



PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT



FACT SHEET FY 2019



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City of
Philadelphia



From the Commissioner



There are so many good things happening now in the Philadelphia Fire Department that it would be impossible to mention them all here. In Fiscal Year 2019, we received nearly \$20 million in competitive federal grants to provide incident command training; improve our shipboard firefighting and water rescue capabilities; and hire one of largest firefighter recruit classes in recent memory – 121 cadets. Their graduation has enabled the PFD to reopen four engine companies closed during the Recession of 2008-09. We continue to work toward restoring the three other companies.

We also put into service a new fast boat named *Liberty* to enable more effective responses on the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. We created two alternative EMS response units to focus on low-acuity medical cases around the University of Pennsylvania and the opioid epidemic in Kensington. And our colleagues at the city's Office of Emergency Management officially became part of the PFD.



This Fact Sheet outlines many other accomplishments from FY19, and I know the city's continued reinvestment in the PFD will yield enormous dividends for residents, visitors and our members in FY20 and beyond. Stay safe!

FY19 by the Numbers



Fire incidents

PFD members are dedicated to saving lives and protecting property. Fire incidents include everything from stuck elevators to building fires to extricating victims of car accidents.



Structure Fires

Members extinguished about 13 structure fires per day. Per NFPA standards, these fires can occur in buildings, chimneys, incinerators, trash cans, stoves or other structures.



EMS incidents

Medical responses were up nearly 1.2 percent over last year. In FY19, the PFD operated 50 ambulances 24x7x365, plus five more during peak times.



Calls received

The emergency dispatchers in our Fire Communications Center coordinate movements of PFD apparatus and answer 911 calls from the public.



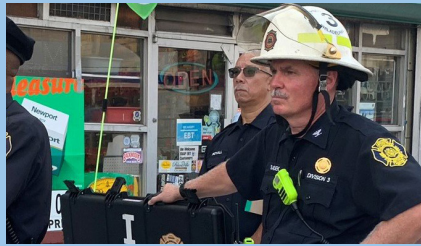
BETTER DATA: This year's structure fire number is much higher than previous years because the PFD has strengthened its reporting protocols.

Spotlight on Progress



Engine 37 Expansion

The city broke ground on a \$9 million renovation/expansion of Engine 37, a historic 125-year-old firehouse in Chestnut Hill.



Restored Chiefs

In a move designed to increase safety, communication and oversight, the PFD put more chiefs in the field through the restorations of Battalions 5 & 6 and Division 3.



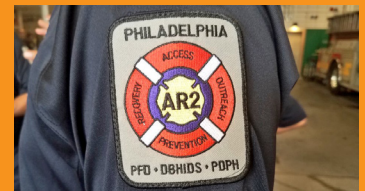
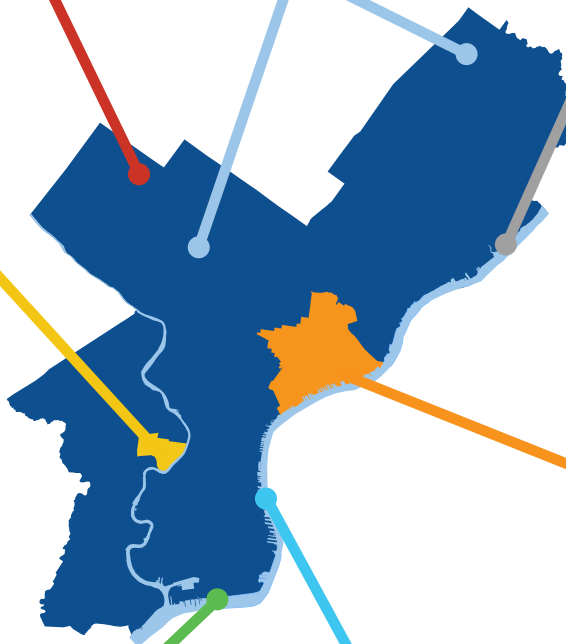
ICS Training

Using a \$2.7 million FEMA grant, the PFD created a new incident command course to standardize training across the department. About 600 members completed the program during the initial round of training; additional cohorts are planned.



AR-1

The PFD teamed up with the University of Pennsylvania to create an alternative response unit (AR-1) that responds to low-acuity, non-traumatic EMS incidents around campus. This innovative model offers high-quality care while freeing up ambulances for more serious incidents.



AR-2

Developed in response to the opioid epidemic, the new EMS alternative response unit known as AR-2 has paramedics and social service case managers traveling together to provide care and support to overdose survivors -- with the ultimate goal of getting them into treatment.



Shipboard Firefighting

About 130 members received shipboard firefighting training through funding from the federal Port Security Grant Program. Another 240 members are scheduled to take this course.



Marine Unit

The PFD put a new fast boat into service! Named *Liberty*, the vessel was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and will enable more effective river responses.

At a Glance



Draft Day

Members of the PFD's Leadership Council meet monthly to fill vacancies and oversee transfers.



OEM Restructure

The city's Office of Emergency Management, which coordinates interagency response to all types of emergency incidents, is now a division within the Fire Department.



New Apparatus

In addition to placing several new engines and ladders in service, the PFD also received a new heavy rescue apparatus to support Rescue 1.



FCC Upgrades

The Fire Communications Center underwent a major renovation that included new carpet, furniture, equipment and radio capacity.



Station Repairs

The Department of Public Property continues to make station improvements across the city, from roof replacements to repaving driveways and parking lots.



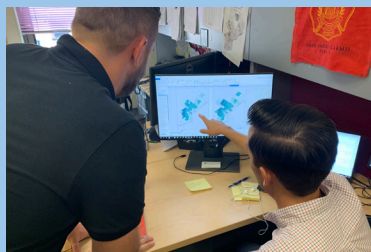
Paramedic Training

Some of our EMTs are training to become paramedics through a valuable new public-private partnership with Tower Health.



Aviation

Our Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting unit at Philadelphia International Airport got a new ambulance and improved its regional Fire Training Center.



Maps & Data

Our new GIS unit uses PFD data to create interactive maps, digital dashboards, apps and other infographics to help us work smarter.



Smoke Alarms

Working with the Red Cross, the PFD installed more than 21,000 smoke alarms and 1,800 adaptive alarms for the deaf and hard-of-hearing.