



## PRESS RELEASE

### Rescue at Broadmeadow Estuary

#### Combined Services Training Exercise Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

**On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, at Broadmeadow Estuary in Swords, members of the public will be treated to the sight of Civil Defence Volunteers, Coastguard crews and observers from the RNLi and Dublin Fire Brigade taking part in a flood evacuation training exercise.**

Crews from the Civil Defence Fire Service, Rescue and also the Boat Rescue Crews (based in Malahide) will carry out evacuation procedures, rescuing a significant number of people affected by a flood. Coastguard crews will perform a 'wet lift' (rescuing a person from water) with their helicopter, however if there is an emergency call-out elsewhere that will take priority.

Civil Defence will also be demonstrating their newly acquired Haaglund tracked vehicle, which is primarily intended for flood/water evacuations but proved invaluable during the heavy snow earlier this year. This is the first of these type vehicles owned by Dublin Civil Defence, and is an invaluable asset to their range of equipment.

Assistant Chief Civil Defence Officer with responsibility for the Fingal area Bill Powderly said "Scenario based training such as this exercise is vital to keep volunteer crews fully up-to-date with techniques and training, and to continuously improve or adapt procedures that will be used in the event of a real-life flood. We will be assessing all aspects to this exercise afterwards and using the lessons learned to improve our skills."

He continued "We're also delighted to have crews from the Irish Coastguard, and representatives from the RNLi and Dublin Fire Brigade in attendance, as, in reality, each of these services would work together in a real-life incident, and training should reflect the realistic situations as closely as possible."

Further information is available from the Assistant Chief Civil Defence Officer with responsibility for the Fingal Area, Bill Powderly. Bill can be contacted directly at [bill.powderly@dublincity.ie](mailto:bill.powderly@dublincity.ie) or on 01-677 2699 or 086 380 5197.

Any members of the press or media who would like to attend at the Flood Evacuation Exercise on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2010 at Broadmeadow Estuary, Swords, Co. Dublin should contact Ann Murphy, Assistant Communications Officer, Fingal County Council on 087 990 8470 or [ann.murphy@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:ann.murphy@fingalcoco.ie) before Sunday, to register.

**ENDS 14/05/10**