



MARLAY PARK CONCERTS AND LONGITUDE FESTIVAL 2024

DRAFT MAJOR EMERGENCY POLICY

Appendix 1

Version 1

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MAJOR EMERGENCY POLICY

This policy and associated procedures have been developed using guidance from A Framework for Major Emergency Management, and its procedures underpin an effective response to any major emergency. A Major Emergency by definition will require a multi-agency response in order to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion.

It should be noted that this policy is written by Festival Republic and therefore it sits alongside but does not replace separate Major Incident/Emergency plans that will exist for the Principal Response Agencies (local authority, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and An Garda Síochána). A Major Emergency can only be declared by one of the Principal Response Agencies and our contractors and their staff will work with and under the direction of the appointed Onsite Coordinator from the Lead Agency.

In the event of a Major Emergency, swift decisive action is required to secure help and care for those involved. Our initial response will focus on the key strategic objectives of our Major Emergency Response Procedures. This ensures the purpose of our response will be the preservation of life, the prevention of further harm and further escalation and the safety of our responders and workforce.

MAJOR EMERGENCY – DEFINITION

We have adopted the definition from A Framework of Major Emergency Management:

A Major Emergency is any event which, usually with little or no warning, causes or threatens death or injury, serious disruption of essential services or damage to property, the environment or infrastructure beyond the normal capabilities of the principal emergency services in the area in which the event occurs, and requires the activation of specific additional procedures and the mobilisation of additional resources to ensure an effective, co-ordinated response.

The decision to declare a Major Emergency will be a judgement made in a specific local and operational context, and **there are no precise and universal thresholds or triggers.**

IDENTIFYING A MAJOR EMERGENCY – METHANE/ETHANE

Festival Republic will use the ‘Methane’ model to help identify and develop shared situational awareness:

- M** – Major Emergency Declared?
- E** – Exact Location
- T** – Type of Incident
- H** – Hazards present or suspected
- A** – Access: routes that are safe to use
- N** – Number, type, and severity of injuries
- E** – Emergencies services present and those required

MAJOR EMERGENCY COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS

Festival Republic has adopted the following command structure that reflects and is easily understood by the Safety Advisory Group and Emergency Services:

- **Gold (strategic level)** – The level of management that is concerned with the broader and long-term implications of the emergency and which establishes the policies and framework within which decisions at the tactical level are taken.
- **Silver (tactical level)** - The level at which the emergency is managed, including issues such as, allocation of resources, the procurement of additional resources, if required, and the planning and co-ordination of ongoing operations.
- **Bronze (operational level)** – The level at which the management of hands-on work is undertaken at the incident site(s) or associated areas.

It is acknowledged that whilst also adopting a strategic, tactical and operational approach the Statutory Agencies in the Republic of Ireland do not apply the gold, silver, bronze terminology.

Gold (Strategic) Commander – Is in overall command of the FR Response, sets the strategic objectives/direction and overall response framework for the incident.

- Set, review, and communicate strategy.
- Approves the Tactical Plan, offering guidance, direction, and support where necessary.
- Attends the On-Site Co-ordination Group (if onsite) and consults with the Principal Response agencies
- Considers setting tactical parameters within which the tactical response can operate.
- Reviews the resilience of the response and plans for this.
- Plans beyond the immediate response phase to address recovery and a return to normality.
- Develops communication and media strategies.

Silver (Tactical) Commander/ Event Controller – directs the tactical response to the incident, developing a tactical plan which is based on an understanding threat and risk, allocating tasks to Bronze (Operational) Commanders, and coordinating their activity and efforts to resolve the incident.

- Undertake a risk assessment of the incident.
- Formulate a tactical plan to deliver the strategic objectives based on the risk assessment.
- Establish shared situational awareness with other agencies.
- Appoint and coordinate the activity of Bronze Commanders
- Ensure responders are briefed effectively.
- Regularly evaluate threats, hazards, vulnerabilities and reviews the tactical plan.
- Regularly review, assess, and disseminate updated information and plans.
- Attend the onsite Co-ordination Group meetings

Bronze (Operational) Commander – working closely with other responding agencies, ensures rapid and effective actions are implemented on the ground to save lives and minimise harm.

- Translates the requirements of the tactical plan into activity on the ground, coordinating and directing resources to specific tasks.
- Makes initial and ongoing assessments at the scene, providing (M)ETHANE updates to inform Silver and share situational awareness.
- Briefs staff on tasks, actions, and requirements
- Co-locates with Bronze Commanders of other agencies at agreed location to coordinate agency responses.
- Considers the security of the scene, identifies, and agrees triggers, signals, and arrangements for emergency evacuation.
- Considers Health, safety, and welfare of staff during incident.

MAJOR EMERGENCY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

All Major Emergencies require a specific Gold Strategy which will take account of the specific incident, risks, and other environmental factors. However, in order to facilitate a rapid and focused response to any Major Emergency, the following Initial Strategy has been developed.

