Aerial Fire-Fighting
An Irish Air Corps Perspective
Finbar McArdle
Commandant
Officer Commanding 301 Squadron
Irish Air Corps
Aircraft & Roles

AC College 1 Operations Wing 3 Operations Wing

Eurocopter EC135

AgustaWestland AW139
AgustaWestland 139 (AW 139)

**AW 139 Statistics**
- Max Speed 167kts
- Cruise Speed 140kts
- Service Ceiling 20,000ft
- Max range 1061km
- Max Endurance 3.5 hrs
- 2x Pratt & Whitney PT-6C-67C Turbo Shaft Engines
EUROCOPTER 135
(EC 135)

EC 135 Statistics
- Max Speed       155kts
- Cruise Speed    120kts
- Service Ceiling 20,000ft
- Max range       635 km
- Max Endurance   2.5 hrs
- 2x Pratt & Whitney PW206B Turbo Shaft Engines
What We Do

- Air Ambulance
- Counter Terrorism
- Search and Rescue
- National Surveillance
- Garda Air Support
- Disaster Relief
- VIP Transport
- Fire Fighting
- Fly Overs
- Security
• Bambi Bucket Initial Training Commenced 2009

• Fire Fighting Operations commenced 2009

• Fire Fighting Ops have been conducted every year since

• 2018 – 759 drops total 872,525 Litres of water
  – Assisted with fires in Northern Ireland

• 2019 – 81 drops total 96,125 Litres of water
• Effectiveness
  – Timely request of IAC Air Assets
  – Timely Intervention
  – Availability of aircraft
  – Proximity of water source
  – Nature of the fire
  – Co-ordination
BRAY HEAD
BRAY HEAD
WATER SOURCES
WATER SOURCES
DRONES/UAVs

- Represent a serious risk to flight operations
- Increase in number of agencies using drones
- Nuisance drone users
- Report sightings so that the crew can be alerted
- Drones and aircraft can’t share airspace