

PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT



FACT SHEET FY 2020



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City of
Philadelphia

FROM THE COMMISSIONER



The primary roots of the Philadelphia Fire Department lie in the Old City neighborhood, where in November 2019 we joined many partners in dedicating an incredible mural depicting nearly three centuries of fire service here.

The next day, we added a significant chapter to that history by reopening four engine companies – E1, E8, E14 and E39 – that had been closed for nearly 11 years.

Then a truly historic era began. After the City identified its first coronavirus case in March 2020, the PFD and Office of Emergency Management began responding in earnest to the deadly pandemic in ways large and small, including:

- Procuring and distributing hard-to-get personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care providers across the city
- Setting up a field hospital at Temple University's Liacouras Center
- Distributing free meals to residents in need and laptops to students for online learning
- Operating COVID-19 prevention and quarantine facilities

And the list goes on ... and on, and on – because our response to this outbreak continues 24x7x365 while we also handle about 800 to 1,000 fire/EMS incidents each day. Working together with our many public safety partners, I am confident that we will continue to meet every challenge in FY21, which will feature another historic milestone: the official 150th anniversary of the Philadelphia Fire Department on March 15, 2021. Stay safe!

FY20 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 or extricating victims of car accidents.



Structure fires

Members extinguished about 11 structure fires per day. Per NFPA standards, these fires can start in buildings, chimneys, incinerators, trash cans, stoves or other structures.



EMS incidents

The PFD operated 50 ambulances 24x7x365, plus 10 more during peak times. Our EMS providers treated and transported more than 176,400 patients.



Calls received

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



Citywide stay-at-home orders due to COVID-19 correlate with decreased fire/EMS incidents in Q4 of FY20.

SPOTLIGHT ON COVID-19 & OEM

The City's response to COVID-19 required an unprecedented level of cooperation among agencies at the local, state and federal levels. The Philadelphia Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Management, which operates as a division of the PFD, were on the front lines.

OEM and partners built a 200-bed surge hospital at the Liacouras Center at Temple University.

Major logistical support came from Pennsylvania-Task Force 1, the FEMA special response team sponsored by the PFD.



Food Distribution



OEM worked with partners to develop food distribution operations for people impacted by the pandemic.

COVIDPHL Text Alerts



More than 82,000 people enrolled in OEM's public alert system for pandemic-related notifications. Hundreds of free alerts have been sent to enrollees who opted to stay connected to information.

COVID-19 Task Force



The PFD's Health & Safety Office convened a COVID-19 Task Force to track exposures and implement a strategy to keep members safe while they continued to respond to 800 to 1,000 fire/EMS incidents each day.

PPE Procurement



OEM coordinated the procurement and distribution of critical personal protective equipment (PPE) to City agencies and healthcare partners, making nearly 400 deliveries of over 390,000 bulk items to frontline workers.



**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
CENTER ACTIVATIONS**

- PES refinery explosion
- COVID-19
- Civil unrest
- 1st Amendment activity
- Severe weather
- Primary election

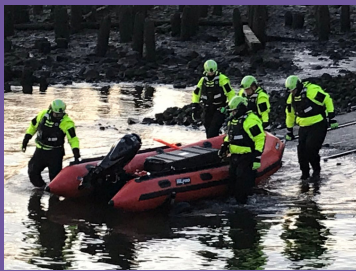


FIELD RESPONSES

- 10 special events, races, 1st Amendment activity
- 18 fire/hazmat incidents
- 1 utility emergency
- 2 law enforcement support



AT A GLANCE



Airport Rescue

PFD restored water rescue capability at Engine 78, which sits along the Delaware River and protects Philadelphia International Airport.



Fire Dynamics

More than 530 members received fire dynamics training in FY20 thanks to a federal grant. Another 1,500 members will be trained in FY21.



Fire Academy

Thirty-seven paramedics (Classes 37 & 38) and 121 firefighter/EMTs (Class 196) graduated from the Fire Academy.



Vehicles & Facilities

Four SQURTs and 12 engines were among many apparatus and vehicles placed in service. Several stations got new roofs, kitchens and/or windows.



EMS Recruitment

New Community EMT Programs have introduced local residents to the possibility of a career in EMS.



Camp Craig

Dozens of teens learned life-saving skills at our second Lt. Joyce M. Craig Fire Safety Summer Camp.



Special Operations

Technical Rescue School #5 trained 26 firefighters and 2 paramedics in specialties such as high-angle rescue and confined space rescue.



Communications

Thirteen new dispatchers joined our Fire Communications Center, which answers 911 calls and dispatches fire/EMS companies.



Fire Marshal

Members conducted nearly 1,900 investigations, got new laptops and protective gear, and launched an arson tip website.