

Section 6: Equipment and PPE

6.1 Introduction

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

6.2 Equipment

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service have the core equipment on each Class B Pumping Appliance to deal with all normal incidents. Additional equipment for dealing with Specialist Heavy Rescue and Hazardous Materials incidents is carried on the Emergency Tender Appliance in Kilkenny City. Water Tankers also carry a limited amount of equipment to allow for the operation of these appliances. Appendix A contains a non-exhaustive list of typical items of equipment that are carried on these appliances. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will continue to research the latest technologies and equipment that are available and to procure and introduce new equipment. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service propose to purchase and roll out and develop and embed a new asset management system as appropriate subject to funding being made available by Kilkenny County Council.

The ongoing preventative maintenance and standard testing of this equipment is a major role of the Operations Section of Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service. The Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service Equipment Maintenance Policy outlines the frequency and type of inspection for all equipment. It also outlines who carries out each type of maintenance and inspection, e.g. Fire-fighters, Mechanics, and External Contractors etc. A summary of the inspection periods is included in Appendix B.

There is equipment reaching its end of life on an ongoing basis. This equipment is generally replaced using revenue financial resources within Kilkenny 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 DIN EN 469: 2020
- 2 No. Fire-fighting leggings to DIN EN 469: 2020
- 1 No. Fire Helmet DIN EN 443: 2008
- 2 No. pairs of gloves to ISO 659:2009
- 2 No. Anti-Flash hoods (shoulder length) to EN 13911:2017
- 1 No. Pair of Firefighters' boots to EN 15090:2012
- 1 No. Hi-Viz Surcoat- Class 3 to EN471: 2003

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will continue to provide the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to all personnel and to procure this PPE to the highest standards. It is the intention of Kilkenny County Council to maintain two (2no) sets of PPE to all firefighting personnel. All PPE will be maintained in accordance with the Kilkenny County Council Policy and Procedure for the Managing the Utilisation of Personal Protective Equipment (SMS/PP/P1) (Appendix C).

In addition to the above, the following PPE is also available for specialist operations -

- Chemical Protective Clothing (CPC) Clothing,
- Chainsaw PPE,
- Buoyancy Aids (Lifejackets, dry suits, personal flotation devices),
- Working at Heights Fall Arrest Protection,
- Breathing Apparatus sets (Respiratory Protective Equipment – RPE).

All PPE will be maintained in accordance with the Kilkenny County Council Policy and Procedure for the Managing the Utilisation of Personal Protective Equipment (SMS/PP/P1).

Objectives for the Period of this Plan:

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will maintain all equipment in accordance with its' Equipment Maintenance Policy which outlines the frequency and type of inspection for all equipment. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service propose to purchase and roll out and develop and embed a new asset management system as appropriate subject to funding being made available by Kilkenny County Council.

It is intended to apply for Capital Aid Grant Funding for new equipment when the need arises.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue 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 Kilkenny County Council Policy and Procedure for the Managing the Utilisation of Personal Protective Equipment (SMS/PP/PI) (Appendix C).

DRAFT - CONSULTATION