

32 LIVES SAVED IN DRAMATIC RESCUES

This year 32 lives were saved from drowning through the brave actions of 47 rescuers who were rewarded at Irish Water Safety's 2016 National Annual Awards Ceremony. Having saved thousands of migrants during the humanitarian missions in the Mediterranean, Irish Naval Service personnel were also presented with Rescue Appreciation Awards.

Tragedically an average of 133 people drown in Ireland every year," commented IWS Chairman Martin O'Sullivan, at the presentation of the rescue appreciation awards for 2016.

Although O'Sullivan acknowledged that 133 is too many, he told award recipients, their family and friends at the event at Dublin Castle's Printworks Conference Centre in early November that the figure would be even higher but for the "dramatic efforts of these individuals who saved others from drowning".

He also acknowledged the ongoing work of volunteers throughout the country who teach swimming and water rescue skills. "The work of our volunteers in teaching and assessing lifeguards pays dividends at our waterways every year, reflected in the fact that lifeguards rescued 649 people from drowning nationwide this summer and reunited 662 lost children found wandering near water."

He noted that complacency around aquatic environments is simply not an option; "30 children aged 14 and under drowned in the last ten years, reflecting the importance of constant uninterrupted child supervision".



Rescue Appreciation Awards were presented to Sgt Dermot Monaghan, Gardaí Nicholas Glennon, Johanna Connolly, Kieran Dempsey, John Glennon, Karl Moore, and Mary Murphy (Westmeath), pictured here with Simon Coveney, Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government, and Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman of Irish Water Safety: On 22 September 2015, Athlone Garda Station received a call regarding a woman in distress on the River Shannon. Upon arriving at the scene, Sgt Dermot Monaghan, Gardaí Kieran Dempsey, Mary Murphy, Karl Moore, Johanna Connolly, John Glennon and Nicholas Keogh immediately searched for the distressed female. With the use of a lifebuoy and a fishing boat the Gardaí brought her to safety, and she was transferred to hospital by ambulance where she made a full recovery.

For the full list of award winners visit www.bit.ly/2hahzxv

Representatives from the Irish Naval Service received rescue awards for saving thousands of migrants in the Mediterranean whilst on humanitarian missions.

Simon Coveney, Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government presented 'Rescue Appreciation Awards' to the Irish Naval Service, represented by (l-r): LÉ Roisin – PO Mech Dwayne Philbin; LÉ Eithne – CPO ERA Ruairi de Barra; LÉ James Joyce – A/Supply Catherine Doran; LÉ Samuel Beckett – Lt Niall McCarthy, and LÉ Niamh – S/Lt Dave McKenna, with Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman of Irish Water Safety, at the awards ceremony in the Print Works Conference Centre in Dublin Castle in early November.



JUST-IN-TIME RESCUE APPRECIATION AWARDS

The Seiko 'Just-In-Time' Rescue Appreciation Awards were presented to members of the Force who assisted those in difficulty in water and in danger of drowning throughout the country, pictured here with Simon Coveney, Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government, and Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman of Irish Water Safety.



Gardaí Kevin Williamson, Michael Murphy and John O'Sullivan: On 17 September 2015 Gardaí O'Sullivan, Murphy and Williamson entered the Lake at Ballymore Eustace Road in Naas, Co. Kildare to rescue a female who was unconscious and unresponsive after entering the water. They performed CPR until the paramedics arrived, at which stage she was transferred to hospital for treatment.



John McDonnell, Sergeants Marie Crowley and John Casey from Clare: On 14 August 2016, Sgts Casey and Crowley responded to a call at the Pier Road, Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare. A man in a car had entered the water. Both Sgt Casey and John McDonnell entered the water and brought the man to safety.



Wexford's Garda Jarlath Duffy: On 17 February 2016, after observing a man in distress in the water at the River Slaney, the fully uniformed Garda Duffy entered the water and brought the man to safety.



Kildare's Gardaí Nathan Conroy and David Salmon: On 21 March 2016, Gardaí Conroy and Salmon received a call regarding a woman in distress in the water at Rye Bridge in Kildare. They both went to the location, and upon observing the woman in distress, they entered the water and brought the woman to safety.



Tipperary's Sgt Kieran O'Regan, Gardaí Claire Murphy, Mark Holden and Kieran Hayes: On 17 August 2015, Gardaí Holden, Hayes, Murphy and Sgt Kieran O'Regan, received a call regarding a man who had fallen into the water at New Quay, Clonmel. Upon arriving at the scene, Garda Holden and Sgt O'Regan entered the water, and all four Gardaí managed to bring the man to safety and waited with him until emergency services arrived.