



Kilkenny County Council
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

Kilkenny

KILKENNY

Severe Weather & Flood Emergency
Response Plans
Council Meeting 20th December, 2021



where medieval meets modern

Major Emergency Planning

Framework for Major Emergency Management (2006)

- Underpins major emergency preparedness for Local Authorities (LA's) and other statutory response agencies
- Since 2008 Major Emergency Plans (MEP's) introduced in LA's, HSE and Gardai
- MEP will identify roles and responsibilities for the Authority and plans of action
- It also details the Lead Response Agency and how principal agencies will work together during emergencies
- Climate Change is having an impact on severity of weather events
- Along with the MEP, LA's prepare
 - Severe Weather Response Plan (Excl Flooding), and,
 - Flood Emergency Response Plan

Storm Darwin

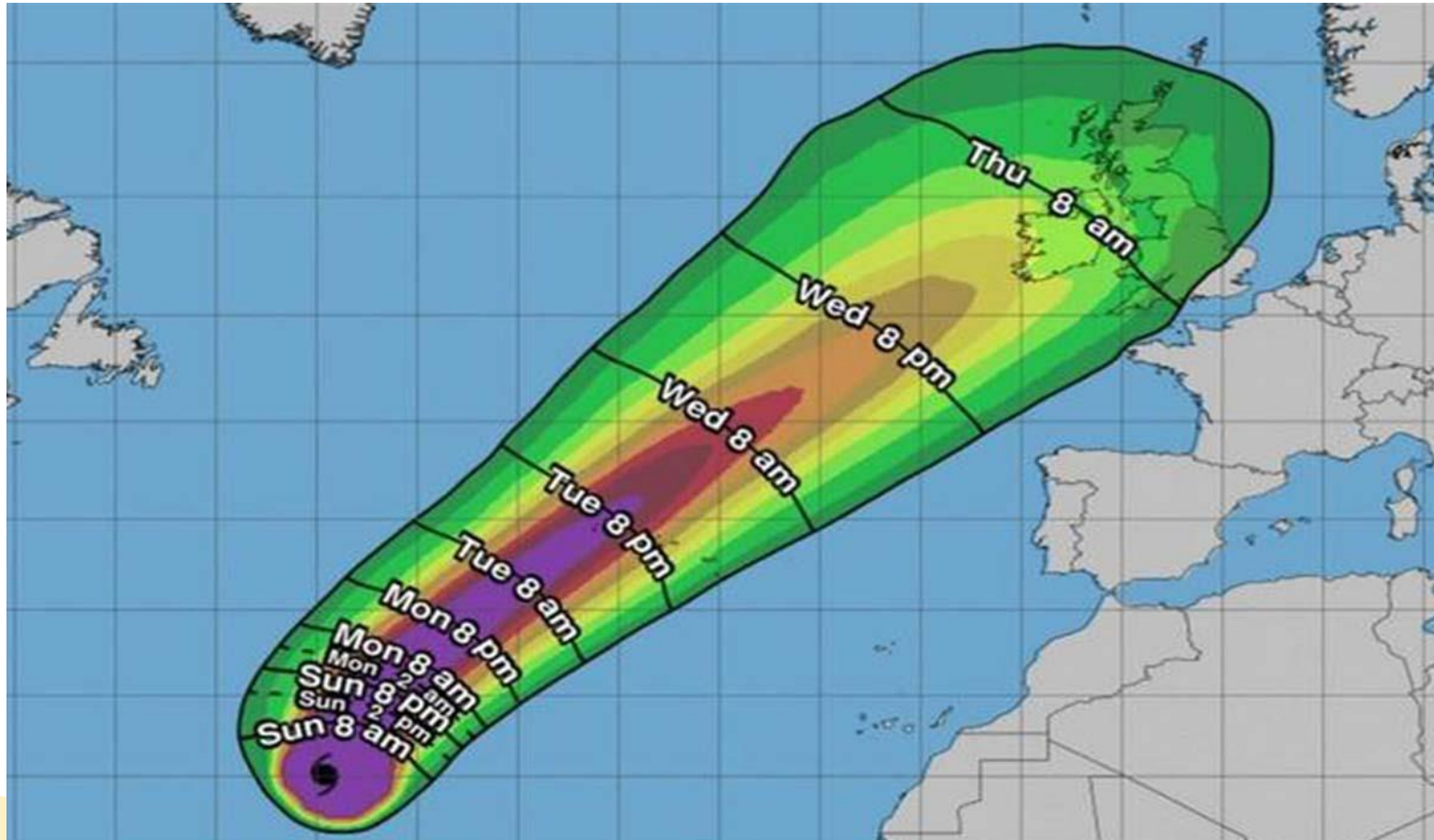


- February 2014 – Nowlan Park Roof

Severe Weather Response Plan (Excl Flooding)

- The Severe Weather Response Plan is prepared in accordance with National Guidance the latest being “A Guide to Severe Weather Emergencies 2020”
- Types of Severe Weather now expanded
 - Frost/Ice
 - Fog
 - Heavy Snow/Blizzard
 - Severe Winds
 - **Thunderstorms**
 - **Prolonged Heatwaves (Drought)**

