organisation that is now over 65 years in existence. It is therefore timely to stand back and take stock. Like all good organisations, change is inevitable. It was in that context that I initiated a review of the roles and activities of Civil Defence in September 2018. The process commenced with an invitation to all Civil Defence Officers and Assistant Civil Defence Officers to a workshop in Roscrea in September.

I then announced a series of eight regional volunteer consultation meetings in October. Just over 400 volunteers attended and 86 written submissions were subsequently received. The process has continued with meetings involving all Principal Response Agencies and other relevant stakeholders. Contributions from all stakeholders will feed into a policy document titled "Towards 2030" which will set the strategic direction and define the roles and activities for Civil Defence over the next 10 - 15 years. The intention is to publish "Towards 2030" by the end of the third quarter of 2019.

Ongoing training is a very important feature of Civil Defence. This ensures volunteers are fully prepared for a wide range of emergency situations. In November, I attended an awards ceremony for 43 Civil Defence volunteers who are now qualified as drone pilots. Civil Defence now has 20 drones located around the country ready to be deployed in support of the Principal Response Agencies.

Civil Defence accommodation has always been the responsibility of the Local Authority. Many Local Authorities have provided excellent accommodation for their Units. 2019 will see some notable improvements in Civil Defence accommodation, with some financial support being provided by my Department. Construction of new buildings has commenced in both Meath and Monaghan. Clare and Westmeath Civil Defence Units will also shortly move into newly purchased accommodation. My Department acknowledges the efforts of each of these Local Authorities in providing significantly upgraded accommodation for Civil Defence.

Finally, and most importantly, I again want to pay tribute to all our volunteers. I acknowledge the many hours you devote to your training, the many days spent supporting all types of community, sporting, charitable and local events right across the country and of course for making yourselves available to support the Principal Response Agencies in dealing with severe weather, missing person searches and a wide variety of other emergencies.

**Paul Kehoe, T. D.**  
*Minister with Responsibility for Defence*

## CONTENTS

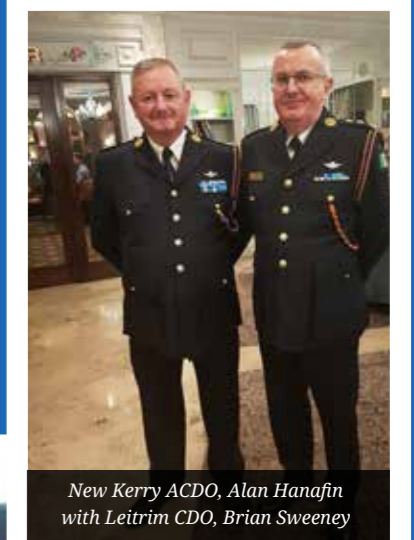
Editorial	2
The Beast from the East	4
Papal Visit	6
National Radiation Exercise	7
Drone Resource	8
Awarding of Drone Licence	9
Civil Defence Training	10



Minister Kehoe addressing a Volunteer Consultation Meeting



New Wexford CDO, Peter O'Connor



New Kerry ACDO, Alan Hanafin with Leitrim CDO, Brian Sweeney



New Kilkenny CDO, Katherine Peacock



New Communications Officer, Kealan McMoreland and New Principal Officer David Buckley with Minister Kehoe



# THE BEAST FROM THE EAST

On 28th February 2018, **Storm Emma** brought the heaviest snowfalls the country had seen in many years. The country ground to a halt with blizzard like conditions and large snowdrifts. 350 Civil Defence volunteers from 28 different local authority areas were deployed to assist the Local Authorities, the Gardai and the HSE over a 5 day period.

The main tasks involved utilising our fleet of 176 Four-Wheel Drive Vehicles to:

- › Transport patients to and from hospitals including those requiring dialysis and cancer treatment
- › Transport nurses to work and out to visit patients in their homes
- › Transporting nursing home staff to and from work
- › Transporting home care personnel
- › Transporting urgent medical supplies around the country
- › Delivering food, medication, water and fuel to isolated homes
- › Checking up on/ evacuating vulnerable people from isolated areas
- › Delivering meals on wheels
- › Transporting Local Authority, Fire Service, Gardai and Irish Water staff
- › Rescuing stranded motorists
- › Transporting homeless people to emergency accommodation

## OTHER TASKS INCLUDED;



Manning Command & Control Centres



Recovering ambulances that got stuck in the snow



Rescuing an injured hill-walker



Distributing hot food to emergency crews



Monitoring flood levels



Delivering Heaters



Carlow Civil Defence



Clare Civil Defence



Kildare Civil Defence



Cork City Civil Defence



Meath Civil Defence



Cork South Civil Defence



Westmeath Civil Defence



Kerry Civil Defence

Civil Defence crews travelled from Laois and Tipperary to assist with relief efforts in Wexford which was particularly badly hit.



