



A FRAMEWORK FOR MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WORKING DRAFT

MULTI-AGENCY PROTOCOL (10)

MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE TO
FLOOD EMERGENCIES



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PART I INTRODUCTION TO THE PROTOCOL

This Draft protocol is prepared under the aegis of the National Steering Group (NSG) on Major Emergencies, with the assistance and co-operation of the Office of Public Works and Dublin City Council. It is prepared as part of the implementation of the Framework for Major Emergency Management¹ via the Major Emergency Development Programme 2006 – 2008. The protocol is signed by all relevant agencies below.

The Draft protocol addresses the issues involved in responding to emergency incidents where flooding has occurred. It is based on the working draft document “A Guide to Flood Emergencies” Guidance No.11, prepared by the Office of Public Works in conjunction with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG), on behalf of the NSG.

This draft protocol is intended to enable the Principal Response Agencies, An Garda Síochána (AGS), The Health Service Executive (HSE) the Local Authorities (LA), their Principal Emergency Services and Civil Defence to work together in responding effectively and safely to flood events. It is being put into circulation as a draft for consideration by all interested parties, with a view to arriving at a stage where the relevant agencies can commit to agree to use the provisions contained in the document as a best practice mechanism for flood response. The protocol is also designed to enable the PRA’s to work with and to coordinate the activities of other groups and organisations deployed to assist in successfully managing flood events, which cause significant disruption or constitute a significant risk regardless of whether there is a major emergency declaration. Such agencies will include if necessary, the Defence Forces, the Irish Coast Guard, Voluntary Emergency Services, community groups and others as required.

¹ The Framework for Major Emergency Management was devised to enable An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and Local Authorities (the Principal Response Agencies) to prepare for and make a co-ordinated response to major emergencies resulting from local and regional events such as fires, transport accidents, hazardous substances incidents and severe weather. The Framework puts in place arrangements that facilitate the three Principal Response Agencies to co-ordinate their efforts whenever a major emergency occurs.

This Protocol will help ensure that all those involved are aware of their functions and responsibilities and that the necessary emergency procedures are undertaken without delay. The Protocol should not be interpreted as restricting initiative or common sense, having regard to the nature of the particular major emergency that may arise and the possibility of continually changing circumstances that may accompany any major emergency. The Protocol has been developed as a guide to best practice and not a prescriptive formula.

For the purposes of clarity, it is important to define the context within which the term “flooding” is used for the purposes of this protocol. While it is acknowledged that from an environmental perspective sometimes there may be positive aspects to flooding, this protocol has been written with a view to mitigating loss/damage caused by significant flooding and reducing the risk of exposure to such loss/damage. It is in this context that the term ‘flood’ is used, i.e., loss/damage or disruption, the temporary covering by water of land not normally covered by water [EU-Directive 2007/60/EC]. For practical, common sense reasons flooding in the present context includes,

- Threat to safety or health of persons
- Serious Damage to property or infrastructure
- Major social or economic impact

It does not include small-scale or short-term localised events, which, although possibly causing inconvenience, pose a very low risk to persons or property.

2. AGREEMENT & UNDERTAKING

Each of the undersigned agencies agree to:

- Work with the other signatory agencies in accordance with the guidance provisions of this protocol to manage significant flood incidents;
- Ensure that its provisions will apply to the management of the response to all significant flood events, as provided for in Appendix F6² of the Framework document
- Incorporate the provisions of this protocol into their planning for Flood Emergencies, including Risk Assessment, Major Emergency Plans and The Flood Emergency Plan or other Agency Specific Plans³ as appropriate, and into other relevant national emergency plans, internal orders, code instructions, standard operating procedures, aide memoirs etc.;
- Undertake the roles specified in this protocol and, in particular, to prepare its own internal procedures, consistent with the provisions of this protocol, for undertaking the roles (both general and specific) assigned to it;
- Promulgate this protocol and its own internal procedures within the agency, and undertake appropriate training for relevant staff based on the information contained in this protocol;
- Participate in inter-agency exercises to enhance preparedness;

