

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT RELEASES FIRE STATISTICS FOR 2005 52 DIED IN FIRES**

Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers announces that during 2005, the Department responded to 263,946 emergency incidents. Of these incidents, 209,472 were emergency medical incidents, and 54,474 were for fire and other 911 emergency public safety service requests. "In keeping with our goal of "Zero Fire Deaths," smoke alarms still remain the best protection for early warning of a fire," said Ayers. Of the fifty-two (52) fire deaths, twenty-nine (29) deaths occurred in twenty-four (24) properties that did not have smoke alarms, or had alarms with dead or missing batteries.

Listed below are Fire Department Statistics and Accomplishments for the year 2005.

- Careless smoking was the number one cause of fire deaths this year resulting in seventeen (17) fire deaths.
- Electrical wiring was the cause of ten (10) deaths, four (4) the result of permanent electrical wiring; six the result of non-permanent wiring; namely extension cords.
- Electrical appliances accounted for seven (6) deaths
- Children with matches was the cause of five (5) deaths
- Incendiary/arson fires were responsible for the loss of four (4) lives. The four (4) lives were lost at two (2) separate fire scenes; one scene involving one (1) death and three (3) deaths at the other location and all three were children.
- Three (3) deaths were the result of portable heaters: two electrical and one kerosene
- Open flame was the cause of fire for two (2) deaths; one the result of cooking on the stove and flame coming in contact with deceased's shirt and the other death was the result of open flame from a candle.
- Cooking fires were the cause of two (2) fire deaths.
- Two (2) were the result of natural gas explosions.
- Sparks resulted in one (1) death from a fixed, wood burning stove located in the living room of the property.

Twenty-nine (29) deaths occurred between 11:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M. in twenty-two (22) separate fires. These twenty-nine (29) deaths included twenty-two (22) adults and seven (7) children. Five (5) children were below the age of 10 years old. No smoke alarms were present or had dead or missing batteries in fourteen (14) of the twenty-nine (29) fatalities.

Twenty-four (24) fire deaths occurred between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 11:00 P.M. in nineteen (19) separate fires. These twenty-four (24) deaths included seventeen (17) adults and seven (7) children. No smoke alarms were present or had dead or missing batteries in fifteen (15) of the twenty-four (24) fatalities.

There were seven (7) fires that resulted in multiple deaths. A total of nineteen (19) deaths occurred from these seven (7) fires. Forty-one (41) fire incidents claimed a total of fifty-three (53) lives in 2005.

Smoke alarms still remain the best protection for early warning of a fire. Of the fifty-three (53) fire deaths, twenty-nine (29) deaths occurred in twenty-four (24) properties that did not have smoke alarms, or had alarms with dead or missing batteries.

<b>FIRE DEATHS BY AGE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF FIRE DEATHS</b>
0 - 5 years old	8
6 - 9 years old	2
10 - 19 years old	5
20 - 29 years old	2
30 - 49 years old	6
50 - 64 years old	10
65 - 74 years old	9
75 - 84 years old	7
85 and over	3

<b>TEN YEAR FIRE DEATH RECORD</b>									
<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
51	62	46	42	51	45	32	44	45	52

Fires resulted in injuries to two hundred and thirty-nine (239) citizens. Of these injuries, two hundred ten (210) occurred in accidental fires and twenty-nine (29) injuries occurred as a result of incendiary/arson fires.

Individuals ranging in age from 30 to 49 years old received the most injuries from fires. A breakdown of injuries by age group is:

<b>INJURIES BY AGE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF INJURIES</b>
0 - 5 years old	26
6 - 9 years old	13
10 - 19 years old	27
20 - 29 years old	31
30 - 49 years old	80
50 - 64 years old	36
65 - 74 years old	12
75 - 84 years old	7
85 and over	3
Age Unknown	4

CAUSES OF FIRE RESULTING IN INJURIES	NUMBER OF CAUSES
Open flame	40
Heater/Fixed	1
Sparks	5
Chemical/Flammable	6
Incendiary	29
Cooking	34
Matches	17
Smoking	29
Electrical Wiring	28
Electrical Appliances	29
Heater – Portable Electrical	3
Investigation	2
Heater – Portable Kerosene	1
Undetermined	1
Explosion	14

TEN YEAR INJURY RECORD									
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
277	216	226	209	251	212	242	247	193	239

During 2005, there were 21 fires that were multiple alarm incidents.

