

Dublin Fire Brigade

Did you know?

Dublin Fire Brigade was officially brought into being with the Dublin Corporation Fire Brigade Act of 1862. Today the Brigade has over 900 personnel and is responsible for providing fire cover for Dublin City and County. Dublin City Council (Under the 1981 Fire Services Act) runs this service on behalf of the 4 local authorities in Dublin. Dublin Fire Brigade has 15 stations, 11 of which are fulltime. The Fire Brigade also run a regional control room manned by firefighters and officers which receive calls for assistance requiring a response by either a fire engine or ambulance.

Dublin Fire Brigade's training centre is located on the northside of the city and is the largest fire training facility in Ireland. All new recruits undergo a four month fire training course in the Training Centre before going operational as a fulltime firefighter. The course includes basic firefighting, a 2 week breathing apparatus course, one week pump operators course, one week road traffic accident course, hot fire training (flash over, backdraught), marine firefighting course, water rescue and control room operations. Medical training also plays a major part in the centre. Staff also teach courses at the training centre in both fire and ambulance disciplines. Other training and responses by Dublin Fire Brigade are Swiftwater Rescue, Boat rescue, Marine Firefighting and heights rescue. Outlined below are some of the crucial responsibilities of engineers and other staff within the Fire Brigade.



(l-r) Back row are Robbie Keane and Paul Hendrickson. Front row are Brian Gilbert, Cathal McCobb, James Eagers, Neil McCabe and Vincent Savage - Staff at Kilbarrack Fire Station - winners of several Green Awards

Fire Safety Management

Fire Prevention Section

The role of the Fire Prevention Section includes ensuring adequate fire safety in buildings and other structures, and is governed primarily by the Fire Services Act 1981, the Building Control Act 1990, and various guides to fire safety in buildings of different use. One of the duties of a fire prevention officer is to assess fire safety certificate applications. During the application process, the fire prevention officer assesses areas such as the means of escape, the structural stability with respect to fire and facilities for fire fighting. All types of buildings are assessed, except private dwellings.

Some recent large developments that Dublin Fire Brigade Fire Prevention Section have been involved in include: Aviva Stadium, Terminal 2 (T2) Dublin Airport and the National Convention Centre.

The Fire Prevention Section also check compliance with fire safety regulations (and have prosecution powers) for all types of buildings and events. They provide advice and inspections for large events such as St Patricks day celebrations, Dublin City Marathon, Liffey swim etc, and for concerts and other events at large venues such as the Aviva stadium, RDS, The O2 arena and Croke Park.



Aviva Stadium (pictured left)

The redevelopment of Lansdowne Stadium was completed in April 2010 and is a modern stadium with an all seated capacity of 50,000. In addition to rugby and soccer matches the stadium also holds concerts, functions, seminars and banquets. Fire safety design features incorporated into the stadium include: Means of escape provision, Hi-spec fire detection and alarm systems, Sprinkler systems, Smoke control systems, High degree of fire resistance to elements of structure, etc. along with full Fire fighting facilities.

Convention Centre Dublin (pictured right), designed by Irish-American Architect Kevin Roche, features a large state-of-the-art Auditorium for 2000 persons and large exhibition area on ground floor with capacity for 3000 persons. Notable Fire Safety Design features include: Basement car parking with powered jet fan and exhaust extract for smoke ventilation, Firefighting stairways at front and rear, High spec comms system interlinked with active fire systems, Sprinkler systems, etc.



Terminal 2, or T2, at Dublin Airport (below) was completed in November 2010. It is capable of handling up to 15 million passengers. The Fire Brigade assessed the Fire Safety Certificate application for T2 on behalf of Fingal Co Co. The application was a fire safety engineering analysis to examine compliance with building regulations.



Fire prevention at concerts - Bon Jovi in the RDS

Education

Engineers in the Fire Prevention Section organise Community Fire Safety campaigns annually. They also raise fire safety awareness throughout the year and have fire safety initiatives at Halloween & Christmas. Officers engage with schools and run an annual art competition to raise fire safety awareness with children and families.



Dublin Fire Brigade Engineers at an event in the Mansion House



Engineering

Fire safety certificate applications are assessed by Fire Prevention Officers under the Building Control Act and the Building Control Regulations. A fire safety certificate is necessary for the construction of a new building to demonstrate that the building, if constructed in accordance with the fire safety certificate, will comply with Part B (Fire Safety) of the building regulations. Proper construction (including materials and workmanship) and maintenance of safety systems are also assessed. Dublin Fire Brigade provide this service for Dublin City Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and Fingal County Council.



The Technical Documents, (TGD's) give guidance on how to construct a building so that it complies with the Regulations



O'Brien Institute: Dublin Fire Brigade's training centre