## Papal Visit

25TH - 26TH AUGUST 2018

The biggest ever deployment of Civil Defence volunteers took place during the visit by **Pope John Paul in 1979**. The second ever Papal visit took place in **August 2018** and again large numbers of Civil Defence volunteers were deployed during the visit of Pope Francis. They were involved on the ground in both the Phoenix Park and at Knock Shrine in supporting the Principal Response Agencies (Gardaí and the National Ambulance Services).

At Knock Shrine, 140 volunteers were on duty, coordinated by Rose Doherty, Mayo Civil Defence Officer. The 140 volunteers were drawn from counties Donegal, Sligo, Roscommon, Galway and Laois. While their main role was assisting the Gardaí in terms of safety and stewarding at the event, volunteers were also involved in supporting the National Ambulance Service. Volunteers were on duty from Saturday night until Sunday evening. Civil Defence had four ambulances on duty at Knock manned by eight Emergency Medical Technicians. Civil Defence also provided two Four Wheel Drive Vehicles to assist the Gardaí in safety and stewarding. Laois Civil Defence provided a Communications Vehicle using the TETRA network which ensured efficient communications between all volunteers and with the Gardaí and National Ambulance Service. Roscommon Civil Defence Welfare Unit provided food for all volunteers on duty over the Saturday night and Sunday.

In the Phoenix Park, 400 Civil Defence volunteers were on duty, coordinated by Dublin Civil Defence Officer, James McConnell. Volunteers from Wexford, Wicklow, Clare, Cork, Laois, Kildare, Limerick, Meath, Monaghan, Kildare, Cavan, Louth and Offaly assisted Dublin Civil Defence. Volunteers supported the National Ambulance Service and the Gardaí. Civil Defence provided a range of equipment including 11 Ambulances, 9 Fire Appliances, 19 Heavy Vehicles including Four Wheel Drives, Large Vans, Trucks and two Minibuses for transportation and logistics. A number of volunteers also supported the Gardaí with drone capability. Dublin Civil Defence provided a Communications Vehicle using the TETRA network which ensured efficient communications between all volunteers and with the Gardaí and National Ambulance Service. Civil Defence also had a Welfare Unit in operation to provide food for all volunteers on duty over Saturday night and Sunday.



## National Radiation Exercise

25TH NOVEMBER 2018

Civil Defence was established in 1951 in response to the fear of a nuclear attack. In earlier years Civil Defence had a network of Wardens in every part of the country. In the event of a nuclear attack they were to advise locals on what precautions to take and to monitor radiation levels. While the network of wardens has been disbanded, Civil Defence still maintains a mobile radiation monitoring service in support of the Environmental Protection Agency. In November 2018 Civil Defence exercised its response to a potential nuclear fallout hitting these shores as a result of a nuclear industrial accident abroad. The exercise required the activation of Civil Defence radiation monitoring teams across the country.

The exercise commenced with the issuing of a message from national headquarters to all Civil Defence Officers at Local Authority level. The message informed the Civil Defence Officer that the EPA Radiation Section (RPII) had requested Civil Defence to activate its Radiation Monitoring Service due to potential fallout from an overseas Nuclear Industrial Accident impacting on Ireland. The Civil Defence Officers were then requested to activate their Radiation Monitoring Teams and standby for deployment. Details of sampling locations followed approximately 30 minutes

later. The initial message issued at 8 am. By 9.30 am, 31 Civil Defence radiation monitoring teams mobilised to specific locations to carry out grass, soil and background radiation sampling in an attempt to identify the severity and extent of the fallout area. Once the samples were taken the background radiation readings were relayed to the Civil Defence national control room across multiple communications platforms operated by Civil Defence. The results were collated by communications controllers and provided to the EPA's radiation section..

The scale of the response from Civil Defence volunteers is demonstrated in the logistics and timing of the response. From the initial warning received at 8.30 am to full deployment at 9.30 am every County was sampled for soil, grass, and background radiation by 12.10 pm. Following on from the taking of samples all the material had to be transported to Dublin with all physical samples being received by 6.30 pm. In the event of a real emergency the data from this type of sampling would contribute to critical decision-making at national level to ensure appropriate responses are put in place for the protection of the public.





