



PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

150 Years of Dedicated Service



FY21 FACT SHEET

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FROM THE COMMISSIONER



It has been an honor to join our members, the City, and many supporters in marking the 150th anniversary of the Philadelphia Fire Department. Officially, we reached this incredible milestone on March 15, 2021 ... but -- together with our partners at Fireman's Hall Museum -- we have been celebrating all year long.

The PFD officially went into service as a paid, professional department on March 15, 1871 with 355 men staffing 22 engine companies and 5 truck (ladder) companies. Those founding members surely would be amazed by the size and scope of the department now, including the apparatus and technology we use -- as well as how often we use it.

Today, the PFD has more than 3,000 members, plus 60 engine companies, 27 ladder companies and 60 ambulances housed in 63 stations across the city. The volume of 911 calls handled by our Fire Communications Center results in 800 to 1,000 emergency responses each day; in fact, we've had the busiest ambulance in the country for three years in a row.

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic remained a huge challenge in FY21, yet our members continued to respond 24x7x365 to incidents of all types, such as a 6-alarm warehouse fire, civil unrest, and major flooding from Hurricane Isaias. And the PFD inoculated thousands of people against COVID-19. That's now part of our history, too.

Much has changed since 1871, but our mission has not: We are dedicated to serving this amazing City today, tomorrow and for (at least!) the next 150 years. Stay safe!

FY21 BY THE NUMBERS



Fire incidents

PFD members save lives and protect property. Fire incidents include everything from stuck elevators and hazmat spills to building fires and extricating victims of car crashes.



Structure fires

Members extinguished more than 9 structure fires per day. Per NFPA standards, these fires can occur in buildings, chimneys, incinerators, trash cans, stoves or other structures.



EMS incidents

The PFD operated 50 ambulances 24x7x365, plus 10 more during peak times. Medic 8, which is based in Kensington, was the busiest ambulance in the U.S.



Calls received

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

Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) runs from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

SPOTLIGHT ON APPARATUS



The PFD put more than a dozen new apparatus in service, including pumpers, tiller ladders, tower ladders, medic units, and command vehicles for Battalion Chiefs.



OEM

- The Office of Emergency Management activated the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) 11 times for special events, emergencies, and severe weather like Hurricane Isaias, which caused major flooding in Eastwick and Manayunk.
- The EOC continued to coordinate pandemic communications and logistics in FY21, including support for more than 530 vaccination sites across Philadelphia.
- OEM's Regional Integration Center -- the City's 24-hour watch command -- monitored 7,686 incidents to determine if first responders or the public had any unmet needs.
- OEM sent more than 540 Ready-Philadelphia messages via text or email for public awareness purposes.

EMS

- The PFD's 32 community vaccination clinics inoculated more than 6,000 people against COVID-19.
- PFD added the rank of Advanced EMT, training and promoting 11 members in the first cohort.
- PFD promoted 13 EMTs to Paramedic in the first class of members to finish an in-house EMT-to-Paramedic program.



AT A GLANCE



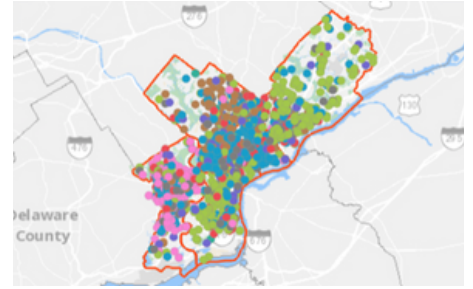
Airport Rescue

Engine 78 at Philadelphia International Airport got a new mass medical treatment vehicle capable of helping 100 patients.



Fire Academy

Two firefighter classes and one paramedic class graduated from the Fire Academy in FY21, totaling 155 new PFD members.



GIS & Data

Our GIS & Analytics Unit created online data dashboards and mobile workflows for the Fire Marshal's Office and Code Unit.



Facilities

Engine 37's 19th-century apparatus bay was replaced with a modern structure big enough for its new pumper.



Recruitment

PFD Recruitment moved to a building in West Oak Lane with flexible training space & room for the Fire/EMS Explorers.



Fire Marshal

The Fire Marshal's Office investigated 1,959 incidents, of which 555 were determined to be arson.



Support

Our Community Action Teams responded to more than 760 emergency incidents & assisted 1,500+ displaced residents.



Field Training

PFD offered 40,000+ contact hours of education via drills on forcible entry, elevator operations and other topics.



Health & Safety

The Health & Safety Office has new digital tools to track the life cycle of bunker gear, from its manufacture to expiration date.