



A FRAMEWORK FOR MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WORKING DRAFT

MULTI-AGENCY PROTOCOL (1)

MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE TO RADIO-
LOGICAL / NUCLEAR EMERGENCIES



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PART I

1 INTRODUCTION TO PROTOCOL

This protocol is prepared under the aegis of the National Steering Group on Major Emergencies, with the assistance and co-operation of the Nuclear Safety Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII). It is prepared as part of the implementation of the Framework for Major Emergency Management¹ via the Major Emergency Development Programme 2006 – 2008. It is intended that the draft protocol will be formally approved by all relevant agencies below when the consultation process is complete.

This protocol is prepared to enable the Principal Response Agencies (the Garda Síochána, The Health Service Executive and the Local Authorities) and their Principal Emergency Services to work together and to respond effectively and safely to, and to assist them in working, if necessary, with the RPII and others to successfully manage emergencies that may have a radiological/nuclear dimension.

The protocol is based on best available scientific knowledge from international sources, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), World Health Organisation (WHO), and the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). In particular, it relies on the advice given in the IAEA's "Manual for First Responders to a Radiological Emergency" (Oct 2006).

The Framework for Major Emergency Management makes provision for linking the local and regional level co-ordination arrangements of the principal response agencies with those of specific, national-led emergencies. Section 5 of this protocol provides

¹ The Framework for Major Emergency Management was devised to enable the 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.

