



Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service

# Fire Safety Plan

## 2021-2026

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Smoke alarms - **T**est Weekly - **O**bvious dangers - **P**lan escape route = **STOP !**  
In case of **FIRE** – **G**et Out – **S**tay Out - **C**all the Fire Service Out



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Promulgation

**Kilkenny County Council  
Fire and Rescue Service**



**Fire Safety Plan 2021-2026**




Smoke alarms - Test Weekly - Obvious dangers - Plan escape route = **STOP!**  
In case of FIRE – Get Out – Stay Out - Call the Fire Service Out

Signed   
Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer  
Kilkenny County Council

Signed John Collins  
Chief Fire Officer  
Kilkenny County Council

Signed   
Director of Service  
Kilkenny County Council

Signed   
Chairperson –SPC-5  
Kilkenny County Council



## 1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to show how Fire Safety and Fire Prevention will be addressed in the administrative County of Kilkenny for the period 2021-2026. The Fire Safety Plan builds on the fire safety approach as implemented within Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service heretofore. In addition, it takes the fire risk management approach as outlined in the Keeping Communities Safe – A Framework for Fire Safety in Ireland, 2013.

### Synonyms for Purpose

objective goal intention target object

The primary role of Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service in relation to fire safety is to reduce the number of fire incidents occurring in its functional area, limit damage and prevent escalation and extinguish fires where fires occur.



Under Section 18(4) of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 “A Fire Authority may give advice in relation to fire safety to the owner or occupier of any premises or to any person having control over any premises”. In line with this plan, Section 13 of the Fire and

Emergency Operations Plan 2021-2026 for Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service also incorporates the provision of Community Fire Safety Initiatives for the period 2021-2026.

In producing this document cognisance has been taken of Kilkenny County Council’s Corporate Plan 2019-2024. The Corporate Plan places a particular emphasis on the Citizens, the Elected Members and Staff. The key activities identified in this Fire Safety Plan reflect the goals set out in the strategic objectives of the Corporate Plan and the Fire Services’ objectives in utilising our available resources and work together for a safer Kilkenny. Kilkenny County Council strategic objectives emphasize the following “Develop sustainable communities, have meaningful citizen and community engagement, protect and enhance Kilkenny’s unique heritage, culture and the environment and provide a quality service to all customers”

At the end of each year for 2021-2026, an implementation review of the specific items outlined in this document will be completed and documented to the Strategic Policy Committee No 5 for continued evaluation.



**Our Mission** – To utilise our available resources and work together for a safer Kilkenny.

**Our Vision** – To reduce the incidence and consequence of fire and other emergencies and to provide a professional response.



## 2.0 Scope

Our approach to fire risk management is through a fire prevention/protection programme. To date we have completed inspection programmes based on a risk management basis. The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) is developing a methodology for risk indexing individual premises. Once this national guidance is issued, it will form the new basis of future Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service fire prevention/protection programmes.

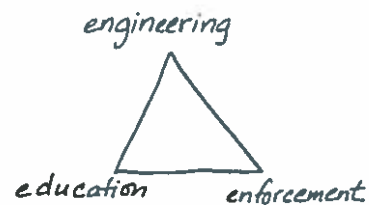
However, in the interim this Fire Safety Plan will be implemented on both a re-active and pro-active basis.



## 3.0 Overall Fire Safety Plan

The Fire Safety Plan is based on four key areas of intervention -

- **Engagement,**
- **Education,**
- **Engineering,**
- **Enforcement.**



The Fire Safety Plan outlines an Inspection Programme along with other prevention activities to protect both domestic and non-domestic premises from the dangers of fire.