INITIAL (GOLD) STRATEGY

- Preserve Life
- Ensure the Safety of attendees at the event.
- Ensure the safety of those working at the event.
- Respond effectively to any given emergency.
- Protect property.
- Safeguard the wider environment.
- Minimise the impact on the local community.
- Restore normality as soon as possible.

To achieve the above whilst encouraging a high degree of public confidence through the professional conduct of staff

JOINT WORKING AND INTEROPERABILITY

Our response to any Major Emergency will be optimised through effective joint working. In order to support interoperability, we will build joint working into our operational arrangements. Our event control will provide suitable and agreed arrangements for the colocation of Emergency Services so that they can benefit from the information and intelligence available within event control.

Our operational communication arrangements will provide the facility for a 'Command Channel' to ensure key commanders have a suitable platform to communicate during a Major Emergency.

An important aspect of our planning and preparedness is a multi-agency table top exercise. This event will take place ahead of the festival and will cover a range of scenarios which will test agency's response and interoperability.

LESSONS LEARNED AND FEEDBACK

Our Major Emergency (Operational) Plan and Procedures will be kept under review to ensure they are adapted in light of lessons learned or feedback. Any Major Emergency will be subject of formal debrief and review, in addition to the regular and established debrief and feedback processes.

THE AIM OF FESTIVAL REPUBLIC'S MAJOR EMERGENCY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Referring to the Major Emergency Management framework, Festival Republic's Major Emergency Policy and Procedure are designed to be flexible allowing for whichever response is required. Therefore, it does not discuss particular responses, instead, provides a statement of factors that bear on ways and means by which strategic objectives can be achieved. A plan which is too specific will become impractical if that specific scenario has not occurred.

ESTABLISHING INTEGRATED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: WITHIN FESTIVAL REPUBLIC'S MAJOR EMERGENCY POLICY

Training - Scheduled training (prior to the event) for all Strategic Coordinators and key players based on Joint Decision Model to test and develop decisions. This will enable those to Anticipate, Assess, Prevent and Prepare for a Major Emergency.

Table Top - We will hold a Table Top event bringing together all responding parties (Security, Medical, Fire, Health Service Executive (HSE), Local Authority, An Garda Síochána, Management) to enable response and recovery based on different scenarios.

EVENT CONTROL

We will establish an Event Control. This will operate under the direction of the Festival Silver (most likely the Event Controller) in the event of a Major Emergency.

It will be available as an onsite Co-Ordination group location if required during a Major Emergency.

Security Control, Onsite Medical Control and Onsite Fire Control are located within Event Control. Loggers are available to record messages and carry out emergency communication.

There is a dedicated emergency radio channel which is recorded.

Where in operation, CCTV is relayed to and monitored by controllers in Event Control.

Security and stewarding companies can be communicated with via their respective control desks inside Event Control.

MAJOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONAL PLAN – CONTENTS

Festival Republic will also produce an operational plan to sit alongside this policy which will be submitted with the Final Event Management Plan.

COMMUNICATION

The main form of communication is via radio. A full directory of radio channels is listed in the operational plan.

This will also contain a list of the mobile phone numbers of key personnel from the festival. The Emergency Services and key member of the Principal Response Agencies. In the event of a Major Emergency Festival Republic will have a supply of contingency mobile phones available to key personnel to ensure as a backup means of communication.

RV POINTS

RV points will be identified, marked on the site plan, and listed in the Major Emergency Operational Plan.

TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY FORM

This will be included in the Operational Plan.

PREPARING TO RESPOND

AMBER STAGE

Amber is a state of readiness to warn staff that Festival Republic may need to evacuate and to trigger assigned roles and actions to prepare. This may be bypassed if the decision is made to go straight to a full evacuation. Refer to the Major Emergency Operational Plan for RV Points. The announcement will be made on an all channel call out on the radio.

The Amber Team:

Festival Silver (Event Controller/Deputy), FR logger, Licensing Co-ordinator, Event Manager, Security Co-ordinator, Deputy Security Co-ordinator the most senior member of the PR / marketing team onsite.

What To Do In Amber Mode:

- Standby
- Await further instruction from Event Control
- All staff informed to: Clear radio channels of all but crucial information.
Stay in one location where they can be contacted.

Managers establish location of staff, ensure their safety, manage them, pass on clear instructions when received as to what is required.

EVACUATION WARDENS

In the event of a Major Emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate partially or fully. This can only be instructed via Festival Republic's Gold or Silver. If Festival Republic evacuate the site or an area, the following measures will be taken:

- risk assessments so public/staff are directed to a safe or safer place
- liaison with local authorities and anyone affected in the surrounding areas
- area managers will be well instructed on the hot, warm and cold areas to ensure a safe evacuation

Festival Republic acknowledge that the public may choose to do their own thing and not follow instructions. Therefore, it is paramount to ensure a strong management structure to direct and assist as much as possible. As well as area managers, Festival Republic will identify Evacuation Wardens prior to the show which can be activated when required. Once activated, all security or staff on the ground work to them. These will be chosen depending on the nature and location of the Major Emergency.

A directory of Evacuation Wardens mobile phone numbers and radio channels will be held in the Major Emergency Operational Plan.