²Weather Forecasts and Public Service Severe Weather Warnings

³Template available in appendix 5 of this document

Signed for and on behalf of:

DEHLG Dept. of Environment Heritage & Local Government	DJELR Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform	DH&C Dept. of Health & Community	DoD Dept. of Defence	DT Dept. of Transport
CCMA City & County Managers Assoc.	AGS An Garda Siochana	HSE Health Service Executive	CDB Civil Defence Board	IRCG Irish Coastguard
			DF Defence Forces	

The Office of Public Works as the Governmental body with responsibility for assisting and advising the Local Authorities in the preparation of flood related aspects of Flood Emergency Response Plans also endorses and supports this protocol.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

- This protocol will inform and underpin the preparation for, response to and recovery from major flooding.
- The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government is involved in flood management through its work in promoting legislation on environmental protection and planning and development, funding of urban drainage under the Water Services Program and providing policy guidance and funding to local authorities.⁴ The Department’s primary concern in the context of this document is to ensure that when adverse conditions arise, local authorities, in conjunction with other agencies, are able to respond promptly and effectively with the resources at their disposal to help offset the worst effects in relation to those aspects for which they have direct responsibility.⁵
- The relevant local authority is the pre-nominated “lead agency”, in accordance with provisions of Section 5.4.2⁶ of the Framework for Major Emergency Management and 2.7.2⁷, 2.7.7, 4.6.9 and 5.3.3. of the Report of the Flood Policy Review Group, for the purpose of co-ordinating response;
- Each agency will participate fully in the inter-agency co-ordination arrangements for the response;
- Each agency will undertake the specific roles assigned to it in the later sections of this Protocol in responding to flood emergencies. These are summarised in the Table below;

⁴ Report of the Flood Policy Review Group: Office of Public Works: Section: 2.4.

⁵ Report of the Flood Policy Review Group: Office of Public Works: Section: 2.4.2

⁶ In Table 7.1 of Appendix F7, pre-nominated lead agencies for common incident types are presented, and this should be the primary basis for determining the lead agency

⁷ “Other functions of local authorities, which impact, directly or indirectly in the areas of flood prevention, flood protection or flood relief are planning; relief/protection works; sewerage works; drainage and **emergency response**”.

SUMMARY OF KEY ROLES

ROLE	LA		AGS	HSE	COAST GUARD	MET. EIREANN	PDF ⁸	MEDIA	OTHERS ⁹
	PRA	Civil Defence							
Hazard Information	X					X			
Preparation of Flood Emergency Plan	X		X	X					
Agency Specific Procedure			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Forecasting						X			
/Warning	X					X			
Informing	X		X					X	X
Flood Defence	X	X					X		
Water Rescue	X	X	X		X				
Evacuation	X	X	X	X ¹⁰	X		X		X
Responder Welfare		X							X
Rest Centre facilities	X	X		X					X
Victim Registration		X	X	X					X
Humanitarian Relief									X
De-Cont. & Clean Up	X								X

Figure 1: Agency Key Roles for Risk Managing significant flood incidents

⁸ Subject to Memorandum of Understanding on local resource capacity

⁹ The Voluntary Emergency Services, the Salvation Army and local residents groups can provide assistance during large-scale flood events.

¹⁰ Evacuation of Medical and Care facilities will be undertaken by the HSE Patient Transfer Service

PART II MANAGING FLOOD RISK

Flooding arises from a combination of human activity and natural physical conditions and is generally, although not always, accompanied by poor weather conditions. “Significant flood events can be complex, they can occur at any time day or night and last for an uncertain period of time. Responders may have to work in dangerous conditions, there may be considerable numbers of people displaced from their homes and there may be considerable business and utility interruption” (A Guide to Flood Emergencies Sect:2:3)

Major floods generally involve the deployment of a significant amount of resources and the impact of severe flooding can often transcend county boundaries. The risk assessment process will involve researching and mapping the potential for flooding in the local authority and/ or major emergency management (MEM) regional area as outlined in the Framework (Guidance No. 1: A Guide to Risk Assessment: P:7)

The Flood Emergency Plan-working group¹¹ should consult with the OPW and other bodies to identify existing and predicted flood risks. If information is not available the working group should assess their flood risk following OPW standards (liaise with OPW).