MULTIPLE ALARM FIRES	
Two Alarm Fires	18
Three Alarm Fires	2
Four Alarm Fires	1

NUMBER	CAUSES FOR THE 21 MULTI-ALARM FIRES
6	Electrical Wiring
4	Open Flame - 2 Candles 2 Workman's Torch
3	Incendiary
2	Chemical/Flammable Liquids
2	Spontaneous Ignition
1	Permanent Heater
1	Gas Explosion
1	Electrical Appliance
1	Undetermined

## **FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION**

- “Dying for a Cigarette – Take It Outside,” was the Spring Fire Prevention Campaign. The Campaign was in keeping with this year’s Fire Prevention Theme, “Smoking Kills – So Let’s ‘Take It Outside’ and ‘Put Out’ Philadelphia’s Number One Cause of Accidental Fire Deaths.” The Program focused on educating the public to the dangers of smoking in their homes and had two components. The first component was a media campaign, which included over 100 roadside billboards placed throughout the city. The second component was a door-to-door campaign in which fire companies handed out brochures within their local district, explaining the importance of this educational program to the residents as they hand out the literature.
- The Fall Fire Prevention Program, “Smoke Alarms – Not Just a Good Idea; It’s the Law!” focused on educating the public on the importance of having working smoke alarms on every level of their homes. The Fall Program utilized a door-to-door campaign in which companies handed out brochures within their local district. The brochures explained the importance of smoke alarms and home escape planning, and feature a dramatic picture of Fire Commissioner Ayers holding a smoke alarm at a grave site with the notation that 65% of those who die in fires do not have a working smoke alarm.

## **Fire Communication Center Accomplishments 2005**

- **Implementation of Upgraded “Command Point” CAD System.** The Fire Communications Center has completed design and is in the process of transitioning to an upgraded Computer Aided Dispatch system. This CAD system is a product of the Northrop Grumman Corporation. The new computer system will utilize current GIS and mapping applications to provide more precise and effective resource dispatch and monitoring capabilities. Also, for the first time in Philadelphia public safety history, the CAD system will be a shared City system, promoting interoperability amongst the Fire Department, Police Department, and the Department of Public Property.
- **Implementation of Upgraded “Vesta” 911 Phone System.** In conjunction with the transition to an upgraded CAD system, the Fire Communications Center has completed design and is also migrating to an upgraded 911 phone system. The new computer-driven 911 phone system is a product of the Plant Equipment Corporation. The 911 phone system will be directly interfaced with CAD, providing 911 caller location information, in a mapping format to dispatchers. This will immediately be provided for wire line phones, and in the near future cellular phones as well.
- **Implementation of Upgraded Wireless Data Dispatch System.** In addition to a voice radio dispatch communication system, the Fire Communication Center also deploys a citywide wireless data system to provide redundant dispatch notifications and details to all firehouses. Additionally, the Fire Department equips all EMS medic units with onboard mobile data computers. Using Verizon Wireless EvDO technology the Fire Communications Center has finished design and is implementing

a new data platform that will enhance coverage and provide much greater speed and capacity. The Fire Department will be expanding its' mobile data computer program to include field Battalion and Deputy Chiefs, and critical support staff units. The mobile data computers will provide responding supervisors with crucial event information to assist them in the development of resource deployment strategies.

## **FIRE CODE UNIT**

In the year 2005, members of the Fire Code Unit dedicated their efforts to improving the quality of life for residents, workers, and visitors of the City of Philadelphia. Working with property owners and managers, real estate developers, design professionals, and business operators, members of the unit provided an unparalleled level of service in the never-ending challenge to make the city's buildings safe from the ravages of fire and other life-threatening conditions.

A significant part of the duties of the Fire Code Unit is ensuring that existing buildings operate in a safe manner by having an adequate level of fire protection. Buildings built many years ago lack the fire protection installed in buildings built today. The "Zero Fire Deaths" initiative is but one example of the Fire Department's commitment to insuring a safe environment in multi-family senior housing facilities. Many of these buildings were constructed years ago and modified at various times, resulting in a mixture of construction types, materials, and techniques. In conjunction with the Department of Licenses and Inspections, these facilities were identified and jointly inspected. Many of the inspected facilities were found to be well maintained and code compliant. Those found deficient were issued orders to rectify the problems and were re-inspected to ensure compliance. The continued hazard assessment and targeted inspection program will help to achieve the goal of "Zero Fire Deaths."