Since 2014 Civil Defence has been at the leading edge of developing **drone technology** to assist in the search for missing persons in Ireland and has contributed to international papers on the subject.

Civil Defence can deliver an aerial search capability to An Garda Síochána to assist them in their role to find missing persons. This service has been enhanced in the last 12 months to carry thermal imaging cameras so as to carry out effective searches at night time for vulnerable missing persons.

The service is also used to assist the County Fire and Rescue Services to carry out rapid assessment of wild land fires in inaccessible areas. Civil Defence has invested considerably in the area of drones and training in recent years. With these new pilots, there are now 60 trained pilots in 20 operational units throughout the State. Each Major Emergency Management Region (MEM) has access to multiple craft and crews with specialist equipment held in reserve at a National Level.



Civil Defence has been using drone technology since 2014. Drones are now regularly used in missing person's searches. Drones are used to quickly and safely search inaccessible areas such as along the coast. We have now acquired thermal imaging cameras allowing searching to continue at night time.



## DRONES

On Saturday 24th November 2018, the Minister with Responsibility for Defence, Paul Kehoe T.D., attended an awards ceremony for 43 Civil Defence volunteers who completed a Drone pilot training programme. Civil Defence now has **60 trained pilots in 20 operational units** throughout the country.

The Minister concluded by congratulating the 43 volunteers on successfully completing the drone pilot training programme and thanked them personally and on behalf of the Government for their commitment and dedication in serving their communities.

At the ceremony in the Civil Defence Phoenix Training Centre in the Phoenix Park, the Minister stated; "Civil Defence has never been afraid to change and has continued to thrive with the major transformations that have taken place down through the years. That success is very much to the credit of everybody assembled here today and in particular to the volunteers who give of their time and expertise".



*Carlow Volunteer, Michael Cahill with Minister Kehoe and PO David Buckley*

The 20 Civil Defence drones located throughout the country and in each Major Emergency Management (MEM) region will assist Civil Defence in fulfilling its role as set out in the 2015 Government White Paper on Defence; that is to support the Principal Response Agencies. In particular, drones have assisted Civil Defence volunteers when An Garda Síochána has requested support from Civil Defence especially in the case of a missing person.



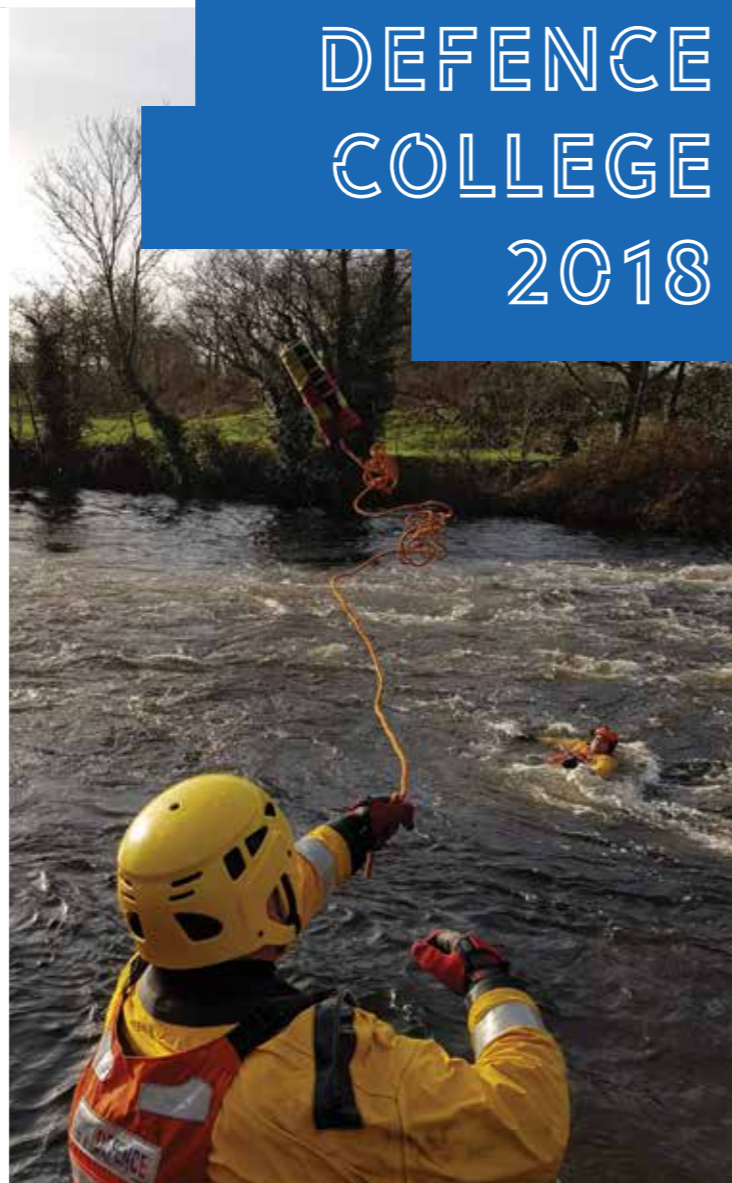
*Westmeath Volunteers with CDO, Brian Gillen, Minister Kehoe and PO, David Buckley*







