



Chief Fire Officers' Association  
Annual Conference  
Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.  
May 7<sup>th</sup> 2009.

# Change to Survive Presentation - 'I did it my Way'

The wider role of the Fire &  
Rescue Services.



# Presentation

**Presentation Title:** 'I did it my Way'.



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MIITD.

**Position:** Technical Director.

**Company:** Phoenix Safety Services Cork & Dublin.





# Legislative Requirements

- The Service and its management must provide a Safe Place of Work in so far as is reasonable practicable.
- Duty of Care:
  - Safe Place
  - Safe System
  - Safe Plant & Equipment.
  - Safe Staff





# Existing Structure

- Governing body - Fire Services Council.
- 37 Fire Authorities
- 3 Airport Fire Services
- How much variation in their existing Systems of Work?





# Existing Structure

- 1981 Fire Services Act (28 years old).
- Reaction to Major Fire Emergency - Stardust Fire.
- What is the next catalyst to move us to the next standard?
- **No National Standard.**

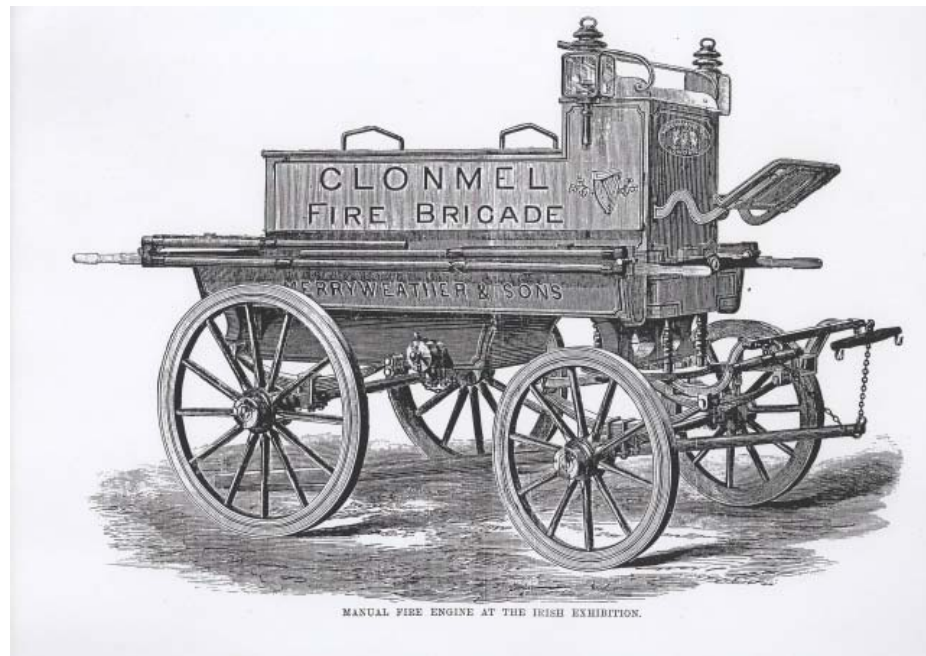






# Difficulties with regard to Health & Safety

- Tradition & Culture.
- The way we always did it.
- Good safety record.
- We put ourselves on the line to save Joe Public.
- We do it our way.





# Fire Services Ancillary Safety Statement Template

- Section 4 - Designated Senior Officer responsibility for development, implementation and monitoring of Health & Safety Management Programme.
- Under Section 8 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 all Management have a responsibility for Health and Safety within their role, position and authority.
- Should he be a Safety Co-ordinator?





# Fire Services Competency

## New Recruit:

- 2 week recruits course.
- 2 week BA Course.
- Probationary Period (6 months, 12 months)?
- Refresher training (Drills) (80 hours, 60 hours, 40 hours)?
- Evaluation, Assessment, Sign off to competency standard?







# Fire Services Competency

## Sub SO:

- Level / Module 1 Course.
- 3 years experience as fire fighter.
- BA Trained.