Historical flood hazard maps and reports are available on the Office of Public Works website www.floodmaps.ie and hydrological information for the area is available from local authority water and drainage engineers. The maps can be utilized by rescue services, particularly in urban areas, to identify, vulnerable streets, critical infrastructure at risk, priority defence locations and can be an aid to resource deployment and traffic management during inundation.

Where the Local or Regional risk assessment process identifies a significant flood threat, the Local Authority as lead agency for severe weather emergencies will establish a Flood

¹¹ See section 3.4

Emergency Plan Working Group (Guidance No.11: Section 3.5.2) who will lead the development of the Flood Emergency Plan. Inter-agency collaboration and the successful coordination of considerable resource deployment within and across county boundaries may be critical success factors in flood response and recovery.

2.1 Prevention Measures

The Office of Public Works is the lead agency in the implementation of flood relief works and where appropriate they are supported in this work by the local authority engineering services. Permanent flood defences involve structural solutions such as walls, weirs, dams and locks and non-structural works such as the establishment of wetlands and flood attenuation areas. Ongoing maintenance of structural flood defences and the identification of weak points in the defences is an essential task in preventing and controlling the impact of a flood event.

Temporary defences such as sandbags and demountable barriers can be deployed to known failure points and to flood pathways such as doorways and the entrances to basements and underground car parks. To be effective such temporary solutions must be deployed in advance of the floodwaters. Protection against floods is a shared responsibility between agencies and householders and reference should be made to OPW publications giving advice to householders on how best to provide protection to individual properties.

Planning and development measures have been recognised as an important element of the Governments strategic risk-based approach to flood-risk management. Stakeholders involved in drawing up development and local area plans can now avail of guidelines issued by the DEHLG and entitled “Flood risk management in planning and development management”

2.2 Severe Weather Forecasting

In general it is possible to have a degree of forewarning where some flood events are concerned. However while the forecasting tools available may enable an assessment of

the likelihood of an occurrence to be made, it is not always possible with any degree of certainty to predict the scale or impact of a significant flood event in advance. Many rivers can go from normal to extreme flows in a few hours and this falls outside the scope of current technology to provide advance warning. In the absence of a dedicated flood warning system in many areas of the country response agencies and the public are dependent on the severe weather forecasting system provided by the Irish National Meteorological Service (Met Eireann) as the primary tool in assessing the potential for flooding.

The Met Eireann forecasting arrangements entail a single system known as Public Service Severe Weather Warning and cover the meteorological conditions/elements – wind, rain, snow, fog, thunderstorm and coastal storm surge. The emphasis is on warning of weather events that will cause **significant disruption** or **constitute a significant risk for people**. Met Éireann issue a severe weather warning to local authorities where conditions are forecast as per the criteria set out in figure 2.below, the full table is available in the framework appendices.¹²

WEATHER ELEMENT	CRITERIA FOR SEVERE WEATHER WARNINGS
(1) Wind	Gusts expected of 110km/hr (70mph), or greater (rounded to the nearest 5mph or km/hr) - An isolated gust meeting the criteria would not normally warrant a warning
(2) Rain	50mm or greater rainfall expected in any 24 hour period or 40mm or greater rainfall in any 12 hour period or 30mm or greater rainfall in any 6 hour period
(7) Coastal Storm Surge	When significant resulting flooding is expected

Figure 2: Public Service Severe Weather Warning Table

The following points should be noted when availing of the forecasting services of the Meteorological Service:

- The Warnings will only be issued when there is **greater than a 50%** chance of the criteria outlined above being fulfilled.

¹² Framework Appendix F6: Page 28: Table 6.2.