	Prevention	Protection	Response
<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Engagement</b> <b>Education</b> <b>Community fire safety talks</b> <b>Home fire safety visits</b> <b>Primary School Programme</b> <b>BfireSafe@School</b> <b>Fire station visits</b> <b>Publicity campaigns</b>	<b>Installation of smoke alarms</b>	<b>Operational Liaison and Response</b>



	Prevention	Protection	Response
<b>Non-Domestic</b>	<b>Engagement</b> <b>Education</b> <b>Enforcement</b> <b>Seminar to specific</b> <b>Target groups</b> <b>Publicity campaigns</b> <b>Pre-Incident Planning</b>	<b>Engineering</b> <b>Enforcement</b> <b>Inspection Programme</b> <b>Fire Safety Certificates</b> <b>Annual Licensing</b>	<b>Operational</b> <b>Liaison and</b> <b>Response</b>

**Table 1.0 - Preventing, Protecting and Responding**

The fire prevention objectives in domestic premises are primarily addressed by **engagement and education** in the delivery of Community Fire Safety (CFS) Initiatives across the City and County of Kilkenny through our seven (7no) local fire brigades.

Community Fire Safety (CFS) means promoting fire safety in the community, including in the home, whether in houses or apartments and is aimed at complementing the existing services provided by Kilkenny County Council to protect communities from fire.

These initiatives for the period include -

- Offer of delivery of the Primary Schools Programme (PSP) Fire Prevention Programme to every National School (3<sup>rd</sup> Class) in the City and County of Kilkenny,
- Installation of ten-year sealed domestic smoke alarm under the Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) scheme,
- Building on the success of Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service's involvement in 2021 Fire Safety Week for future Fire Safety Weeks.

The fire prevention objectives in non-domestic premises are primarily addressed by **engagement, education, engineering and enforcement**. These include the administration of the Building Regulations, Building Control Regulations throughout the process of fire safety certification applications and the inspection of new buildings, existing building inspection and enforcement and dangerous substances licensing. These premises are primarily addressed by way of inspections /audits and the giving of advice or warnings.



There are a number of different ways in which the requirement for an inspection / audit may occur. They are two-fold categories, namely re-active and pro-active, as follows –

### **Re-active**

These may arise as a result of-

- Incidents,
  - To facilitate adequate and swift communications between operational response activities, we have embedded a fire prevention referral layer within our operational response records, if a fire brigade attends an incident and has specific concerns about fire safety – this can be immediately escalated to the technical competent engineering led fire prevention,
- Complaints,
- Applications,
  - Directly to the Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service (e.g. *Fire Safety Certificates*)
  - Notification of Applications to Others (e.g. *Court Licensing*)
- Referrals,
  - From an external agency (*TULSA, HIQA, HSA, HSE, An Garda Síochána, etc.*)
  - From internal sections of Kilkenny County Council (*Housing, Roads (petrol storage tanks) Planning, Environment, Building Control etc.*)
- Request,
  - By Owner / Agent / Person in Control.

Where the Fire Authority receives HAP referrals from the Housing Authority – the fire authority inspects all these requests in accordance with the nominated Codes of Practice and the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 – This has entailed certain premises ultimately being served by Warning Notices (under Section 18(5)) and Fire Safety Notices (under Section 20) – This vital linkage within Kilkenny County Council has served well to improve fire safety within the rented accommodation sector.

Where the Fire Authority receives TUSLA referrals regarding creche and early years risk premises - the fire authority inspects all these requests in accordance with the nominated Codes of Practice and the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003. This has entailed certain premises ultimately being served with Warning Notices (under Section 18(5)) and Fire Safety Notices (under Section 20) – This vital inter-agency linkage has continued to serve this sector well – thus improving and enhancing fire safety



within these risk premises. Where the Fire Authority receives Fire Safety Complaints / Expressions of Concern from members of the public regarding fire safety in premises – these are formally acknowledged, delegated and actioned by the Rostered Senior Fire Officer (RSFO) on-duty at that time.

### **Pro-active**

These are the inspections instigated by Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service. These have traditionally been carried out on a focused 'high-risk' target group (e.g. *Nursing homes/Hospitals/ Crèches*).

It is the policy of the Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service to assess premises that come to our attention via all work streams above on the basis of risk and to target our limited resources at the premises that present the greater risk to life.