# CIVIL DEFENCE COLLEGE 2018



## Civil Defence College 2018

The Civil Defence College issued over 3,700 certificates during 2018 with 3,997 people attending training courses, workshops and seminars. A total of 752 courses were delivered. Civil Defence administrators issue certification for most training delivered throughout all 34 Local Authorities and centrally within the Civil Defence College.

The casualty service was the most active area with certification and recertification of qualifications throughout the year. Training around "Missing Persons Searches" remained important and is a key function of Civil Defence in supporting the Principle Response Agencies and in particular An Garda Síochána.

Qualifications provided through the Civil Defence Branch are nationally and/or internationally recognised. The Civil Defence College continues to be affiliated to the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC), Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and Rescue 3 Europe.

Training is developed and designed to meet the role of Civil Defence volunteers in their role as outlined in the 2015 White Paper.

### FIGURES IN 2018



**3,719**  
Certificates issued



**3,997**  
Training Course Attendees



**752**  
Courses Delivered





# People Find People – Civil Defence New Missing Persons Search Training Programme

Civil Defence has recently developed Ireland's first indigenous search programme. We explore what is involved and who it is aimed at.

Developed in consultation with a range of interests to include the Missing Persons Working Group and An Garda Síochána; it aims to provide volunteer training which is appropriate to the Irish context.

The programme is designed to promote a unified capability, drawing on medical, welfare, communications, water, drone and dog resources to provide a comprehensive and cohesive response.

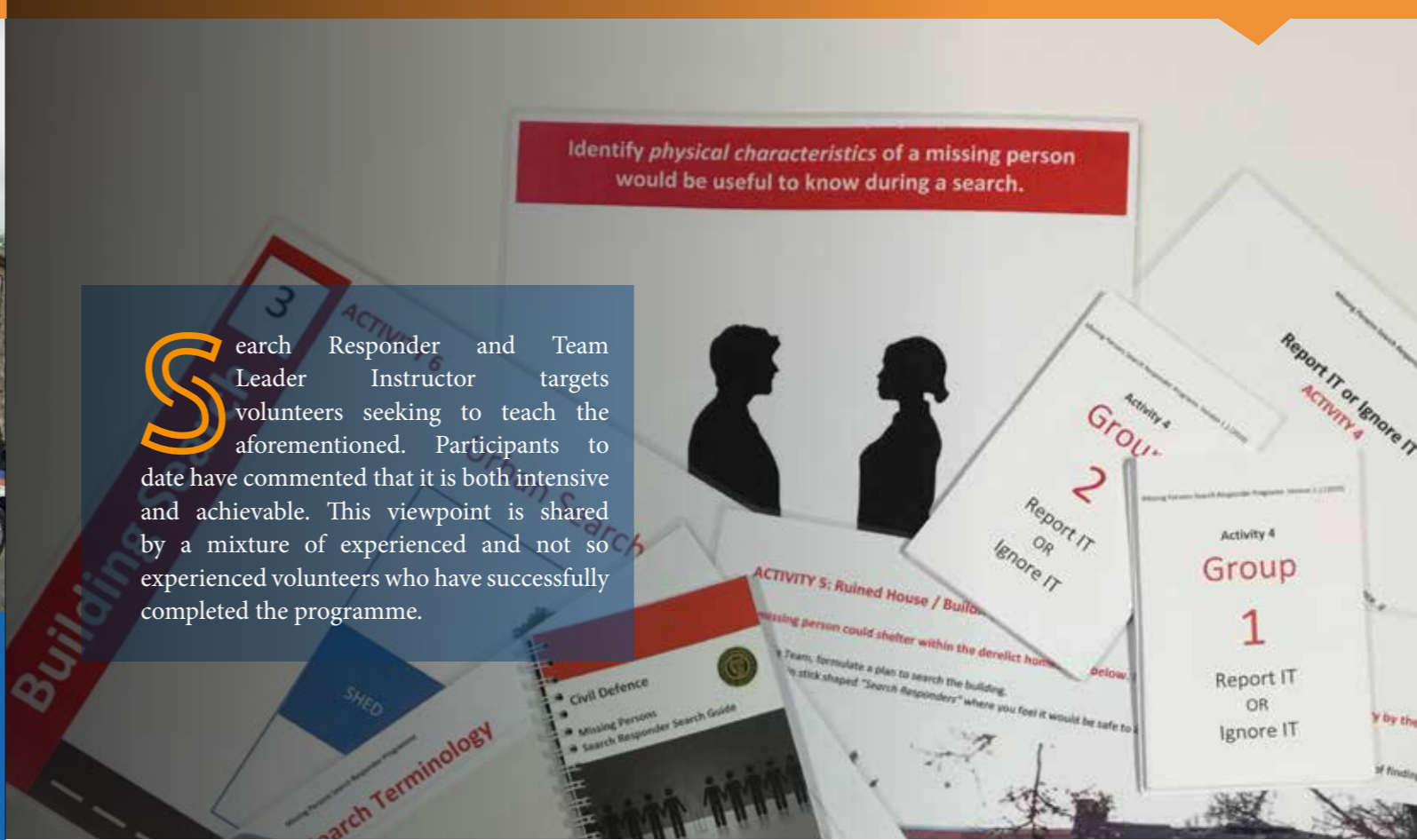
None of this could be achieved without the volunteers and instructors who participate in, teach and quality assure this important training locally.

