

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Office of Emergency Planning (OEP) supports the Minister as Chairman of the Government Task Force on Emergency Planning. The Task Force is the top- level structure providing policy and direction. It coordinates and oversees the emergency planning activities of Government Departments and public authorities. The Task Force met on seven occasions during 2007. A key area of activity for the OEP is the ongoing development of the oversight function in order to improve and develop the process and to increase public confidence in emergency planning. The inter-Departmental Working Group (iDWG) on emergency planning met on six occasions during 2007. The Task Force charges this Working Group with carrying out specific tasks and developing particular aspects of emergency planning.

The National Emergency Co-Ordination Centre (NECC) in Agriculture House was opened in May 2007 and the Office of Emergency Planning launched its website (www.emergencyplanning.ie). The website, for the first time, brings all the Government's emergency plans together. it also provides useful links to all the emergency response agencies. A handbook on emergency planning was produced and designed by the OEP in 2007 (for distribution to every household in the country in April 2008).