



Isle of Man
Government

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Department of Home Affairs

Rheyyn Cooishyn Sthie

CIVIL DEFENCE:

End of Year Report

This report outlines the successes the Department has experienced and potential challenges it may face in the future.

Oct 2022 – Sept 2023



In 2023, Civil Defence experienced a year of high-profile callouts whilst continuing to support the Island and emergency services.

Awards

Commandant Norman McBride received a Lieutenant Governor's Award in recognition of his service to Civil Defence, qualifying for the second bar to his Long Service Medal after 39 years' service. Two other additional members have also recently qualified for their Long Service Medal for 15 years of service which will be presented this year.

Training

The National Navigation Awards Scheme training has been completed meaning that all team members are now trained to at least bronze level, with a majority further trained at silver level. England and Wales Mountain Rescue brought three trainers over to the Island to hold a Search Planning and Management Course, resulting in 12 members of the Civil Defence now being trained to plan, direct and identify possible search areas, working closely with the Police Search Adviser.

First Aid requalification training has been completed by 50% of the volunteers and volunteers are currently completing refresher training for inland pollution response.. The Emergency Planning Officer (EPO) has carried out Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) refresher training and the Corps continue to train using JESIP as well as an in-house training programme for other skills.

 **3,498 - Hours of Training Completed**

Visits



For the first time in history, two Isle of Man Civil Defence volunteers, Commandant Norman McBride and Team Leader Les Cannan, attended the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday in November 2022 and paraded with the Civil Defence Association.

Figure 1. Commandant Norman McBride and Team Leader Les Cannan.

Events

The Civil Defence team supported the Manx Mountain Marathon over Easter, providing first aid, hill search and rescue and communications throughout the event. The department manned various checkpoints along the course, ready to respond to any injuries or lost runners.

The Parish Walk is one of the longest supported events for the team with volunteers on the ground for around 16 hours. First aid and communications are provided to the event, with volunteers diligently escorting the walkers to ensure their safety whilst walking on the roads alone or in the darkness.



Figure 2. Image taken at the House of Manannan at a training event with Manx National Heritage.

The End-2-End walk was also supported by the Department this year, with teams on the road from start to finish with first aid being provided at an incident to a walker.



These events provide excellent implementation and training opportunities for communications, control, first aid and hill search and rescue. Throughout the year, Civil Defence members have also paraded at Tynwald, Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Service and St Barbara's Day parades.



375.5 - Hours Volunteering on Events

Equipment

Civil Defence are currently working in collaboration with the Department of Infrastructure to



arrange a replacement programme for essential equipment. This is taking place in order to achieve the highest and safest level of performance, whilst making it easier to deploy and becoming more in line with the current climate change policy. Development of the current IT systems will improve processes and a new design hill kit will be issued in 2024/25 for volunteers.

Callouts

Throughout the year, Civil Defence volunteers have dedicated their time and efforts to protecting the public by supporting the emergency services with high-risk missing person searches in harsh weather conditions, transporting critical medical staff to Nobles and carers to patients in the community during heavy snowfall, and responding to a fatal accident during the Southern 100, by deploying equipment to the incident. They also responded to an aircraft crash, flooding calls, and supplied personnel, transport and supplies to other incidents.



1,446 - Hours Committed to Call Outs

CONCLUSION

It is important that there is a continued investment in equipment and training and that volunteers are trained to the correct standard to maintain capability.

With new recruits joining the team, the number of volunteers rose to a total of 42.

Being on-call 365 days a year is challenging and requires support from not only the volunteer, but their families and employers too. The Department thanks everyone for their support and greatly appreciates their continued efforts, commitment and dedication.



5,319.5 - Hours dedicated overall by volunteers supporting our Island