The well-recognised term – People Find People – reflects the central importance of volunteers being to the fore of our search capability. With changing demography, evidence points towards increased incidence of missing persons, specifically among people with dementia related illness. The Health Service Executive estimate a threefold increase in dementia related illness in the coming decades, and research from the UK suggests some thirty percent are at risk of going missing. Based on current trends, it is evident that our search expertise will be to the fore in supporting An Garda Síochána.

The new Missing Persons Search Programme has a central aim, to prepare knowledgeable, competent, and confident volunteers to provide support to the PRA which is credible, professional, sustainable and reliable.

“ Course methodology was for me great. It covered what we need to know to perform a search without all the frills and padding that a lot of courses tend to contain. I found it very easy to comprehend as the format allowed for so much class participation and discussion. ”

The Search Programme currently consists of three modules: Search Responder, Search Team Leader and Search Instructor. Each module plays a central role in preparing volunteers for missing person's incidents



Search Responder and Team Leader Instructor targets volunteers seeking to teach the aforementioned. Participants to date have commented that it is both intensive and achievable. This viewpoint is shared by a mixture of experienced and not so experienced volunteers who have successfully completed the programme.

**The Search Responder module** explores some of the reasons why, when and how people go missing. Scenario based exercises prepare volunteers for the dynamic nature of search and how to interact with the missing person.

**The Search Team Leader Module** is aimed at suitable volunteers wishing to coordinate a group of Search Responders in consultation with a Search Manager. The focus of this module is on managing people in an efficient and safe manner while maximising the probability of finding the missing person. Themes explored include the role of the search team leader, key responsibilities, managing and evaluating information to devise search strategies, reporting progress and creating records.

“ We got a very good reception to the course. The class consisted of seven new members and one experienced member. The Class were very responsive and enjoyed the course and we enjoyed teaching it. The experienced person said they got a lot out of it as well which is a good sign. ”

