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4 **News Update**

19 **Garda Recruitment**

A ramping-up of Garda recruitment with a further 250 new recruits this year means that 550 Gardaí will have been recruited by the Government between September 2014 and 2015.

20 **Irish Coast Guard**

Taking a new fleet of Sikorsky S-92A helicopters on board and increasing the scope of its services are just two of the main changes made by the Irish Coast Guard over the last number of years. Guy Warner spends a day with the crew at the Sligo Base to get a closer view of the operations.

31 **River Rescue**

The fastest emergency response on the River Shannon can now be launched within three minutes of an emergency callout, thanks to a new custom-made power boat specifically designed for use on the river.

34 **Civil Defence**

From recession to decentralisation and changing management structures, it's been an eventful decade for Bill Smith, who recently retired as Director General. During his 15 years with the voluntary organisation he has seen it go through a number of upheavals.

41 **Respond 2015**

Following last year's inaugural event, at which CFR Ireland was launched, 'Respond 2015' again provided evidence-based updates for first responders.

56 **Defence Forces**

An Air Corps pilot has developed a new lifesaving application to enhance the efficiency of air ambulance operations. Co-ordinated by the National Aeromedical Co-ordination Centre, LocateMe112 is now available to the HSE, An Garda Síochána, the Coast Guard and other emergency service providers.

58 **Mountain Rescue**

With a new VAT refund scheme for mountain rescue teams in Northern Ireland operational from 1 April, teams south of the border are still left with the 23 per cent rate payable on the necessary equipment to carry out their life-saving work.

69 **Rescue Challenges**

The winning teams from the National RTC and Trauma Challenges, which took place this year in Ballyvolane Fire Station, Cork on 18 April, will now go forward to represent Ireland at the World Rescue Challenge in Lisbon in October.

72 **Social Media**

Social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn has attracted local fire brigades, the Irish Coast Guard, rescue volunteers and An Garda Síochána to jump on the interactive bandwagon, to inform the public of their work, in addition to publicising new campaigns.

77 **Insurance Industry**

The emergency services are in the unique position to record on-the-spot information, which can be used to identify potentially fraudulent and exaggerated claims at an early stage, writes Tom O'Brien, Chairman of the Anti-Fraud Group at Insurance Ireland.

81 **RNLI Rescues**

A brand new €2.4 million Shannon class lifeboat is the first in the 191-year history of the lifesaving charity to be named after an Irish river, in recognition of the service and dedication of Irish lifeboat crews. It will be stationed at Lough Swilly RNLI in Donegal.

85 **Water Safety**

A new lifesaving training centre opened its doors in the West Clare coastal town of Miltown Malbay – the birthplace of lifesaving training in Ireland. This year also celebrates the 70th anniversary since Irish Water Safety was officially established in 1945.

91 **Fire Safety Training**

Fire safety training for carers could soon become a nationwide norm, after a successful pilot programme in Clare saw home care workers learn the essentials in prevention, protection and response to a fire in the home.

105 **Mental Health Reform**

Clear information on the mental health and support services available to young people should be made more accessible to families, while awareness should be promoted, according to a report launched by the Children's Mental Health Coalition.

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Emergency Services Ireland



FIRESWIFT RIVER RESCUE COMES ON STREAM IN LIMERICK

'LOGATEME112' TAPS INTO
LIFESAVING TECHNOLOGY

COMMUNITY RAPID RESPONSE
NATIONWIDE ROLLOUT BY 2017

ALPINE CONGRESS (13-17 OCT)
IS A FIRST FOR IRELAND

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107 Overseas Aid

With countless surveys showing that public support in Ireland for overseas aid is extremely high, Hans Zomer, Director of Dóchas, outlines the following seven reasons why such aid is so important for this country's future.

113 EU Victims' Directive

Despite improvements of victim support services throughout the EU, challenges remain in many member states; all 28 member states now have until November 2015 to transpose the EU Victims' Directive into national law.

115 EU E-Call Project

All EU countries should be able to handle eCalls based on the '112' emergency number from 1 October 2017, according to European legislation now being finalised.

117 Overseas View

First responders in Australia have learned to deal with high-pressure events like bushfires through planned systems and structures, as outlined here by Robert Morton, Chief Executive Officer of the South Australian Ambulance Service.

125 Youth Fire-setting

The complex and multifaceted topic of adolescent firesetting can cause significant financial loss to society, not to mention the emotional and physical consequences for the victims.



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132 E-Learning Project

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service is one of six agencies in the European Union to deliver a two-year project to create an online resource, which will educate the public on how to prevent, prepare and respond to disasters, writes NFRS project manager Robert Stacey.

135 Drone Technology

The use of drone technology is now becoming mainstream, as the technology sector sees the advantages of innovations in remote-controlled aircraft. With 30 years' experience in UK policing, Chris Weigh assesses its impact on the future of emergency services.

139 Emergency Number

Ireland's emergency services are in the top group in Europe for response times to the 112 Emergency Number – with 90 per cent of such calls answered within 10 seconds.

143 UK Emergency Show

A unique new seminar theatre dedicated to training will feature at the 10th Emergency Services Show in September, led by experts who run specialist courses for emergency services personnel.

145 UK News

149 International News



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