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5 **NEWS UPDATE**

16 **NATIONAL SECURITY SUMMIT**

'Emergency Services Ireland' is the media partner of the inaugural National Security Summit Ireland, taking place on 25 and 26 February in Dublin, which will be hosted by Slándáil. Dr Gerry Waldron, Founder and Director of this new voluntary organisation, says the aim is to promote education, debate and discussion around national security issues in Ireland.

18 **LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT**

Following the recent theft of Public Access Defibrillators in Louth and Wicklow, community first responders are now calling for cross-party support as a matter of urgency for a Life Saving Equipment Bill, which proposes penalties of up to five years imprisonment and fines of €50,000 for those who steal or damage defibrillators or life buoys.

20 **CHARITY AIR AMBULANCE**

Ireland's first charity-led Air Ambulance, launched by Irish Community Rapid Response last September, estimates that over 600 lifesaving missions could be flown this year. However, those missions are in jeopardy without immediate funding, and the charity now needs public support to continue to provide this Helicopter Emergency Medical Service nationwide.

24 **EENA CONFERENCE**

'Emergency Services Ireland' is delighted to be on board as the media partner for the 2020 EENA Conference, which will take place in the Latvian capital of Riga on 1-3 April.

29 **EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION**

An extra layer of civil protection in Europe against forest fires has been rolled out in a new campaign by the Directorate-General for the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. And further reserves will be added over time to respond to other disasters including medical emergencies, biological, radiological, chemical and nuclear incidents.

35 **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

A pilot project, launched by the European Emergency Number Association (EENA) in 2019, has been trialling cases of Next Generation 112 to push Europe increasingly towards the use of more messenger services and video calls in a bid to create a more accessible emergency response.

39 **BLOOD BIKES**

Dying twice in the back of an ambulance made an emergency medical volunteer want to give back to those who helped to keep him alive and to the wider community. Following extensive rehabilitation and having to retire from work due to his ongoing heart concerns, Fergus Lennon says that he could not just sit back and do nothing!

45 **WATER SAFETY AWARDS**

'Emergency Services Ireland' was honoured with a Media Appreciation Award by Water Safety Ireland at the National Annual Awards Ceremony in UCD in November, at which rescuers were recognised for saving 17 lives from drowning on 2018-2019, while lifeguards and swimming instructors were rewarded for their efforts in promoting water safety in their communities nationwide.

51 **RNLI CAMPAIGN**

In a joint-partnership between the RNLI and the GAA as part of RNLI's 'Respect the Water' campaign in 2019, GAA presenter and commentator Marty Morrissey and hurling legend Anthony Daly joined RNLI lifeboat crew and young players from Clare to raise awareness of the risks of drowning and to encourage people to enjoy the water safely.

55 **DIABETES DRONES**

New drone technology may be a viable option to ensure Ireland's rural diabetic communities are provided with lifesaving support during emergency situations, as the world's first drone flight successfully completed its maiden voyage from Connemara Airport to deliver diabetes medication to the Aran Islands.

56 **BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS**

Major haemorrhage is one of the top



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causes of death from major trauma. And now for the first time in Ireland, blood transfusions can be delivered to trauma scenes, following the roll-out in hospitals in Dublin and Cork of a new blood transfusion service, which is also expected to reduce mortality rates.

61 SHANNON FIRE SERVICE

A new era has dawned in Shannon's Airport Police and Fire Service, following a major investment and recruitment programme. Shannon became the first airport in Ireland in 2019 to take on board two new state-of-the-art High Reach Extendable Turret (HRET) fire tenders, and it also recruited ten new firefighters following an extensive recruitment campaign.

63 SETANTA FIRE SERVICE GAMES

Teams from every fire station in Tipperary battled it out in a test of physical fitness and endurance at the inaugural Setanta Fire Service Games – the first ever games of their kind in Ireland – at Thurles Fire Station last September. The Setanta

Cup was finally won on home ground by firefighters from Thurles.

65 PRE-HOSPITAL BURN CARE

A new report has identified that 999 call handlers and firefighters are ideally placed to play a crucial part in the early management of burn-injured casualties and sets out ten recommendations for improving their pre-hospital care, experience and outcomes.

67 SCOTLAND'S AIR AIBULANCE

Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance will operate a new air ambulance service this year from Aberdeen International Airport, under a new four-year contract with Babcock, which will see the aerial emergency services specialist operate and maintain the chopper from a new base at the airport.

68 UK NEWS

70 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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