During Performance Inspections (DPI's) are carried out by Fire Service personnel under the *Fire Safety in Places of Assembly (Ease of Escape) Regulations 1985, S.I. 249 of 1985*. During performance inspections are carried out in public places of assembly in Kilkenny, currently they are carried out post complaint, on a risk basis and where appropriate in consultation with An Garda Síochána (AGS).

Fire Service personnel work with other agencies (An Garda Síochána, Health Services Executive, Local Authority, etc.) in pre-planning for large crowd events. Local arrangements are in place for pre and post event meetings to take place either at An Garda Síochána HQ or at Local Authority HQ, depending generally on the type of event and number attending.

Whilst (NDFEM) methodology for risk indexing individual premises is still in development, it is intended to use these principles to determine the most appropriate course of action for premises coming to the attention of Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service via the 'Reactive' work streams.

Outcomes in this area may include –

- In-depth audit,
- Issue specific inspection,
- Self-appraisal,
- Giving of advice,
- Analysing firecall frequencies types in certain purpose groups.





It is noted that the term 'inspection' is used throughout this document but that the intended activity could more accurately be described as an 'audit' (an 'inspection' determines if required standards are met in the required way; an 'audit' determines if sufficient and reasonable standards are being achieved).



## 4.0 Proposed Inspection Programme

During the period of 2021 to 2026 the inspection programme will be as follows -

### **The Annual Inspection Target will be a minimum of 75no Inspections**

The annual inspection target of 75no inspections is based on the current workforce. When our resources are increased to the agreed workforce plan the target number of inspections will be increased accordingly. During the course of 2021 to 2026 the inspection programme will be as follows – This will include the following non-exhaustive categories of inspections -

- Reacting to complaints,
- Reacting to requests from owners/occupiers,
- As a result of Fire Safety Certificate applications,
- Annual Licensing – District Court Service,
- Petroleum Licensing – Dangerous Substances,
- On referrals from other agencies and Local Authority Sections,
- During Performance Inspections (DPI),
- Pre-Incident Planning (PIP) inspections,
- Following incidents/fires by request/notification from Operational Junior Officers,
- Planned inspection of high-risk premises.



## 5.0 Engagement

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue service will continue to engage with the community to inform and educate citizens in how to reduce the risk of fires and other emergencies.

- Implement the Primary Schools Programme (PSP),
- Roll out BfireSafe@School programme,
- Carry out Fire Safety in the home talks/demonstrations,
- Carryout Home Fire Safety Visits,
- Deliver Fire Safety Seminars to targeted groups,
- Produce and deliver of Fire Safety Register Logbooks,
- Carry out Fire Station Visits and Open Fire Safety Days in all participating fire stations.

Engagement with agencies/groups such as Age Friendly Counties Programme (Kilkenny), An Garda Síochána, Muintir naTíre, the Irish Farmers Association (IFA), ICA, Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, Active Retirement Groups, St Vincent de-Paul, HSE, Local Community Alert Groups. Local Text Alert Groups is key to improving and continuing to deliver fire safety awareness in our communities.

Respond to requests from agencies/groups for fire safety presentations, demonstrations, Field Days, participation events and consider how a more proactive approach to such presentations could be developed.

Increase the potential use of social media in Publicity Campaigns - Fire Safety Week, Carbon Monoxide Week, Smoke Alarm campaigns etc.



The most significant publicity campaign run nationally is the annual Fire Safety Week which runs in conjunction with Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) every October.



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil  
Department of Housing,  
Planning and Local Government



Northern Ireland  
Fire & Rescue Service





Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will continue to schedule Fire Station Open Days in all seven fire stations during the lifetime of the plan. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service has also involved itself in campaigns to reduce unwanted firecalls, such as around bonfires, Halloween and controlled burning.