## SO:

- Level / Module 2 Course.
- 5 years experience as fire fighter
- 2 years as SSO.
- BA Trained.





# Fire Services Competency

- ACFO *Senior Officers*
- SACFO *Management*
- Standard for Competency?
- Experience at fires or RTA to advise the SO acting as OIC.
- Not on the scene but on call, relies on good communication.





# Personal Protective Equipment

- Last Resort.
- Basic Standard
- 1 or 2 Set of Gear
- How many washes
- PPE V Hazard.





# Facilities Provided

- Washing facilities
- Drying facilities
- Muster Station





# Call out Full time or Retained

- Clarification of the minimum numbers:
- Training course completed with a crew of 6.
  - One Officer
  - One Driver/Pumpman
  - 4 fire fighters BA Trained.
- What is your standard? 4, 5, 6.







# Call out & Driving to the Scene

- 5 minute to fire station (Retained).
- 8-10 minute to exit the station.
- 15 to 30 minute to Incident depending on location.
- RTA golden hour.
- Seat belts.
- Don BA?
- Speeding or Red lights.





# OiC on Scene

- Management Responsibility.
- Dynamic Risk Assessments.
- Support from Senior Officer on call.
- Reduced numbers V public pressure to react.





# Dynamic Risk Assessment

- How much training is required to ensure competency?
- Where is the cut off point where you request the assistance of a Senior Officer.
- If it completed without a checklist or aide-memoir how do you defend your actions in Court two or three years later?





# Working Hours for Retained Staff.

- Working time Act 97,98,01,04 & 05.
- 48 hour maximum in any week.
- Calculate over 6 months and off set against shorter hours.
- Who is managing the time?
- Some retained staff working both jobs for the Local Authority.





# Systems of Work

- Fire step in National Standards.
- Standard Operating Guidelines. (SOG)
- SOP V SOG.
- Use in refresher training (Drill nights)

