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!
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.

**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.

**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.

**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**

- 6

**FIELD RESPONSES**

- 31

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