- The appropriate terms are: **Probable:** 50-70% **Likely:** 70-90% **Very Likely:** > 90%
- The following terms of lower probability will be used in the message only to indicate more severe conditions than specified in the basic criteria. **Risk:** < 20% **Possible:** 20-50%
- The target time for the issuing of a warning is **24 hours** before the start of the event, but a warning may be issued up to **48 hours** in advance when confidence is high.
- On Fridays and on the last ‘normal’ working day before a holiday period a preliminary warning or weather watch may be issued to Local Authorities.

The Public Service Severe Weather forecasts provides a general indication of risk of flooding. Additional data and specialist modelling systems may be available to support specific warnings for particular locations. Information on warning systems is available in section 3.6.1 of the guide to flood emergencies.

2.3 Monitoring & Assessment of Flood Conditions

Where a local authority has identified significant flooding as a hazard during the risk assessment process they should undertake to develop an expertise in assessment and monitoring of flood behavior. The establishment of a flood forecast/assessment team within the local Authority as outlined in “a Guidance No.11” section.3.6.2, will ensure specialist advice is available at all levels of flood response. This team will maintain contact with Met Éireann, as listed in figure 2 below, and act as liaison between the weather services, and the flood emergency management levels as provided for in the guidance and illustrated in appendix 3¹³ of this document.

¹³ Recommended Organisational Structure for Flood Response

<i>MET EIREANN</i>	DUTY FORECASTER	<u>01-8064255</u>	<i>GENERAL FORECASTING DIVISION</i>
	CENTRAL ANALYSIS & FORECAST OFFICE		<i>MET EIREANN GLASNEVIN HILL DUBLIN 9 E-MAIL –FORECASTS@MET.IE</i>
	(24 HR SERVICE) FAX	01-8064217	
		01-8064275	

Figure 3: Weather forecast contact numbers

When severe weather conditions are forecast, any assessment of the potential for flooding should take into account the presence of any of the following:

- Frozen ground or saturated ground conditions arising from rainfall or melted snow in the preceding period,
- The topography of the coastline and areas close to the river
- Wind factors
- Issues such as any pre-existing weakness in defence systems
- Obstacles in the river
- Existing river levels

PART III FLOOD RESPONSE

This chapter outlines the organisational structure and roles and responsibilities of the responding agencies.

3.1. Response Objective

The objectives of the response agencies during a major flood incident are to:

- Minimize the impact of the water inundation on affected communities
- Rescue any persons threatened.
- Minimize the environmental impacts
- Ensure as far as possible the safety and health of all responders
- Speed recovery and return to normality for affected communities
- Maintain routine services to the wider community

3.2. The Lead Agency Role & Response Coordination

Where the flood event requires the mobilisation of agencies external to local authority resources the Framework (appendix 7 -Table 7.1) provides that normally the local authority is the lead agency for the coordination of the response to severe weather emergencies, including flooding. The recommended inter-agency organisational structure as set out in the Framework and applicable to flood response consists of an on-site coordination centre (OSCC) and an off site coordination centre (LCC) an illustration of this structure is found in appendix 3 of this document.

3.2.1 Acting as Chair of the off-site Local Coordination Group

Depending on the warning/alert level, or the actual situation, the chair of the local authority team managing the flood event (Crisis Management Team) will activate the inter-agency local co-ordination group (LCG) convened off-site at the local coordination centre (LCC). The local authority as pre-determined lead agency will chair the local co-ordination group (LCG) and exercise the mandates associated with this position.¹⁴

The LCG normally comprises representatives of the other two principal response agencies, an Information Management Officer, a Media Liaison Officer, Action Management Officer and administrative support. In the case of flood emergencies the appropriate representatives of other agencies such as PDF, RDF, IRCG, VES, and Utilities who are involved in responding to the event, may be invited to attend as appropriate. Under the direction of the Chair the local coordination group will undertake the actions as outlined in the framework appendix F.8. The following actions are specific to a major flood incident and are the responsibility of the LCG.