## **TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT**

### **APPARATUS**

- During 2005, the Department took delivery of two American LaFrance Ladder Trucks:
- Installed hose netting on 70 Fire Engines. Hose netting prevents accidents and injuries by keeping fire hose securely on the back of our Fire Engines.
- Outfitted and staffed ten (10) Medic for Emergency dispatch to Louisiana for Hurricane Katrina relief.

### **RESEARCH & PLANNING**

- Developed contingency plans for a Philadelphia Eagles Super Bowl Parade.
- Developed contingency plans for a City-wide SEPTA strike.
- Developed and implemented plans for the "Live-8" and "Welcome America" Events.

## **EQUIPMENT**

- Oversaw the acquisition, evaluation and procurement of new Incident Management Status boards and Incident Command stations for Battalion Chiefs cars.
- Worked with Fleet Management, Fumes Division to procure fuel pump override keys affording our Ladder and SOC companies access to gasoline at City operated fuel sites.

## **WATER OPERATIONS**

### Navy Yard PIDC:

- We routinely meet with the PIDC to assist them in improving the fire protection for new businesses and tenants in the Naval Business Center
- The Water operations Officer performed 180 neighborhood surveys designed to maintain, move, upgrade or downsize fire hydrant protection in Philadelphia.

## **PHILADELPHIA FIRE ACADEMY**

In 2005, the Fire Academy primarily focused on cadet training.

The 179<sup>th</sup> and 180<sup>th</sup> Cadet Classes started and completed their sixteen (16) week training program.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Fire Service Paramedic Class, consisting of 9 Fire Service Paramedics, also graduated from the Fire Academy during 2005.

In addition to the Cadet training, numerous other training initiatives were conducted.

- Qualified 51 members on pump operations and 63 members to drive/tiller ladder apparatus.
- Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC).
- Pilot and Engineer training for Marine Units.
- Incident Safety Officer training for Battalion Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs.
- NIMS (National Incident Management System) training for all uniformed members.
- Arson Awareness training for all uniformed members.
- Special Operations Command (SOC) training for SOC companies and back-up members.
- Firefighter I and II Certifications for field members on the "D" Platoon. 271 members certified. This was the largest in State history.

- Thirty-nine (39) officers and firefighters assigned to Engine 78 at the Philadelphia International Airport were also certified to the Firefighter I and II levels.
- Thirty members (30) attended the National Fire Academy's "Pennsylvania Weekend" training session.
- Twenty-one (21) members attended two-week courses at the National Fire Academy.

Other training endeavors included Police Cadet familiarization and ladder climbing operations, interaction with regional "Training Resource and Date Exchange (T.R.A.D.E.) organizations, coordination and distribution of American Heat training tapes, Monthly Station Exercises and several field exercises.

Events hosted or coordinated by the Academy throughout the year included PEMA Urban Search and Rescue Team deployment training, the Hero Scholarship Thrill Show, the Department's Awards Day, Promotional Ceremonies, Graduation Ceremonies and Community College classes.

Other initiatives included a Partnership for Training with the School District of Philadelphia. This kick-off took place on June 20, 2005.

## **DIVISION 1**

Divisions 1 and their counterpart (Division 2), engage in Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Services Hazardous Materials Operations and Technical Rescue activities daily. In conjunction with these physically strenuous activities, the members provide a myriad of Fire Prevention activities to the residential and business communities. During the calendar year of 2005, Division 1 members participated in preparedness drills and widely attended mass concert like public functions providing many services to gatherings in excess of 750,000 people.

- An EPEX (Emergency Preparedness Exercise) was held at the Philadelphia International Airport on October 1st, of this year. The drill tested and exercised emergency responders from Philadelphia and the surrounding counties in all phases of emergency operations based on a large-scale aircraft incident. The magnitude of the drill requires planning and preparation a year in advance, to bring together the multi-agency response necessary to perform these mass casualty type incidents.
- In the spirit of a *can-do* attitude and to fulfill a commitment the Mayor pledge to the planners of the Live 8 concert, the Philadelphia Fire Department stepped into high gear to provide a safe and secure atmosphere for the seven hundred and fifty thousand concert goers to this event. Simultaneous to maintaining the neighborhood emergency services provided daily, emergency medical services, fire protection and specialty emergency preparedness geared to meet today's international threat, were all in place to protect the concertgoers, participants and surrounding areas. This comprehensive mobilization of trained emergency responders contributed to Philadelphia's place in the international community.