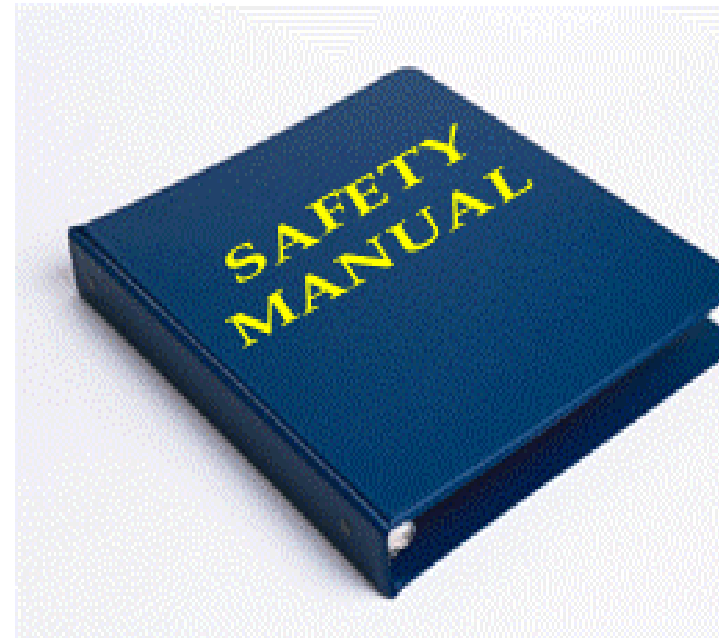






# Statutory Requirements

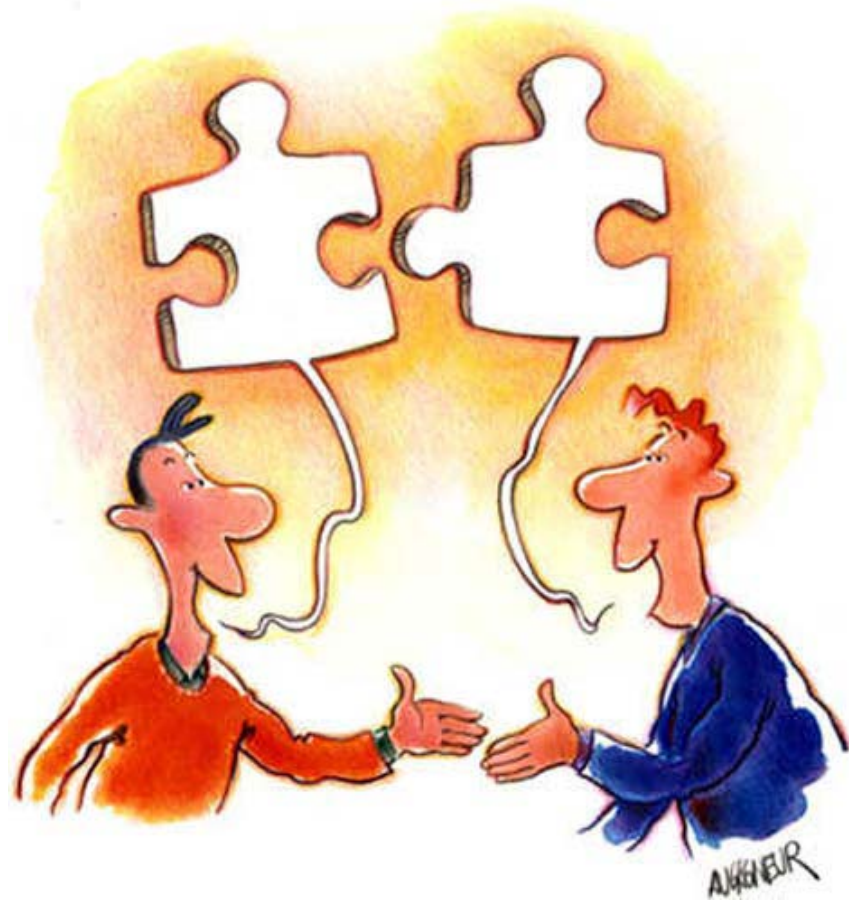
- Safety Statement.
- Hazard Identification & Risk Assessments In-house and on scene.
- Control of Contractors.
- Reporting & Investigating of Accidents.
- Emergency Evacuation Procedures.





# Communications

- Fire Services and the Public. Perception and public image.
- Fire Service and Industry. Lack of knowledge.
- Fire Service & Local Authority Planning Department.





# Consequences of Poor Safety

Liability of Directors, Managers, Officers of undertaking -

- Where an offence under any of the relevant statutory provisions has been committed by an undertaking and the doing of the acts that constituted the offence has been authorised, or consented to by, or is attributable to connivance or neglect on the part of, a person, being a director, manager or other similar officer of the undertaking, or a person who purports to act in any such capacity, that person as well as the undertaking shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished as if he or she were guilty of the first-mentioned offence.



# Consequences of Poor Safety

- Where a person is proceeded against for such an offence and it is proved that, at the material time, he or she was a director of the undertaking concerned, or a person employed by it whose duties included making decisions that, to a significant extent, could have affected the management of the undertaking, or a person who purported to act in any such capacity, it shall be presumed, until the contrary is proven, that the doing of the acts by the undertaking which constituted the commission by it of the offence concerned under any of the relevant statutory provisions was authorised, consented to or attributable to connivance or neglect on the part of that person.



# Managers responsibilities

- Under the 2005 Act responsibility for safety and health is placed directly on those in charge in the workplace. In other words, Managers who control the work being done must take on this responsibility.
- Regardless of the size of the undertaking, it is important that Managers and officers are fully informed of the relevant safety and health matters and requirements that apply to them. They must understand their role in governing safety and health, which is part of their responsibilities for good corporate governance in running any business. This is applicable to all Managers including SO & SSO.



A large, intense fire with bright orange and yellow flames fills the background. In the foreground, there is a dark, reflective surface, possibly water, with several horizontal white lines or pipes. The overall scene is dramatic and high-contrast.

Presentation Completion

Thank you for this Opportunity

Paul Tierney  
Phoenix Safety Cork.  
May '2009.