- Anticipate short and long term flood impacts in association with the LA flood assessment team
- Determine resource requirements, and if required, request mutual aid from neighbouring PRA (s): (Section 5.6. Framework document)
- Initiate, contribute to and operate a flood response information management system.
- Establish communication with the on site coordination centre(s)

¹⁴ Appendix F8: of the Framework: Decision making mandates.

- Ensure contact is established with Met Eireann and distribute weather information and forecasts to the on site co-ordination group
- As soon as established, initiate media management of the event, provide information for the media and the public as required.
- Provide for resources for the evacuation of persons at risk and the provision of temporary rest centres as required
- Provide for the procurement of emergency equipment and supplies
- Brief Government Departments/Agencies and Elected Members and management representatives as requested
- Request assistance from the Defence Forces and/or the Irish Coast Guard if required
- Monitor the supply and quality of drinking water distribution to affected areas
- Arrange for the escalation of the response management across boundaries by activating a Regional Coordination Group (RCG), if necessary.

3.2.2. Acting as On-Site Coordinator

As pre-determined lead agency the LA On Site Controller of Operations (OSCO) at the flood location (s) will undertake the role of On-Site Coordinator (OSC) and will with the Garda and HSE Controllers, coordinate all response & recovery actions.¹⁵. This will involve identifying and activating the on-site coordination centre (or centres, if appropriate) and undertaking the on-site coordination functions as outlined in the decision making mandates contained in appendix F8: of the framework. In addition to the roles and responsibilities laid down therein the On Site Coordinator will address the following issues specific to significant flood incidents:

- Division of the water-inundated areas into response sectors as determined by the extent of the flooded area, and if necessary appoint Sector/ Function Coordinators

¹⁵ Section 5.4. Framework Appendix

- If required, the establishment of an on-site coordination post close to each response sector as determined by the extent of the flooding.
- After consultation with An Garda Síochána deal with information for the safety of the public and/ or protective action (such as evacuation or remain -in-place).
- Establishment of an overall On Site Coordination centre to maintain a control of activities in all on site sectors
- Determine, at an early stage, the resources to be deployed in each sector.
- Ensure that inclusive decisions are made in relation to the flood emergency management arrangements, information to the public locally (including safety information), and notifying all responding agencies of the existence of specific danger areas etc
- In association with the local authority Crisis Management Team determine if the circumstances exist for the declaration of a Major Emergency as defined in the Framework
- Map the extent of the areas expected to be inundated by water.
- Wear the appropriate identification bib as per framework appendix F12.
- Enable An Garda Síochána to establish evacuation access routes and assembly areas for rest centre transportation
- Ensure secure communications with all agencies involved/responding to emergency.
- Ensure that each agency takes appropriate measures to ensure the health, safety and welfare of their personnel operating in flood conditions.

While acting as On Site Coordinator the local authority representative will arrange for/exercise control of the local authority part of the response to the incident.

3.3. Organisational Roles & Responsibilities

A major flood incident will require resource input from each of the principal response agencies. Other agencies/organisations who may be requested to act in support include; the Irish Coast Guard (IRCG), voluntary emergency services, welfare agencies, Defence

Forces, private contractors and casual volunteers. The functions of the principal agencies involved are set out below and a recommended response structure to flood events is contained in appendix 3 of this document.

3.3.1. Outline Responsibilities of Local Authority Services

The local authority as lead agency for major flood incidents, have a number of functions to perform in responding to flood events. The responsibilities allocated by department/service are as follows:

3.3.1.1 Engineering Services

Have responsibility for the provision of resources and personnel for flood action designed to reduce, avoid or mitigate the impact of a flood incident. They will discharge this responsibility by undertaking the following functions:

Flood forecasting and assessment activities

- Provide a service to assess the flood behaviour, before, during and after the event and monitor the information provided on the tides during extreme weather
- Monitor and analyse data received from flood prediction sources
- Monitor Met Eireann weather forecast and reports received from other sources on current weather conditions
- Monitor tidal, estuarine and river levels during the event
- Provide timely information on at risk locations

