

# **IRISH WATER SAFETY**

## **PHOTOCALL/NEWSDESK INVITE & EXTENDED MEDIA NOTICE**

### **Eleven Lives Saved in Dramatic Near-Drowning Rescues** **Irish Water Safety to honour remarkable rescuers** **Dublin Castle, Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011, 3 – 5pm**

Rescuers from nine dramatic near-death incidents will receive recognition at Irish Water Safety's National Awards Ceremony at Dublin Castle on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011, from 3pm to 5pm. Eleven lives were saved through the brave actions of these rescuers.

Mr Phil Hogan, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government will present the "SEIKO Just in Time Rescue Award" to these rescuers in appreciation for saving so many lives.

Service Awards will also be presented, recognising 1,510 years of personal service of 77 Irish Water Safety volunteers from around the country for teaching swimming, rescue and water survival skills.

"Tragically 112 drownings occurred in Ireland last year," commented Minister Hogan, "and although that's 112 too many, the figure would be even higher but for the dramatic efforts of these individuals who saved others from drowning and the ongoing work of volunteers teaching swimming and rescue skills."

"Last year, drownings in Ireland were at their lowest for 58 years; reason enough to be confident that the work of Irish Water Safety Volunteers and partners in the public and private sector is having the desired outcome – more people enjoying our wonderful aquatic facilities more safely. That said complacency is not an option", he added.

"I appeal to all adults to make themselves more aware of the dangers in, on and around water", continued Minister Hogan. "It only takes seconds for tragedy to strike and this can so easily be avoided if people take responsibility for their own safety by learning about the hazards. I ask that people encourage friends and family to read Irish Water Safety's guidelines at [www.iws.ie](http://www.iws.ie) so that they don't become a drowning statistics."

Interviews and photographs are available with Award recipients.

Post event images are available from the official photographer David Branigan  
[dave@oceansport.ie](mailto:dave@oceansport.ie).

See below for details of each rescue incident. Interviews with rescuers and rescued parties can be prearranged.

Irish Water Safety, The Long Walk, Galway  
LoCall 1890-420.202 [www.iws.ie](http://www.iws.ie)  
Tel: 091-564400 Fax: 091-564700

Mobiles: John Leech: 087-6789600  
Roger Sweeney: 087-6789601



# The “SEIKO JUST IN TIME” AWARD RECIPIENTS

Title	First Name	Last Name	County	Notes
Mr Mr	Pat Dean	Ward Ward	Co. Donegal	On the morning of the 12th October 2010, Fishermen Dean Ward and his Grandfather Pat Ward noticed a man in distress in the water off Creevy Pier, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. The man had been fishing and was thrown from his boat after the steering wheel broke. Upon reaching the man, Dean & Pat discovered that the man was unconscious. They immediately called the emergency services. They pulled the man out of the water to safety onto the pier. The man was wearing a lifejacket and was in the water for almost an hour before he was rescued.
Garda	Jonathan	Gallagher	Co. Louth	On the night of 11th of May 2011, Garda Jonathan Gallagher plunged into the River Boyne, Drogheda, Co. Louth, after he observed a man face down in the water. He brought the man to safety and awaited the rescue services. The man was then taken to hospital where he made a full recovery.
Mr Mr Garda	Sean Darren Tom	Sharkey Dwyer McKenna	Co. Cavan	On the afternoon of 20th March 2011, Garda Tom McKenna received a call that a young man had fallen from a boat at Lough Ramor, Virginia, Co. Cavan. He immediately went to the scene where he saw a young man in distress in the water. Garda McKenna entered the water wearing a lifejacket and swam towards the boy. Upon reaching the boy, Garda McKenna saw a rowing boat with Darren Dwyer and Sean Sharkey on board approaching them. They pulled both the boy and Garda McKenna onto the boat. An Ambulance was waiting onshore to transfer them to Cavan General Hospital where the boy made a full recovery.
Mr Mr	Richard Tony	Young Mills	Sligo	On Tues 29th of April 2003, at approximately 7.30pm, Richard Young & Tony Mills were preparing their yacht when they heard screams coming from Hughes' bridge, Sligo Harbour. They observed someone splashing in the water, they steered their boat over towards the man and pulled him on board. They took the man to safety where emergency services were waiting. He was taken to hospital where he made a full recovery.
Mr Mr	Bernard Donough	Cahill Cronin	Co. Clare	On Monday 18th of July 2011, at Spanish Point, Co. Clare, Within minutes of being in shallow water, an 8-year old boy got into difficulty. His father, an experienced diver, went to his assistance. His wife soon realised that both father and son were in difficulty. She observed Bernard Cahill and Donough Cronin exiting the water with surf boards. Both Bernard and Donough re-entered the water and upon

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				reaching the 8 year old, Bernard placed him onto his surf board and took him to shore. He re-entered the water and together with Donough persistently formed and reformed a triangle with their surf boards and eventually succeeded under very difficult conditions in bringing the father of the child to safety.
Mr	Patrick	O Mahony		On the morning of the 25th of July 2010, while out walking, Patrick O Mahony observed a couple in distress in the water at "Mall Dock" Youghal beach. Patrick immediately began to shout instructions to the couple on how to come out of the tide. He called out to a local resident to call emergency services and then entered the water. He waded up to his chest and continued to guide both persons until they eventually reached Patrick and he took them to safety. First aid was applied and the emergency services attended the scene.
Mr	Michael	Baugh		On the morning of 5th June 2011 at the River Boyne, Drogheda, Garda Michael Baugh responded to an emergency call and upon arriving at the scene observed a man in difficulty in the water. Garda Baugh waded in to the river to rescue a man who had fallen from the Boyne Cable Bridge. He got a piece of driftwood and encouraged the man to grab onto the wood and with that took hold of the victim's clothing and managed to drag him ashore to safety. The emergency services arrived at the scene and took the man to hospital where he made a full recovery.
Mr Mr	Kevin Issac	Buckley Wheelock	Co. Wexford	On the 1st January 2011, two men, Mr Kevin Buckley & Isaac Wheelock, observed a female in the River at Old Bridge, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. They threw a lifebuoy to her and successfully brought the female to safety where they rendered first aid.
Garda	Andrea	Doyle	Co. Kilkenny	On the 26th of July 2011, Garda Andrea Doyle, along with other Gardai, responded to a report of a female in difficulty at Greensbridge, The River Nore, Kilkenny City. Garda Doyle entered the water and swam towards the woman. Garda Doyle managed to get hold of the woman and drag her to the River bank where CPR was performed until the arrival of the ambulance personnel. The woman was taken to hospital where she made a full recovery.