



# Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management Annual Report 2022



# FROM THE DIRECTOR



Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery are the four phases of a comprehensive emergency management system.

Keeping the demanding tempo of our work of the last few years, we continued efforts recovering from major flooding events – Hurricanes Isaias and Ida, updated the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, developed a migrant reception operation for hundreds of people seeking asylum arriving in our city, provided care for displaced residents in several incidents around the city, organized and participated in major training exercises, and coordinated public safety activities for our beloved Phillies as they made an incredible World Series run.

These highlights are in addition to our everyday core functions of writing public safety plans, coordinating with partners, working to obtain funds to improve our preparedness, responding to everyday emergencies, and communicating with residents and businesses about emergency preparedness.

Emergency management is a field where improvement is constantly sought, where it takes a whole community to succeed, and where developing plans and building relationships before an incident with all stakeholders is key. We simply cannot do a great job alone. Having been appointed Director in 2022, I am astonished by all who spent time with us to create a better emergency management community this year.

Between our partners who challenge and inspire one another to be better, to the residents who suffered previous emergencies and share their experiences with us to learn from, to the community organizations that provide valuable input on our plans and operations and the support for our efforts to inspire future generations of emergency managers, we are incredibly grateful and humbled by this network.

I truly look forward to building in the future alongside my dedicated, resilient, and skilled team, who, like me, are devoted to serving our neighbors and our communities. Philadelphia remains on the World's stage, and we are honored to serve in this capacity.

Yours in service,  
Dominick Mireles  
Director, Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management





# CORE CAPABILITIES

Adding value and enhancing public safety before, during, and after events and incidents



## What We Do

Planning, interagency coordination, information sharing, public warning, incident command support, and fulfilling resource requests are some of the functions OEM fills. Whether it is a planned event, a neighborhood response, or an emergency operations center activation, OEM convenes partners and puts public safety plans into action to serve our communities.



## Preparation and Planning

Our office is mandated to develop and maintain dozens of public safety plans and procedures for the city and region. These plans include severe weather, planned events, hazardous materials, mitigation, and mass care. Preparation requires engaging diverse stakeholders from government and the community, integrating shared objectives, identifying resources, and then training and practicing with those responsible for the plan.



## Emergency Response and Recovery

OEM works with city departments, non-profits, private sector, and community groups to be there for residents and businesses on their worst day. From our 24/7 Regional Integration Center and through our Emergency Management Liaison Officers with other on-call response staff, we remain ready to deploy to support emergency response at a moment's notice. The work varies from deploying specialty resources to opening a shelter for evacuated people to collecting damage impact reports to identify all available resources to help people recover after an incident.

## 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

### Emergency Operations Center and Field Assignment

**7** EOC Activations  
**104** Field Responses  
**8** Mobile Command Post Deployments  
**16** Special Events

### Regional Integration Center

**8,772** Incidents Monitored  
**66** ReadyPhiladelphia Public Info Alerts  
**81** Emergency Management Liaison Deployments

### Notable Responses

Texas migrant bussing  
Lindley Avenue evacuation  
Phillies World Series  
Primary/General Election  
Welcome America  
Fairmount rowhome fire  
Heat Health Emergency  
Army-Navy game

# PLANS AND PRACTICE

Working to improve preparedness and public safety response in Philadelphia

OEM updated the City of Philadelphia's All-Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2022. The citywide plan was approved by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and adopted by City Council in May. Over **85** agencies and organizations were involved in the **two-year** planning process. Over **163** mitigation opportunities are identified in the current plan.

Our Infrastructure Program revised the City's Severe Weather Plan last spring, featuring updates to the clean-up and damage assessment process based on lessons learned from Hurricane Ida's impact on the city. The Winter Weather Plan was also updated in December as we hosted our annual interagency Winter Weather Workshop in preparation for the colder season. In addition, the Health & Human Services Program developed an Asylum Seeker Support Plan in anticipation of supporting people from the southern border.



## Sports Complex Multi-Agency Drill

OEM, along with city, state, and federal partners, participated in the Philadelphia Phillies full-scale exercise supported by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency in May. This was one of **18** training or workshop events held involving OEM's Training and Exercise division in 2022.



## Dense Urban Terrain Exercises

In July, US Army Task Force 46 collaborated with first responders and healthcare partners in Philadelphia for a multi-day Dense Urban Terrain exercise. The joint-training was conducted at **seven** venues and featured over **600** personnel from over **18** agencies and tested search and rescue, hazardous materials response, emergency medical care, and communications during a response to simulated critical incidents.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Building communication and cooperation towards a more resilient city

OEM's Community Preparedness division helps residents better prepare for, persevere through, and stay informed about emergencies that can happen. Through our ReadyCommunity program, the community engagement team continued to promote emergency preparedness for all hazards in-person and online last year. Through their monthly newsletter, they've seen a **13%** increase in subscriptions in 2022, an **8%** increase in online community events, increased in-person outreach by **77%**, and reached **6,694** Philadelphians and counting with bi-monthly Community Chat discussions...a **50%** increase in viewership!