One of the most cost-effective methods of reducing fire deaths is to have working smoke alarms fitted in all domestic dwellings. Ideally there should be minimum of two working smoke alarms fitted to all single storey dwellings and four fitted to two-storey dwellings and ongoing public messaging campaigns should be maintained to encourage members of the public to test the smoke alarms once a week. A national survey in 2006 found the average level of smoke alarm ownership to be approximately 80%. As outlined in Fire and Operations Plan 2021-2026, Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will also work with the Community and Housing sections of Kilkenny County Council with the aim of increasing a working smoking alarm fitted to domestic dwellings by the end of 2026, subject to funding allocation and resources.



One of the primary focuses of CFS activities to date in Kilkenny has been the delivery of a fire safety programme to every 3<sup>rd</sup> Class student in the City and County of Kilkenny. Unfortunately, this programme was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, it is hoped that this programme will be re-started to rollout again in early 2022. The programme is delivered in the primary schools by local fire service personnel, in the presence of the classroom teacher and to date has been very well received. During the talk the children are given the “Safety Team” pack. The objective of this programme is to **Educate** children about the dangers of fire so that they in turn will bring the message home to their parents and grandparents and thus enhance fire safety in the home and in their community.



The national data in Ireland has stated that of the 725no fatalities in fires in the years 2000–2020 period, over a third (240no) were aged over 65 years. According to CSO statistics, 12.5% of the population of City and County of Kilkenny is over 65 years of age.



Based on the foregoing it is proposed to target future CFS activities at the elderly, particularly those living alone.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will also work with the Community and Housing sections of Kilkenny County Council with the aim of increasing the ownership of working smoking alarm fitted to domestic dwellings by the end of 2026.



In order to meet the increase in smoke alarm ownership it is necessary to examine initiatives which might deliver this. Research into the approaches adopted by Fire Services in Ireland and the UK identifies the following CFS initiatives that we have adopted here in Kilkenny.

- a) Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV),
- b) Provision (or provision and fitting) of smoke alarms to vulnerable dwellings,
- c) Primary Schools Programme (PSP),
- d) Presentation to various agencies/groups,
- e) Leaflet drops,
- f) Publicity Campaigns – Fire Safety Week, Carbon Monoxide Week, smoke alarm campaigns etc.

### Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV)



Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSVs) are a significant element of our Community Fire Safety strategy. Fire service personnel call to houses and give fire safety advice to the occupants. HFSVs

use in UK fire services over the past 15-years has been associated with a reduction in fire fatalities there by over 40%.

A HFSV is usually carried out by two uniformed operational

fire service personnel. They will use a checklist to ask questions, try to identify the fire safety hazards in the house and recommend solutions. Fire safety advice will be given, fire safety leaflets handed out and smoke detectors may be provided and fitted, where necessary. They will also discuss the occupant's response should a fire occur in their home. They will leave the occupier with further advice and information, to also make available to other members of the household. The primary aim of these HFSVs is to reduce the numbers of fires, deaths and injuries in the home by firstly preventing fires occurring and to ensure



that when fires do occur, the occupiers are given early warning, and they know how to react quickly and safely.



According to CSO 2016 Census, there is 34,855 no households in the City and County of Kilkenny. A typical HFSV is likely to cost in the region of €80 for a retained fire service (*two firefighters hours for two personnel*). It is clear therefore that it is not practical for Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service to undertake 'random' home fire safety checks, or indeed to undertake any significant volume of these checks given the current funding constraints and limited resources. It may however, be possible to undertake a number of targeted HFSVs as part of the wider CFS approach.

The aim of the initiative is to identify those most at risk from fire in their homes and to reduce the risk by raising awareness to the danger, providing the appropriate advice and, where necessary, fitting smoke alarms.



**Our Mission** –To utilise our available resources and work together for a safer Kilkenny.

**Our Vision** –To reduce the incidence and consequence of fire and other emergencies and to provide a professional response.

