



Disaster Advice Seminar

Wednesday 9th December 2020 (10am to 12.30 noon)

Presented by Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage, in association with the Irish Georgian Society, the Centre for the Study of Irish Houses and Estates and Ecclesiastical Insurance to mark the launch of the latest volume in the Advice Series.

The purpose of the seminar is to help owners and custodians of an historic property, where possible, to prevent or reduce the risk of disaster striking their property by fire, floods, storms, lightning strikes or vandalism, and to lessen the damage caused should disaster occur. The seminar will outline how an owner can produce a disaster risk management plan (or 'Disaster Plan'), a simple document setting out sensible measures to minimise the likelihood of an emergency and to reduce the extent of damage and loss should it occur.

This free online live seminar is delivered by through Zoom. [Pre-registration is required](#). Attendees can submit their questions to speakers during the seminar through the Zoom Q&A chat function.



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Department of Housing,
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Programme

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- 10:00am** **Launch by Minister Malcolm Noonan T.D. Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform of *Disaster: A guide to prevention and preparedness in the historic built environment***
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- 10:15am** ***Introduction to the Advice Series 'Disaster' volume***
by **Margaret Quinlan**, lead author and keynote speaker.
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- 10:45am** ***Protecting the Irreplaceable: Predict – Prevent – Protect***
by **Paul Collins**, Head of Risk Management Ireland for Ecclesiastical Insurance.
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- 11:00am** ***Birr Castle: Simple steps to implement a disaster plan***
by **Alicia Clements**, Manager, Birr Castle.
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- 11:15am** ***Saint Patrick's Cathedral: Developing a practical disaster management plan***
by **Gavan Woods**, Administrator (CEO) of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.
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- 11:30am** ***Be Prepared! Disaster Risk Planning & Management***
by **Helena Bergin**, Senior Executive Architectural Conservation Officer, Fingal County Council.
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- 11:45am** ***Q&A & Close by Jacqui Donnelly***, Senior Architect, Built Heritage Policy, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
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- 12:00pm** **Seminar concludes & issuing of link to PDF of *Disaster: A guide to prevention and preparedness in the historic built environment*.**



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Abstracts

PAPER 1

Introduction to the Advice Series 'Disaster' volume by Margaret Quinlan, lead author and keynote speaker

This presentation will give a brief summary of the Disaster volume and the process of preparing it. Aimed at non-institutional buildings, it considers different causes of disaster, the impacts on buildings of varying scales and it outlines prevention measures. It gives guidance for private owners and occupiers on preparing disaster plans, incident response and post-disaster building assessment, the safeguarding of contents and insurance issues. It has the basic aim of helping people to prepare for the unexpected in the buildings they occupy and to encourage them to make their own Disaster Plan, no matter how simple.

PAPER 2

Protecting the Irreplaceable. Predict – Prevent – Protect by Paul Collins, Ecclesiastical Insurance

With capacity in certain sectors of the insurance market reducing, Paul will outline what additional solutions you should expect from a specialist heritage insurance provider and what they will expect from you. Technology is now an integral part of our daily life and is playing an increasing role in loss prevention. Paul will detail some of the innovative solutions Ecclesiastical Insurance are exploring to protect heritage properties.

PAPER 3

Birr Castle: Simple steps to implement a disaster plan by Alicia Clements, Manager, Birr Castle

Birr Castle is still a family home where the contents are continually used, candles lit and fires burnt. As such Alicia has had to adopt a practical approach to living in a 21st century world amongst rare collections. She will go through a check list of essential considerations that will help to plan for, and implement, if disaster strikes.

PAPER 4

Saint Patrick's Cathedral: Developing a practical disaster management plan by Gavan Woods, Administrator (CEO) of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

This presentation will look at the thinking behind the decision to create a disaster management plan, together with incident management protocols, highlighting the key components of both documents. The resources needed to allow a disaster recovery plan to be put into action effectively are also considered. Suggestions arising from the path taken in developing our plans will be shared as will learnings from the steps and missteps taken throughout the process.

PAPER 5

Be Prepared! Disaster Risk Planning & Management by Helena Bergin, Architectural Conservation Officer, Fingal County Council

This presentation will set out the speaker's experience of dealing with the aftermath of disastrous events to Protected Structure but will also outline steps for owners or managers to consider to put in place for disaster prevention and risk management in order to avoid the event happening where possible. In situations where the disaster is inescapable or unexpected the presentation will discuss the stages of disaster planning, recovery and stabilisation as taught on the ICCROM course "First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis".



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Speakers' Biographies



Helena Bergin is the Senior Executive Architectural Conservation Officer for Fingal County Council, the local authority for north County Dublin. She qualified in architectural conservation through a Masters in Conservation of Historic Buildings from the University of York and also has a Masters in Spatial Planning from the Technological University Dublin. In 2018 she participated on ICCROM's First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis, which is an international course on disaster risk management of cultural heritage under threat from man-made or natural crises. She is one of the two ICOMOS representatives on the Irish National Committee for Blue Shield (INCBS) which is committed to the protection of cultural and natural heritage in the event of armed conflict, natural or man-made disaster.



Alicia Clements is the daughter of the Earl of Rosse. She manages the Birr Castle Estate and is responsible for Birr Castle and its collections. She also has a degree in engineering and a scientific background. She lives with her family in a Georgian House on the estate.



Paul Collins is Head of Risk Management Ireland for Ecclesiastical Insurance, a niche insurer specialising in the provision of tailored insurance and risk management solutions to the heritage, faith, charity and education sectors. With over 35 years in the insurance profession, Paul has a wealth of experience across a range of roles including underwriting, claims, loss adjusting, risk surveying and enterprise risk management. Paul is an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute, a Chartered Insurance Risk Manager and holds a Certified Diploma in Accounting & Finance and a Diploma in Safety Health & Welfare at Work.



Margaret Quinlan is an architect in private practice. Her practice deals mainly with historic buildings, their repair, protection and care and the design of necessary interventions. She is a Fellow of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and holds a postgraduate degree in conservation. With David Kelly, she has co-written *Ruins: the conservation and repair of masonry ruins*, in the Department's Advice Series.



Gavan Woods is the Administrator (CEO) of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin and leads the lay team there. He is responsible to the Board for all non-liturgical matters including the conservation, care and maintenance of the Cathedral and associated historic structures. He currently represents the board in the major ongoing works to the upper roofs of the Cathedral. Gavan authored the first disaster recovery plan for Saint Patrick's Cathedral and led the development of the Cathedral's critical incident plan. He holds postgraduate qualifications in leadership and management, including an MBA, and is a trustee of the Irish Landmark Trust.



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