- On the heels of the Live 8 Concert, within a several day period, the Fire Department once again committed to the challenge of providing emergency services to the "Welcome America" celebration on July 4th, 2005. This duplicated effort from just day's prior, proved to be an equal success in providing a safe atmosphere for hundreds of thousands of concertgoers.
- Division 1 prepared the emergency needs assessment for the new Schuylkill Walk area, adjacent to the Schuylkill River and CSX railroad. This controversial area is the focus of the surrounding community and a heavily traveled railway. The emergency needs assessment takes into account the recreation area, the railway and the Schuylkill River and the response that is necessary to provide emergency services to the area.
- Division 1 partnered with the private business sector and planned and executed a full-scale hazardous materials exercise. This exercise used the business owners building and employees and staged a major chemical released by which Division 1 personnel provided a full scale hands-on drill. This drill allows the emergency responders to practice their skills in hazardous materials abatement, fire suppression and emergency medical services.

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

### **EMS ADMINISTRATION**

2005 EMS Complaints: The following is an analysis of all EMS complaints processed and investigated by the EMS Administrative office as of 12/14/05.

<b>COMPLAINT</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Sustained	15
Not Sustained	23
Exonerated	3
Unfounded	10
Withdrawn	None
Frivolous	5
Unable to Contact	None (After multiple attempts to contact complainant)
Open	2 (Still under investigation)
<b>REFERRED TO: (FOR FURTHER ACTION OR INVESTIGATION)</b>	
Police	8 (Missing property)
Law Dept.	3
Total	69 (Complaints for 2005)

<b>ACTIONS TAKEN</b>	
Forwarded to SIO	4
Counseling Sessions	12
Verbal Reprimands	12
Written Reprimands	5
Formal Charges	3

## **APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT OFFICE**

- Some recent accomplishments include: the replacement of all portable stretchers used by Paramedics to improve patient comfort and reduce back injuries to EMS personnel; First Responder automatic defibrillators were replaced to improve patient survivability of sudden cardiac arrest; and the upgrading of pharmaceuticals with regard to improving anti-terrorism preparation. The EMS Apparatus and Equipment Office performs long-term special projects such as the recent modifications to equip all Medic Units with Global Positioning System (GPS).

## **EMS ADMINISTRATION- CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

- EMS-CQI has conducted and evaluated over 1,000 medical case audits for calendar year 2005 involving routine and complaint investigations. The office currently reviews the first responder medical analysis sheets for each company on each platoon to gauge the performance of first responders. Audits are performed on random Basic Life Support (BLS) Patient Care Reports (PCR's), as well as database analysis of all Advanced Life Support (ALS) PCR's.
- CQI has participated in various multifaceted, labor intensive special projects involving the downgrading of Advanced Life Support Units and the reallocation of emergency medical resources.
- EMS-CQI members are participating in an ongoing multi-jurisdictional study at the Medical Examiners office with the overall goal of death and injury prevention for children, that involves many city agencies and community based groups. The members of EMS-CQI have started community outreach programs involving injury prevention, community awareness of Emergency Medical Services and proper 9-1-1 access and utilization.
- EMS-CQI has been actively involved in posting an EMS officer in the Fire Communications Center for quality improvement of call-taker response. Three times a week, from 0800 to 1200 hours, members have been stationed next to the EMS dispatchers to supervise priority dispatch and assist them with any other EMS issues.

## **EMS OPERATIONS**

- Reconfigure staffing by the conversion of four (4) ALS units into BLS, consolidating existing paramedic personnel to the remaining ALS units in response to manpower trends.
- Provide EMS oversight and field supervision of the EMS 9-1-1 system via field supervisors.
- Coordinate EMS coverage for City sponsored special events, including annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations such as Welcome America and this year's Live 8 concert.

