**Fire services**

The main objective of the Fire Service is to provide for the safety of persons and buildings both new and existing by way of fire prevention and also by operational response in the case of fire or accident.

The Fire Service carries out its functions under these main headings:

* Fire Prevention
* Operational Service

**Fire prevention**

This is a monitoring and regulatory role for the council relating to inspections, recommendations and actions in respect of existing and proposed buildings.

The role is carried out through its input into the planning function, processing Fire Safety Certificates under Building Control Act and associated regulations and inspection of existing buildings under the Fire Services Acts 1981 & 2003 and the Licensing Acts.

The council as fire authority also has a role in relation to the inspection and licensing of retail petroleum stations and bulk petrol distribution stores under the Dangerous Substance Act, 1972. Secondly the council also has a role in relation to the monitoring of volatile organic compounds (V.O.C.'s) emissions at petrol stations under the Air Pollution Act (Petroleum Vapour Emissions) Regulations 1997.

**Operational service**

This relates to the fire authority responding quickly and efficiently to fires and other emergencies throughout the county. This response consists of a pre-determined turnout of appliances and equipment based on the nature, magnitude and severity of the incident. Turnout involves the mobilisation of the fire-fighting crews and the appropriate fire appliances.

Kilkenny County Council adopted the Fire and Emergency Operations Plan 2015 - 2020 on the 23rd March, 2015.

The purpose of this plan is to fulfil Kilkenny County Councils statutory obligation as a Fire Authority as outlined in Section 26 of the Fire Services Acts, 1981 & 2003. This plan details current arrangements within the Fire Authority, but it also sets out strategic plans and targets for the Fire Authority for the next 5 years.

* Fire and Emergency Operation Plan 2015 - 2020

# Fire operations overview

The purpose of the fire operations section of the fire authority is to respond quickly and efficiently to fires and other emergencies throughout the county. This response consists of a pre-determined turnout of appliances and equipment based on the nature, magnitude and severity of the incident. Turnout involves the mobilisation of the fire-fighting crews and the appropriate fire appliances.

The operational fire service in Kilkenny is a retained fire service, i.e. fire fighters carry a pager and are expected to report to the fire station within five minutes and go mobile to the incident as is the norm for rural counties in Ireland at present.

The operational service within Kilkenny is provided by crews of retained fire fighters reporting to the station officer in each station who in turn reports to a senior assistant chief fire officer who is a professional technically qualified officer. In addition, at least one senior fire officer is rostered on-call each week to assist in the handling of emergency incidents.