STORM LORENZO – October 2019



STORM EMMA – February/March 2018



Types of Warnings / Forecasts	Level of Alert	Severe Weather Description	Impact Assessment by the Local Authority	Local Authority Actions	Inter-Agency Activity
Public Service Severe Weather Warning from Met Éireann	Alert Level 1 "Code Green"	All Clear	No severe weather alert in place	Routine monitoring / assessment	None
	Alert Level 2 – "Code Yellow"	Severe Weather Event	Event is a routine Severe Weather Event requiring alert by relevant operational sections	Respond to event as per standard procedures; keep situation under review.	Local Authority Response only. Inter-Agency arrangements not usually activated.
General Met Éireann Weather Forecast or Alert	Alert Level 3 "Code Orange"	Exceptional Severe Weather Event	Event will <u>probably</u> cause damage to property / infrastructure or significant disruption to the community or significant disruption to the delivery of normal PRA services.	<u>Convene CMT; if required.</u> Notify alert to relevant sections of County Council; inform other PRA's and DoHPCLG where appropriate	PRA's in contact as necessary to deal with incident
Information from the Ice Cast Road Weather Information System	Alert Level 4 – "Code Red"	Major Emergency	Event will <u>almost certainly</u> exceed the response capability of the Emergency Services and satisfies the definition of a Major Emergency	<u>Declare a Major Emergency if required;</u> Follow MEP notification procedures	<u>Convene Local Co-ordination Group</u> or maintain contact as required.

Warnings issued to the public

- Severe Weather alerts are issued to the public by Met Éireann through national and/or local broadcast media.
- In the event of an exceptional severe weather event (Alert Level 3) or possible major emergency (Alert Level 4), Kilkenny County Council will provide additional warnings and local information to the public by such means as Website information www.Kilkennycoco.ie, Twitter, Local radio, Newspapers, National Radio/ TV
- The previous table is based on guidance contained in “A Framework for Major Emergency Management - A Guide to Severe Weather Emergencies”. The colour-coding is consistent with the approach adopted by Kilkenny County Council in the preparation of Kilkenny County Council’s Flood Emergency Response Plan

Response Stages

- Pre-Emergency
 - Consultation with internal Severe Weather Alert Team (SWAT)
 - Decide on course of action
 - Internal communication
 - Public information appropriate to warning
 - Protection of property and routes
 - Response to emergencies
- Warnings and Alerts Triggers –
 - Met Eireann Weather Warning,
 - Ice cast,
 - NDFEM,
 - OPW - EFAS,
 - Local knowledge

STORM OPHELIA – October, 2017



Response Stages (continued)

- Response
 - SWAT team decide on response and possible escalation
 - Staff on call or standby
 - Information to public and media
 - Staff in depot / on-call
- Recovery
 - Clean up
 - Support network providers
 - Restoration of normal services
 - Detail damage and cost
 - Rebuild
 - Respond to community need

STORM OPHELIA – October, 2017



Community and other Assistance

- Regional Co-ordination as necessary
- Civil Defence
 - Medical
 - Crowd control
 - Transport
 - Flooding
- Co-operation with IFA
 - Extended periods of severe weather
 - Grit at specified locations
- Provision of gritting material to schools and communities

STORM EMMA – February/March 2018



Flood Emergency Response Plan

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Local Authority – Monitoring and response activities
- Role of Local Authority Departments
 - Roads and MD's
 - Fire Services
 - Housing
 - Civil Defence
 - Communications
- Crisis Management Team
- Other Agencies
 - An Garda Siochana
 - HSE
 - Defence Forces

Flooding 2015 / 2016



TÁNAISTE JOAN BURTON joined fellow party colleague Ann Phelan in Kilkenny to meet victims of the 2015 / 2016 floods

Flood Stages and Actions

- No Threat
- Minor Flooding
 - routine response as necessary by LA, Fire Service and Gardai
- Serious Flooding (orange) –
 - sand bags,
 - prepare for evacuation,
 - temporary accommodation,
 - rescue,
 - traffic control, etc.
 - Standby HSE and Defence Forces

Flood Stages and Actions (continued)

- Major Flooding (red) – imminent danger to life and property
 - Consider declaring Major Emergency
 - Convene Crisis Management Team
 - Notify response agencies and have all on standby
 - Continue with all actions as detailed in Serious Flooding

Met Eireann OPW and Local Knowledge

- Met Eireann
 - Critical role in flood and other severe weather monitoring
 - Coded weather warnings
 - Flood Forecasts
 - **New Daily Flood Forecasting Guidelines – add to local knowledge of river levels etc.**
 - **WIRE Application, Weather Impact Register and map any flooding issues and their resolution to assist in managing flooding issues**
- OPW
 - EFAS
 - Waterlevels.ie
- Local knowledge GSS, Technical staff etc.
- Flood Defences - CFRAMS

Out of Hours Emergency

- Out of Hours Emergency available in cases of threat to life
- Call Centre take call and assess severity
- Phone number 0818-399399
- Forward to relevant Roads, Water or Housing contact who assess call
- Assessment can be:
 - Not for LA
 - For LA but can be dealt with next day
 - Emergency deal with incident / issue
- Emergency – escalate to mobilise additional crews
- In times of severe weather incidents assessed by SWAT and co-ordinated by Crisis Management Team

QUESTIONS?