



Cover image courtesy of Lukasz Gancarz.

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10 IRISH COAST GUARD



*The Air Accident Investigation Unit (AAIU) Final Report into the Irish Coast Guard's R116 tragedy is one of the most thorough of its kind, according to Airport Safety & Security Auditor Kevin Byrne. Having directly examined many air accident investigation reports within the last decade, he points out that the speedy implementation of the report's recommendations would be welcomed by the whole aviation community.

*'Emergency Services Ireland' contacted the main statutory agencies and CHC Ireland to get their feedback on the main lessons which they may now take on board about their own specific roles in light of the report's total of 71 findings and 42 recommendations.



16 RIVER RESCUE ROBOTS



Ireland's first 'river rescue robots' were launched on the Shannon in early December by the Athlone River Safety Awareness Group, and now these two large, motorised life buoys can be remote-controlled from the shore to support individuals in difficulty until the lifeboat arrives, thereby giving them a much better chance of survival.

20 COVID IMPACT CFR SURVEY

There's been a great response to NUI Galway's Covid impact research survey from over 340 Community First Responder (CFR) volunteers around the country, with many positive comments underscoring the importance and value of CFR schemes, as well as insights on the support required by these schemes following the pandemic, according to project team leaders Dr Eithne Heffernan and Dr Siobhán Masterson.

26 OVERSEAS MISSIONS



The former Director of the Ireland's Coast Guard became the first Irish head of an EU Mission in 2019 when he was appointed to lead EUCAP (EU's Capacity Building mission) in Somalia. Here Chris Reynolds outlines the mission's mandate to-date in support of the build-up of Somali security forces and institutions, in view of a gradual takeover of security responsibilities from the African Union Mission.

32 AMBULANCE SERVICE

Patient care was at the heart of Martin Dunne's 34-year career with the National Ambulance Service (NAS) up to his appointment as NAS Director in 2013. Now in his new position as Deputy CEO of Lifeline Ambulance Service, Ireland's largest private ambulance service provider, he says it is all about delivering the best possible care to people.

37 NAVAL SERVICE



The Irish Naval Service marked its milestone 75th anniversary by showcasing its fleet of vessels to the public during its unique 'Meet the Fleet' experiences in both Dublin in Cork in early September 2021.

47 // 'SMS4EMS' PROJECT

The Safety Management Systems training for Emergency Medical Services (SMS4EMS) project has been co-funded by the EU's Erasmus+ programme to enhance safety, hazard and risk management to improve safety performance for EMS professionals, patients and the public, writes Derek Ross, project co-ordinator at Trinity College Dublin.

48 // EU ORION PROJECT

The European Operational Risk: Implementing Open Norms (ORION) project has designed, developed, delivered and evaluated a training programme to support and advance the implementation of Safety Management Systems across the emergency services sector and other safety critical response sectors such as healthcare and aviation.

54 // CYBERSECURITY

An alarming rise in ransomware attacks and data breaches has signalled the need for all organisations and agencies to take necessary measures to prevent or minimise the impact on their businesses, according to Jan Carroll, UCD lecturer and cybersecurity researcher.

61 // IRISH CHARITIES CAMPAIGN

Irish charities and community groups have joined forces to launch a three-year national campaign that is set to build on the huge upswell of community activity during the Covid-19 pandemic and to help drive the post-pandemic recovery.

65 // CANCER TECHNOLOGY

A €550,000 machine, part-funded by two Cork cancer survivors, is generating cancer profiles in 24 hours, thereby eliminating an eight-week wait for patients. The Ion Torrent Genexus sequencer at Cork University Hospital, the first of its kind in Ireland, identifies DNA profiles of cancers, which are then used to determine the best type of treatment to fight the disease.

67 // STROKE AWARENESS

New research has now shown that only one in five people in Ireland know the most vital action to take in the event of a stroke, with 43% unaware of any of the four key warning signs. However, experts warn that the percentage of patients who fail to get to hospital within 4.5 hours to receive thrombolysis or clot-busting treatment could be much higher than the 41% on record.



68 // UK NEWS

71 // INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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PUBLISHER

Patrick Aylward

EDITOR

Grace Heneghan

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Catherine McDonagh

ADMINISTRATION

Anne-Marie Moran

CIRCULATION

Audrey Fitzgerald

Emergency Services Ireland,
14 Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2

T: 01-6785165

E: info@emergency-services.ie

W: www.emergency-services.ie

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