## EMS TRAINING

- The Pennsylvania Dept. of Health (PA DOH) requires all EMT-Bs to attend a minimum of 24 hours of approved Con Ed during their 3-year certification period to maintain certification. Every year EMS Training delivers at least 8 hours of Con Ed to the department's 1100 firefighter/EMTs to meet this requirement. In 2005 we delivered 135 sessions.
- The PA DOH requires all paramedics to attend at least 18 hours of approved Con Ed every year. EMS Training offered four FSP Con Ed sessions in 2005 to ensure PFD FSPs have an opportunity to meet this requirement. In total 191 FSPs attended the two spring sessions and 156 FSPs attended two autumn sessions.
- EMS Training re-certifies all 2,300 firefighters in CPR biannually. The re-certification program is 3-hours long and delivered in 20 sessions each month during the re-certification period. In 2005 we re-certified 1104 firefighters.
- EMS Training delivers the National Standard Curriculum for EMT-Basic to fire cadets. In January of 2005, 53 Fire Cadets of the 179<sup>th</sup> Fire Cadet class and 59 Fire Cadets of the 180<sup>th</sup> Fire Cadet class successfully passed the PA DOH EMT certification exam.
- Fire Service Paramedic cadets attend a 7 week cadet program. EMS Training evaluates pre-hospital practice competencies, addresses any identified weakness, and educates the cadets in the application of PFD advanced life support treatment protocols to their practice. In July of 2005, nine FSP Cadets graduated from the seven-week FSP Cadet Program.
- EMS Training scheduled the following: 286 emergency medicine physicians and nurses for Ride-Along in our medic units, approximately 131 outside Con Ed opportunities, and 34 paramedic students to ride with PFD Preceptors.
- EMS Training has achieved a number of significant milestones. These accomplishments include:
  - Participated in two Federal Emergency Training Network (FETN) training videos
  - Delivered two CPR Instructor classes
  - Initiated a new firefighter/EMT Con Ed program
  - Instituted a new methodology for delivering the EMT-B curriculum to fire cadets
  - Delivered our first EMT Instructor update
  - Adopted a more active "hands on" approach to FSP Con Ed
  - Successfully completed the PA DOH Basic Life Support reaccreditation process
  - Participating in the new partnership with the School District of Philadelphia firefighter/EMT program
  - Three (3) EMS Training staff members became Office of Domestic Preparedness WMD Radiological/Nuclear Awareness trainers
  - Four (4) EMS Training staff members were certified by VFIS as Emergency Vehicle Driver Training instructors

- Two (2) EMS Training staff members attended an OSHA/Bloodborne Pathogen and TB, Train-the-Trainer course.
- One (1) EMS Training staff member attended the quarterly Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Counsel (PEHSC) EMS Education Task Force meetings

## **REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)**

- Participation in the development, evaluation and management of EMS at the Pennsylvania Department of Health meetings, including the PA Regional Directors, Education and Licensure meetings and the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council sub-committee meetings.
- Interaction with local, state, and federal agencies in regard to EMS as it impacts emergency preparedness and disaster planning initiatives.
- EMS coverage was required at 55 special events in the city. This coverage included parades, festivals, walkathons, memorials, tournaments, and presidential visits. Included planning with local, state, and federal agencies for heightened EMS presence and security at high-risk events (e.g. Army-Navy Football Game at Lincoln Financial Field).
- Coordinated ambulance participation in “Operation City of Brotherly Love” Airlift of Hurricane Katrina evacuees from Louisiana to Philadelphia.
- Participated in the deployment of PA EMS Task Force 3 to the Louisiana Recovery of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Provided on-site Incident Command for 88 members of team, including five PFD medic units, for two weeks in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Continued the implementation process and ongoing utilization of the Pennsylvania Department of Health EMS Electronic (Web-based) program for continuing education for EMS practitioners.
- Processed EMS training for PA state compliance. This training included accreditation for 1 City of Philadelphia EMS institute and 5 private EMS institutes, with 69 EMS Instructors and EMS certifications for 3,352 EMTs, 1,142 Paramedics, 98 Pre-Hospital Registered Nurses and 6 Health Practitioner Physicians.
- Medical Command Accreditation was maintained for 8 Medical Command Facilities (hospitals), 261 Medical Command Physicians (doctors providing medical command to paramedics), and 578 EMS Providers with ALS Medical Command authorization.
- Trained 1,607 City Employees in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) under the City of Philadelphia Employees CPR Program.
- Participated in the implementation and utilization of the Pennsylvania Department of Health
- Provided 3,550 EMS Patient Care Reports to authorized applicants.
- Announced the availability of a Philadelphia Regional EMS website.