## PUBLIC INFORMATION

- **16** events held throughout the city promoting emergency preparedness
- **69,750** ReadyPhiladelphia emergency alert enrollees
- **20** blogs published informing about preparedness or promoting city resources
- **35.8k** Twitter and **9.8k** Facebook followers provided with community preparedness



## GROWING INTEREST

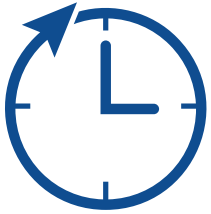
OEM hosted the Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management's HERricane Camp for young women. The goal was to engage future emergency managers and give insight into the field, providing a hands-on experience in a wide range of emergency management positions where women are underrepresented.

**New in 2022** Our office created a grant-funded Disability/Access & Functional Needs Coordinator position to help ensure that all plans and procedures are inclusive and accessible for everyone.

# MITIGATION ACTION

Assessing and seeking ways to lessen risks from threats and hazards

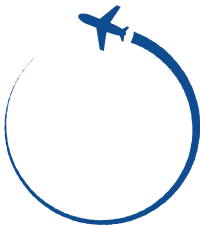
OEM helped to secure **over \$4.2 million** for Philadelphia and over **\$17 million** for the Southeastern Pennsylvania region through Risk and Capability Assessments and Grants Management. The funded projects provided critical equipment, training, and capacity for first responders, public health officials, and cybersecurity professionals.



Through US Department of Homeland Security funding, **\$23,081,720** is slated to be delivered to Philadelphia-region public, private, and non-profit partners for safety and security projects. Of that amount, OEM directly assisted in securing over **\$17,070,393**. Contributions to secure funding include conducting hazard assessments, inventorying critical infrastructure, and grants management.



Through our Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee, the City of Philadelphia successfully submitted four applications totaling over **\$126,000,000** in requested funds to FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant. Two City of Philadelphia applications for BRIC 2021 moved onto the final round of selection with FEMA, totaling over **\$21,000,000** in funding. Final selections are expected in Spring.



Philadelphia received Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) funding to help purchase Unmanned Aircraft Systems which will be used across Philadelphia, particularly around the city's waterways and port areas in support of counterterrorism, emergency response, and public safety initiatives.



Long-term recovery and mitigation work continues in Eastwick which saw hundreds of properties damaged by Tropical Storm Isaias in 2020. OEM is seeking to enhance alert and warning outreach to residents through a city Operations Transformation Fund grant totaling \$500,000 with goals of direct messaging to the community about specific location-based hazards and identifying flood monitoring technology.

# STAY CONNECTED

## Sign up for Free **ReadyPhiladelphia** Alerts

Get weather, emergency, and special-event text and email alerts.

Text "**READYPHILA**" to **888-777** to get text alerts to your phone.

or

Customize your text or email alerts. Visit [www.phila.gov/ready](http://www.phila.gov/ready) to select location important to you.



## voicemail

Have a concern?  
Give us a call and leave a message.

**215-683-3261**

Not monitored 24/7  
Dial 911 for emergencies.

## Follow us on social



@PhilaOEM

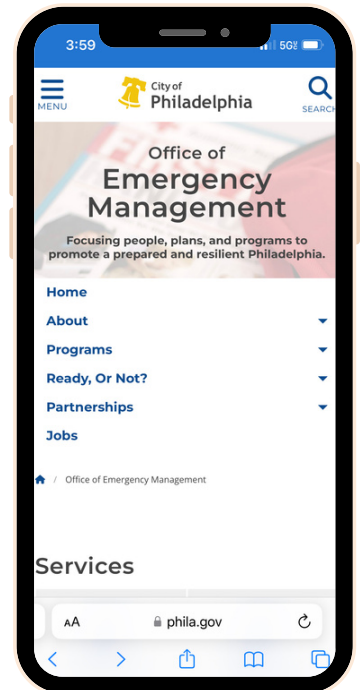


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Sign up for the READYCOMMUNITY  
monthly newsletter visit:  
[bit.ly/workshopready](http://bit.ly/workshopready)

The City of Philadelphia wants you to be ready for any emergency. To be ready, you need to start planning for an emergency now, not in the middle of one. Visit the website below for information on how to get and stay prepared.



Hazard Mitigation Plan



Make an Emergency Plan



Preparedness Workshops



[OEM@phila.gov](mailto:OEM@phila.gov)



[phila.gov/Ready](http://phila.gov/Ready)



Find us interesting?  
We want You!



The Office of Emergency Management regularly has opportunities for professionals and students to work with us. Whether an experienced professional looking to help shape OEM's services or a graduate or undergraduate student wanting to gain experience.

Keep an eye on  
[www.phila.gov/departments/oem/jobs/](http://www.phila.gov/departments/oem/jobs/)  
and @PhilaOEM on Twitter.



In addition to competitive pay and benefits, OEM has in-person and hybrid opportunities that also afford access to local, state, and federal training opportunities, conference participation, and special workgroup assignments. The ideal candidate is a strong communicator with interpersonal skills, a critical thinker and decision maker, is organized, and is willing to serve others in the sixth largest city in the U.S. Our strength is our diversity – all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

