

## Section 7: Water Supplies

Each standard Class B Pumping appliance carries 1,800 Litres 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, Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service have three (3no) Water Tankers based at the following stations with the following capacities -

<b>Water Tanker Location</b>	<b>Water Tanker Capacity</b>
Kilkenny City (KK11)	15,000 Litres
Freshford (KK13)	8,000 Litres
Thomastown (KK15)	8,000 Litres

**Table 7.1 Water Tanker Locations and Capacities in County Kilkenny**

These water tankers assist at rural fires / incidents where local water supplies may be deficient and also assist to augment mains supplies in urban areas. These water tankers also provide an invaluable dual-use resource for Kilkenny County Council in distributing drinking water supplies during periods of severe weather and periods of water shortages. In addition, the water tanker at Thomastown Fire Brigade is fitted with variable message signs to the rear to assist with traffic management at motorway 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 3,000 litres per minute depending on the supply / source.

Each fire brigade surveys the condition, accessibility, water flow and marking, of a selection of fire hydrants in its operational area on a regular basis. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service have developed a fire hydrant defect form (see Appendix J) which are completed for all inspections and forwarded to the relevant Water Authority for remedial actions. Each fire brigade shall continue to familiarise with the public piped water supply in each area and is familiar with main open sources in its' operational fire ground.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service also advise on requirements for water supply for commercial and housing developments when assessing referrals from the Planning Authority.

Under Section 29 of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 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 all developments the following requirements apply -

Adequate water supply shall be provided for fire-fighting purposes in accordance with the requirements of the Fire Authority. To this end, Kilkenny Fire Authority has developed our own policy document titled “*Guidance Specification for Fire Hydrants and Fire Fighting Water Supplies*” (Appendix H).

Buildings or groups of buildings on the same site having a ground floor area exceeding 1,000m<sup>2</sup> shall be provided with 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 one (1no) hydrant to every 1,000m<sup>2</sup> of ground floor area. The hydrants shall comply with BS 750: 2012.

As part of the planning referral process, the Fire Authority under Section 13 of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 provide advice to the Planning Authority where a need is identified that additional water supplies for firefighting purposes is required.

With respect to Fire Brigade access the site shall comply with Section 5.2 of Technical Guidance Document B 2006 (Reprint 2020) Building Regulations and the Department of the Environment and Local Government “*Recommendations for Site Development Works for Housing Areas, 1998*”.

When commercial development has commenced, the technical fire officers refer the area / district to our operational fire officer’s seven (7no) Fire Brigades on the ground to test, review, functional check, and report the status of these fire hydrants assets. Within our

training programme we allocate two (2no) training slots for all seven (7no) fire brigades annually for the checking of fire hydrants assets.

- When developments are being developed by either owner-occupiers – the fire authority co-utilises this to initiate requirements under Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 – this entails a focused review of all existing granted fire safety certificate applications for the risk premises and then the follow up,
- Ordering of Section 22(4) Pre-Incident Plans (PIP) and,
- Section 22 reviews of operational fire officers on the ground in and through the risk premises and,
- Section 29 fire hydrant status confirmations by local fire brigades, this consolidating ‘local knowledge’ and referring all fire hydrant defects to Irish Water (IW).

The Fire Authority is also involved to assist the Planning Authority in the taking-in-charge of residential housing estates. The Fire Authority has developed a fire hydrant checklist form (Appendix J). This form is completed for all fire hydrants (checked with and without defects) to the relevant organisation i.e. Irish Water, Group Water Schemes (GWS). This is how the Fire Authority assists our fire personnel to gain explicit local knowledge on the adequacy of water supplies under Section 10(10) of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service has produced and revised a document “*Guidance Specification for Fire Hydrants and Fire Water Supplies – September 2021, version 21.2*”. This document will be reviewed periodically.

**Objectives for the Period of this Plan:**

**Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service intends to maintain as a minimum three (3no) Water Tankers at their existing Fire Stations and to work with the relevant Water Authorities to develop access to available water supplies for fire-fighting purposes in County Kilkenny.**

**Mapping is available on the network and many of the hydrant locations are Geo-Coded on our Mobile Data Terminals that are available in our Class B Pumping Fire Appliances. It is intended to continue to work with the relevant Water Authorities in order to refer our fire hydrant checklist reports where remedial work maybe required or not as per Section 10(10) of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003.**

**Guidance Specification for Fire Hydrants and Fire Water Supplies – September 2021, version 21.2 will be reviewed periodically.**

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