Response activities

- Deploy work gangs and equipment to maintain drainage systems
- Increase output at pumping stations to assist with storm water drainage

- Deploy work gangs and plant to flood risk areas to undertake flood alleviation works
- Evaluate resources and equipment required to contain the incident
- Identify methods of draining affected properties and areas
- Establish shift system & staff welfare facilities
- Provide advice and direction on drainage issues to the On Site Coordinator
- Provide information on the incident to Crisis Management Team and/or the Local Coordination Group
- Arrange for the distribution of flood defence equipment to priority defence locations
- Deploy resources & equipment to assist householders & business to drain flood waters from their premises
- Inform Environmental Health Officers of any Public Health issues which may arise
- Liaise with other responding agencies at operational level
- Provide advice to the public on measures to be taken to alleviate the flood impact
- Formulate public information requirements
- Alleviate the impact on critical infrastructure e.g. affecting water or sewerage treatment facilities and/or other utilities
- Assist with the installation of temporary flood defences for the protection of property
- Arrange for the deployment of temporary defence solutions where required.
- Arrange for the provision of heavy goods vehicle Drivers, for relief duties
- Arrange for the provision of flood hazard maps to assist in the designation of operational sectors by the on site coordinator

3.3.1.2 Fire & Rescue Service

The senior fire officer at the scene commands all fire brigade resources, and undertakes functions as assigned by the local authority Controller of Ops/ Onsite Coordinator. The

normal Fire Services role at a flood incident involves the rescue of persons at risk and protection of property. The following functions may fall within their remit at flooding.

- Identify with the assistance of engineering services operational sectors in flood affected areas to plan for the most efficient deployment of resources
- Monitor the situation/ establish the location of persons at risk
- Rescue persons at risk where and when equipped to do so, or task others with appropriate equipment
- Identify and protect critical facilities from the adverse effects of flooding, where possible
- Extinguish any fires
- Assist with the installation of temporary flood defences for the protection of property
- Arrange or assist evacuation of trapped persons from the flood affected areas
- Support the engineering services in the alleviation of flooding in low lying properties
- Where so tasked by the LA Controller of Operations, Coordinate the support of the Civil Defence, Irish Coast Guard and others involved in the rescue and evacuation of persons and animals from specific sectors.

The above services will not commit all of their resources to the flood incident, but will maintain a level of service to the public who are not affected by the flood event.

3.3.1.3 Civil Defence

The Civil Defence service of the local authority can provide a range of services, trained personnel and specialist equipment in accordance with pre-arranged requirements to support the local authority response to flooding. Civil Defence representation on the flood

emergency plan working group will determine the extent of the organizations role in supporting the local authority full-time services. Volunteers operating in designated danger areas while remaining under the command of the Civil Defence Officer will be deployed under the control and direction of the local authority Controller of Operations. The following functions may be undertaken in support of the local authority services by the organization:

- Provide water rescue and pumping resources under the Coordination of the Fire Service or other section/ function coordinators, as appropriate.
- Assist in evacuation, including arranging for the transport of displaced persons to temporary rest centres
- Establishment and management of assembly areas for responding agencies.
- Provision of short term catering and welfare services to members of the public accommodated in temporary rest centres
- Provision of catering services to response personnel
- Registration of casual volunteers assisting at the incident
- Provide support to the housing section in the provision of rest centre equipment
- Provide support to engineering services in the erection of demountable structures
- Provide support to the Coroners office as required, under the direction of AGS
- Provide administrative support as required
- Provide first aid personnel and patient transport under the direction of the HSE

3.3.1.4 Housing services

The Housing Services will activate the establishment of temporary rest centres for evacuees. They will liaise with the Health Service Executive on the welfare of displaced persons and ensure the registration of persons who avail of temporary housing arrangements. In addition they will:

- Arrange for the activation of suitable facilities for temporary rest centres
- Arrange for the provision of staff for the rest centres in consultation with the Civil Defence Officer