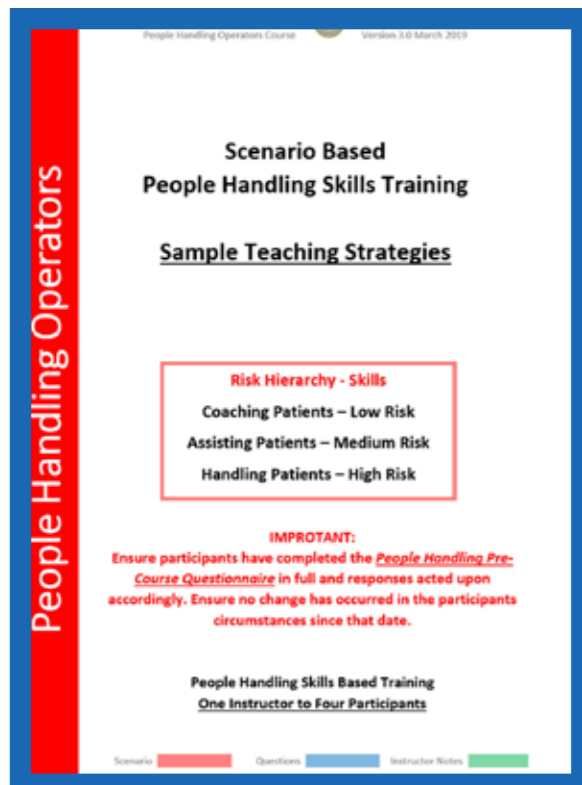
All search training is now certified by Civil Defence College which in turn is responsive to the needs of the PRA, societal trends and best practice. Indeed additional learning blocks will be coming on stream in the future to include Shallow Water Search and Casualty Extraction. These learning blocks are aimed at volunteers who have completed the Swiftwater & Flood Responder Course or those with a People Handling Instructor background. These additional blocks serve to compliment previous learning and promote volunteers to develop and enhance their skills in line with emerging practices.



**Coming back to the opening sentence of this article, People Find People, by extension people create learning and Civil Defence College wish to specifically thank instructors from Tipperary and Westmeath Civil Defence who assisted with module trials. A special mention to Westmeath Civil Defence for facilitating and supporting the rollout of the Search Instructor Programme.**



# Civil Defence's new approach to People Handling Training - Storytorial



Civil Defence recently launched its revised People Handling Course as part of its Instructor Re-certification. Known as RED3, the programme is a hybrid design of theory and practical, using a uniquely story-based approach.

A good story is always memorable and learning through this medium has particular value when combined with skill based activity. By weaving both the theory and the practical elements of people handling we create a more realistic, relevant and thought provoking learning experience.

The story contains a start, middle and end which, in people handling, is set in the context of an injured person (role-played by a second instructor). The story outlines the problem and the volunteers work to evaluate the situation, devise a people handling strategy and implement it while all the time considering patients human rights, communication and understanding, infection control and challenging behaviour. However, as with any good story, there are twists along the way (known as divergents) which keep the narrative interesting, challenging and unpredictable, just as would be the case managing a person in the real-world.

RED3 includes a suggested story board, including key questions they must ask and what is expected of volunteers. We encourage instructors to tailor and adapt the storytorial to each group of learners, considering their prior knowledge and experience of the topic. Though Story Based Learning is a relatively new approach, feedback from our colleagues in the National Ambulance Service has been encouraging. NAS participants found the course design refreshing, challenging and relevant to their day to day work. Looking to the future our story continues and in the latter part of 2019 an additional People Handling Module will be introduced with specific focus on bariatric patients and casualty extraction. It will be available to all Civil Defence and National Ambulance Service People Handling Instructors serving to address the challenges emerging within this population segment, maintain our PRA interoperability and promote ongoing Continuous Professional Development. And yes these new modules will be storytorial based.

The concept of Storytorial can be used in any context. Why not try it out in your class – it will engage, enrich and reward learners!



# Swiftwater & Flood First Responder Instructor Programme

In late 2018, the Civil Defence College, in conjunction with the training providers Rescue 3 Europe, undertook a sixth cohort of our highly successful Swiftwater & Flood First Responder Instructor (SFRI) programme.

In total, 10 Civil Defence volunteers completed the programme held in Co Limerick. These instructors have returned to their respective counties to deliver the suite of swiftwater rescue courses at local level.

These courses include Water & Flood Awareness, Lifejacket Competent User, and Swiftwater & Flood First Responder. This was a huge undertaking on behalf of the volunteers, with a large number of days required to complete the programme. We wish to congratulate each volunteer and wish them well in their Civil Defence careers as SFRI's.



# CFR & FAR Instructor Recertification

Between September and November 2018, the College delivered CFR and/or FAR Instructor recertification training to over 100 Civil Defence volunteer instructors. The training took place in regional locations, including Sligo, Navan, Dublin City, Cavan Town, Mallow, and Roscrea.





## CIVIL DEFENCE ACTIVITIES

FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER 2018

Activities include Climatic, Community, Search, Sporting

# 2795

TOTAL

[www.civildefence.ie](http://www.civildefence.ie)