The aim will be achieved by creating new and maintaining the existing partnerships and by carrying out checks in homes of vulnerable persons and support -

- To increase awareness of fire safety among all communities,
- To minimize the risks associated with fire to the most vulnerable in communities, through specific targeted Community Fire Safety initiatives,
- To increase the capacity of communities to take responsibility for their own safety and that of their communities in relation to fire safety,
- Increase ownership and maintenance of smoke alarms,
- To improve co-operation with organisations working with vulnerable persons and sectors,
- To increase Community Fire Safety skills and knowledge among fire service personnel.



### Target Households

Vulnerable persons/households will be targeted by using census data combined with other available data sources, such as from partner agencies and community sections of the Local Authority (LA). The householders, who come within the 'at risk' groups, similar to persons identified in the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme, are as follows -



- Older People(>65),
- Vulnerable people.

### **Provision (or provision and fitting) of smoke alarms to vulnerable dwellings**

The installation of domestic smoke/heat alarms would generally form part of a HFSV programme as outlined above. However, where these HFSVs are not being routinely undertaken we need to examine other possible methods to increase smoke alarm ownership. Any distribution and/or fitting of smoke alarms by the Local Authority will need to be specifically targeted to ensure an appropriate and cost-effective use of resources.

It is recommended that an effort to identify vulnerable households is made by the Local Authority in conjunction with agencies/groups such as Age Friendly Counties Programme (Kilkenny), An Garda Síochána, Muintir naTíre, Irish Farmers Association (IFA), ICA, Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, Active Retirement Groups, St Vincent de-Paul, Local Community Alert Groups, Local Text Alert Groups and other voluntary agencies. Many of these agencies/groups have regular contact with those identified as representing a risk in terms of Community Fire Safety and they maybe in a position to assist the Local Authority in identifying the needs and in some cases may be able to act as a liaison with known vulnerable people.

It is our intention to install a minimum of one-hundred (100no)smoke alarms for the Older People, especially those living alone on an annual basis.



## 6.0 Education

### Primary Schools Programme (PSP)

As mentioned earlier, an examination of the statistics around fatal fires, and anecdotally around levels of smoke alarm ownership, suggests that the older members of our community are most at risk. Accordingly, one could draw the conclusion that the primary schools programme which focuses on 9-year olds is unlikely to be targeting the demographic which is most at risk in our community. We are satisfied, however that the Primary Schools Programme, plays a vitally important role in Community Fire Safety, and will reap significant benefits over the longer term. The intergenerational relationships between the grand-parents and grand-children is one of our principal target audience under this programme. *A live working example, when we started in 2006 with our first cohort of 9-year olds in 3<sup>rd</sup> classes, these young people turned 18-years young in 2015 post-leaving certificate and then same group of young people have been graduations at 22-years young in 2019 and now maybe in 2022 are nearing 25-years mature – we could with time, continuity and delivery be repeated PSP to that next generation of family in due course.* It is recommended that the content be reviewed and amended if required to better target the older population.

### BfireSafe@School

This programme is funded by Erasmus+. It is a newly developed teacher led fire safety education resource for post-primary students particularly aimed at transition year (TY) students. This resource has been developed to place student wellbeing and personal safety at the centre of learning. The resource aims to ensure students learn the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to keep themselves and others from fire.

The learning experienced while participating in this programme will be of use to students in their everyday lives. It will enhance students' wellbeing throughout their lives and empower students with the necessary skills to be responsible and safe citizens. It is the intention that this programme would be rolled out in all our post-primary schools in the City and County of Kilkenny.

### Presentations/ Demonstrations to various Agencies/Groups/Field Days

It has always been the practice in Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service to facilitate requests from various community groups to delivers fire safety presentations/demonstrations. This has proved



to be very well received and can again led to the identification of particularly vulnerable households. It is recommended that this practice be continued and built upon consolidating existing community led relationships.

### **Delivering Fire Safety Seminars on an annual basis**

Each year a specific group is targeted for a seminar on fire safety in their workplace.

