



Circular For All University Occupational First-Aiders

(Adapted from NUI Galway Safety Statement – Part 5 First-Aid)

Purpose of Occupational First-Aid:

First-aid means “*in a case where a person requires treatment from a registered medical practitioner or registered general nurse, treatment for the purpose of preserving life or minimising the consequences of injury or illness until the services of a practitioner or nurse are obtained*” or “*in the case of a minor injury which would otherwise receive no treatment or which does not need treatment by a registered medical practitioner or registered general nurse, treatment of that injury*” Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application), Regulations 2007. Therefore, within the University, first aid is an emergency or basic measure, provided to University personnel who require first-aid treatment as a result of or in the course of their University activities. Since 2009, Occupational First Aid training formally includes training in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

Legal requirement:

It is the duty of the University as an employer to designate at each place of work under their control such a number of occupational first-aiders as is necessary to render first-aid at the place of work concerned, taking account of the size or hazards (or both) of the workplace. (*Regulation 165(1)(b) of the 2007 Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application), Regulations*).

Within NUI Galway employees volunteer to become first-aiders and in so doing are co-operating with their employer in making appropriate first-aid measures available. University staff are encouraged to attend the Occupational First-Aid Course, by its additional benefit for personal use in the home, etc. But the primary purpose of providing the course is that the first-aiders would be available to administer first-aid to University personnel who might require first-aid treatment as a result of or in the course of their University activities.

Good Samaritan and Insurance aspects:

As a result of the Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011, there is now law protecting “good samaritans” and volunteers when assisting third parties in the event of an emergency. It states that a “good Samaritan” will not be personally liable in negligence for any act done in an emergency when providing assistance, advice or care to another person (Section 4 of the Act). This includes the

“..administration of first-aid , treatment of the person using an automated external defibrillator and the transportation of the person from the scene of an emergency to a hospital or other place for the purposes of ensuring the person receives medical care.”

University insurance includes cover in respect of its liability to and for its employees, which includes the administration of first-aid by NUI Galway trained occupational first-aiders in the course of their employment.