- Assist with the distribution of humanitarian assistance to flood affected communities
- Liaise with the Civil Defence Officer on rest facilities for responders
- Liaise with the Civil Defence Officer on the management of casual volunteers
- Arrange for the welfare of displaced persons with the Civil Defence Officer and others
- Arrange for the set up and maintenance of short-term rest centres for evacuees in association with the Civil Defence Officer

Guidance on evacuation and the establishment of temporary rest centre facilities is available in “a guide to evacuation”¹⁶

3.3.1.5 Additional Local Authority Support

The functions of other local authority services with responsibilities during the pre-planning and response and recovery phases of a flood event are set out in table 1 below.

DEPARTMENT	FUNCTION
Roads & Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support AGS in traffic planning
Corporate Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Press Facilities to the local authority team managing the Flood Event • Facilitate arrangements for VIP visits where required
Law Agent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise the LA Team managing the Flood Event on legal matters as they may arise
Finance Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make advance arrangements for the emergency procurement of supplies • Arrange for the funding of response and recording for recoupment • Provide expertise in claims management • Provide administrative support to the Coroners office¹⁷
Environmental Health Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide specialist advice and assistance to the LA Team managing the Flood Event and to householders in flooded areas of the Public Health impact of the flooding.

¹⁶ A Guide to Managing Evacuation: April 2007

¹⁷ Section 5.7.2. Of the Framework Document: Fatalities: sets out the role of the Coroner

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with HSE Public Health Service
Veterinary Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide specialist advice and assistance to the LA Team managing the flood incident and to farm households in flooded areas for the recovery of trapped animals and the disposal of animal carcasses

Table 1: Additional local authority functions

3.3.2. Outline Responsibilities of Other Agencies (including PRAs)

Dependent on the scale and impact of a flood emergency An Garda Síochána (AGS) and the Health Service Executive (HSE) will be required to undertake their major emergency functions as laid down in the framework document, those specific to flood events are set out below:

3.3.2.1 An Garda Síochána (AGS)

An Garda Síochána have responsibility for the maintenance of law and order, the management of traffic, evacuation and the execution of those functions as allocated in the Flood Emergency Plan

The responsibilities of On Site Controller of Operations for the Garda Síochána during a major flood incident include:

- Maintenance of public order
- Coordinate arrangements for the evacuation of persons from the affected areas
- Issue of public warnings during the response phase
- Management of traffic access and egress from affected areas
- The diversion of traffic as required when roads are blocked
- Maintenance of emergency transportation routes
- Provision of alternative traffic management arrangements
- Provision of a Casualty Bureau
- Documentation of displaced persons
- Provision of assistance to the Coroners office

- Provision of security for visiting dignitaries
- Facilitating requests for assistance from the Defence Forces and/or the Irish Coast Guard Service
- Provision of air support to undertake aerial reconnaissance of the flood affected areas.

3.3.2.2 Health Service Executive (HSE)

The HSE have responsibility for the Ambulance Service, Public Health, Community Welfare and the Hospital Services. The HSE has responsibility for the health needs of persons who are deemed to be vulnerable; these have been identified as:

- a. Children in schools, nurseries and child care centres
- b. Persons whose movement is inhibited by reason of age, illness (including mental illness), or disability or who are deaf, blind, visually impaired or hearing impaired
- c. Persons in community hospitals, residential homes or day care centres

The responsibilities of the On Site Controller of Operations for the HSE during a major flood incident include:

- Provision of First Aid & Medical Facilities to affected persons and responders
- Coordinating arrangements for the evacuation of vulnerable persons from the affected areas
- Issue of public health warning/ advisory notices
- Community welfare arrangements, in association with the Local Authority Area Management Community Officer
- Provision of community welfare and social service assistance at temporary rest centres
- Provision of Psychosocial support to affected persons or where requested
- Where required arranging for the transfer of patients from hospitals and care homes in at risk locations to alternative accommodation
- Arranging for the provision of medical care to:
 - The injured
 - Persons with predisposing medical conditions