### ***Leaflet handouts***

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue have access to a range of fire safety leaflets which currently are in a number of languages, produced courtesy of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH). These leaflets include fire safety in the home, carbon monoxide awareness, fire safety for the elderly, fire safety in flats/apartments, caravan fire safety, outdoor fire safety, barbecue fire safety leaflets, etc and they are made available to the public at fire stations, field days and during campaigns such as Fire Safety Week. International experience suggests that in the aftermath of a fire incident, the general community are more likely to be receptive to fire safety advice. Therefore, it is recommended that a procedure be developed that in the event of a house fire, crews would drop relevant leaflets in all houses in the immediate environs of the fire. It may be necessary to develop a specific targeted leaflet for this purpose.

The safety and welfare of the citizens of Kilkenny is a primary focus of Kilkenny County Council. Statistics show that almost all fire fatalities and injuries occur in houses and flats. Experience in the United Kingdom (UK) and elsewhere has shown that robust Community Fire Safety programmes are the most effective means to deal with this problem. Community Fire Safety can be a key component to address the balance between fire service response and prevention. Legislation is limited in relation to fire safety in dwellings. New houses are exempt from the fire safety certification process. However, they must comply with Part B of the Building Regulations, which details the minimum fire safety requirements. Existing houses are exempted by the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 in relation to fire safety requirements.

A succession of reports into both the Irish and UK Fire Services have recommended a move from the longstanding focus on fire-fighting to a better balance between fire-fighting, fire prevention and community fire safety.





## 7.0 Engineering

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service aims to influence and regulate the built environment to protect people, property and the environment from harm.

- Administer Fire Safety Certificate Application and Assessment on behalf of the Building Control Authority (BCA),
- Assess Dangerous Substances License applications,
- Assess Licensing applications under Intoxicating Liquor Acts,
- Review of buildings under the Fire Services Acts,
- Providing advice to Kilkenny County Council Planning Authority.

Under Section 13 of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003, the Fire Authority may advise a planning authority in relation to the functions of the planning authority under Section 34 (which relates to permission for development and for the retention of structures *i.e. Commercial and Multiple Housing Planning Applications*) of the *Planning and Development Acts 2000*.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service Fire technically competent fire officers advise on current Building Regulations including fire safety standards required for proposed developments. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service fire prevention officers hold fire safety certificate / fire prevention clinics under Section 18(5) of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003. These are predominantly held on a weekly basis and/or upon request in Fire Station HQ.

This process has been a huge success as it has aided greatly in reducing -

- 1) our Fire Safety Certificate invalidation rates and,
- 2) our Fire Safety Certificate refusal rates and,
- 3) expand the knowledge of the professional cadre within this construction industry.

This has produced a positive culture of compliance amongst the business/commercial community and the professional bodies (Registered Architect/ Chartered Engineer) in relation to fire safety in the City and County of Kilkenny.



When developments are being developed by either owner-occupiers or speculatively – 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) PIP (Pre-Incident Plans) and,
- Section 22 reviews by operational fire officers on the ground in and through the risk premises,
- The sharing of information between Fire Prevention and Operations, particularly for high-risk premises shall be maintained and developed 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).



Together with the two other Principal Response Agencies (PRA's) An Garda Síochána and the HSE; we have developed External Emergency Plans for the three establishments in the county which fall under the Seveso Directive. The plans lay out the intended inter-agency response to deal with the off-site effects of potential incidents at the establishments. Our intention going forward is to review and update these plans in partnership with An Garda Síochána and the HSE in order to ensure that the most up to date information is available to responders.



## 8.0 Enforcement

Under Section 18(7) of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003, the Fire Authority can serve a warning concerning any matter arising out of fire safety procedures and measures on such premises.



Under Section 20 of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003, the Fire Authority can serve a Fire Safety Notice on a premises specifying a time within which any requirements shall be complied with.

Under Section 20A of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003, the Fire Authority can serve a closure notice on a premises prohibiting the use of a building.



Number 30 of 1981

FIRE SERVICES ACT, 1981

Under section 20(8) of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003, each Fire Authority shall keep at its offices a register of fire safety notices served by it and the register shall be open to inspection by any person at all reasonable times.

