

# National Rescue Challenge set for Mullingar in May



**Mullingar Fire Station will host this year's National Rescue & CPR Challenge on Saturday 11 May, as the annual event once again provides statutory and voluntary emergency services with an opportunity to demonstrate and share their skillsets in cardiac arrest management and pre-hospital trauma care.**

**T**he National Rescue Challenge, organised by Rescue Organisation Ireland, is the only event in Ireland where both the statutory and voluntary emergency services come together to share their skills and compete in patient care rescue scenarios. Rescue Organisation Ireland will join forces with Westmeath Fire Service to host this year's event at Mullingar Fire Station on 11 May, which will provide many different learning opportunities for fire crews, EMS personnel and community first responders. There will also be a free 'CPR Challenge', in partnership with Hibernian Healthcare, which will be open to members of the public.

The national event is hosted by ROI every year to focus on improving, updating and standardising training for EMS and fire services personnel when responding to Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs).

The National Rescue Challenge in Mullingar Fire Station will determine and select the top RTC Extrication and Trauma teams to go forward to represent Ireland at this year's World Rescue Challenge (WRC2024) on 5-9 November in Portugal.

#### **RESCUE ORGANISATION IRELAND**

Rescue Organisation Ireland (ROI), a voluntary organisation and a registered

charity, was first founded in 2008 by members of Ireland's fire and emergency services to improve, update and standardise the training of emergency services personnel, in particular firefighters, who regularly respond and deal with RTCs on Ireland's roads.

According to the organisation's Executive Committee, "ROI was set up in response to the consistently high level of incidents on our roads and how we as professionals in the emergency services can strive to improve and train to be better at what we do.

"It is only by the drive and commitment of its members that we have developed to the point that ROI is now the leading authority on crash rescue techniques and RTC training in Ireland.

"The ROI Executive Committee comprises members from across the island and covers various roles and organisations across the Irish emergency services. Every year the organisation holds this National Rescue Challenge event, which is focused on RTC Extrication and Trauma scenarios, in addition to hosting regular Skills Development Days.

"These events are hosted in different locations around Ireland, in conjunction with the fire authority in that area, as a means of promoting casualty centred training and the 'Rescue Challenge' concept in all parts of Ireland."

**The teams who represented Ireland at the World Rescue Challenge 2023 in Lanzarote:**

\* **Kildare Civil Defence:** Third overall in the Complex Trauma Challenge



\* **3DC:** Third overall in the Standard Trauma Challenge



\* **Laois Civil-Defence and Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service:** Joint fifth overall in Complex Trauma.



\* **Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service:** Fourth overall technical teams in Tier 2 Extrication Challenge and fifth overall medic in Tier 3 Extrication Challenge.



\* **Dublin Fire Brigade Extrication and Trauma Team:** Fourth overall medic in Tier 3 Extrication Challenge and fifth overall technical team in Tier 2 Extrication Challenge.



**WORLD RESCUE CHALLENGE 2024**

Organised by the World Rescue Organisation (WRO), this year's World Rescue Challenge will be hosted by the Portuguese Rescue Organisation – Associação Nacional de Salvamento e Desencarceramento (ANSO) – on Terceira Island, Azores, Portugal on 5-9 November.

The WRO was established in 1999 to provide a platform for rescue and medical personnel from around the world to develop their skills and capability when responding to post-crash incidents, and it set up the 'World Rescue Challenge' concept as a result.

In a statement on the WRO website, Paul Schroeder, Chair of the World Rescue Organisation, said: "The innovative 'rescue challenge' concept is unique in terms of mobilising a wide spectrum of rescue and medical personnel with varying skill sets, to collaborate in the development of best practice, casualty centred rescue and care through the delivery of safe and efficient interventions.

"The overall aim of the international organisation is to work with partners in developing enhanced proficiency in rescue techniques, incident management and medical care, the introduction of multi-agency casualty centred approach to all post-crash incidents and the development of partnerships at national and international levels."

As a Level 1 member of the WRO, Ireland is scheduled to host the World Rescue Challenge in 2028, after first hosting the event in Cork in 2010.

For further information and updates visit [www.wrescue.org/News-Stories/](http://www.wrescue.org/News-Stories/)



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