Fire Prevention Officers are and will continue to engage with premises owners to regularise the non-compliance and to address the fire safety deficiencies with premises specific schedule of improvement works to be undertaken over a pre-agreed timescale.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will use its powers under the Fire Services Act 1981 and 2003 to enforce fire safety matters when required.



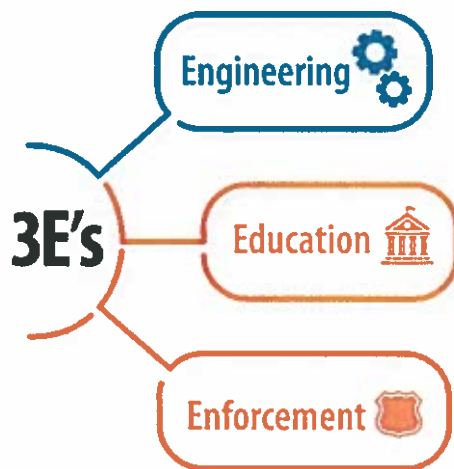
## Objectives for the Period of this Plan -

- ✓ Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will respond favourably to requests from agencies/groups for fire safety presentations/ demonstrations, where practicable.
- ✓ Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will use its powers under the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 to enforce fire safety matters as needed.
- ✓ The sharing of information between Fire Prevention and Operations, particularly for high-risk premises shall be maintained and developed.
- ✓ Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will continue to introduce initiatives to reduce the Fire Fatality Rate in the City and County of Kilkenny.
- ✓ Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will continue to work with other sections in Kilkenny County Council, in particular the Housing and Community Sections to develop initiatives to work with the general public and community groups to reduce the number of chimney fires in the City and County of Kilkenny.
- ✓ Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will continue to schedule fire station open days in all seven fire stations.
- ✓ Ongoing public messaging campaigns will be maintained to encourage members of the public to install smoke alarms and to test their smoke alarms once a week to ensure that they are working.
- ✓ Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will also work with the Housing and Community Sections of Kilkenny County Council with the aim of having a working smoking alarm fitted to domestic dwellings.
- ✓ Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will continue to deliver the NDFEM Primary Schools Programme throughout the City and County of Kilkenny.
- ✓ Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service intend to roll out BFireSafe@School programme throughout the City and County of Kilkenny.
- ✓ Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will continue to review specific high-risk areas.
- ✓ A review of all Community Fire Safety activities shall be undertaken.
- ✓ To complete the proposed inspection programme for the period of this plan.
- ✓ Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will assess premises that come to our attention via all work streams on the basis of risk and to target resources at the premises that present the greatest risk to life.





T E A M





**STOP** stands for:  
**S** - Smoke alarms  
**T** - Test your smoke alarms weekly  
**O** - Obvious dangers  
**P** - Plan your escape route



### **SMOKE ALARM**

A smoke alarm is a warning device that detects smoke at the earliest stages of fire

Fit at least one smoke alarm on every floor of your home ideally in the hallway

Follow the manufacturers' instructions of how to fit and position the alarm



### **TEST IT**

Always test your smoke alarm once a week

Change the battery once a year or when it starts to beep

Have a spare battery in the house for your alarm

Assist vulnerable people by testing their alarms for them

Keep your alarm free from dust



### **OBVIOUS DANGERS**

Extinguish and dispose of cigarettes properly

Never smoke in bed and be extra careful if you are tired, taking prescription drugs or having a drink.

Never leave cooking appliances unattended

Use a spark guard for an open fire

Don't use candles near flammable materials and don't leave them unattended

Keep matches and lighters away from children

Don't overload electrical sockets



### **PLAN YOUR ESCAPE**

Ensure your family know what to do in a fire and how to escape safely

Know where keys are kept at night

Keep hallways clear from obstructions

Plan a bedtime routine (close doors, turn off electric appliances that are not required)

Get out, stay out and get the fire service out

