



# Philadelphia Fire Department

## FY 2023 FACT SHEET





# From the Commissioner



When I first came to the Philadelphia Fire Department in 2016, I reached out to former Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey for words of advice. “Love the City,” he told me, “and it will love you back.”

After eight years as Fire Commissioner, I've come to love this City – and my family at the PFD. Working with our many partners, we have strengthened the department through unprecedented reinvestment: more than \$1 billion in funding for capital projects, operations and personnel.

We reopened four engines and one ladder company, with another ladder and engine set to reopen soon. We have created new career pathways; doubled the size of our Explorers program; bolstered EMS coverage across the city, including the addition of three innovative alternative response units ... and SO much more. Most importantly: We responded to about 1,000 emergency incidents every 24 hours – never missing a beat, never missing a call, and

serving our residents, visitors and business with commitment and compassion.

So I was getting ready to step back, reassess, and think through the next challenge in my 33-year career in fire safety, emergency management, safety leadership, and public service. But then I got a call from Mayor-elect Cherelle L. Parker – and I stopped what I was doing, and I listened. And what I heard intrigued me, and it made me – with humility and drive – want to take up a new challenge as Managing Director for the City of Philadelphia.

Rest assured, the Fire Department is in excellent hands with Acting Fire Commissioner Craig Murphy – a 36-year veteran of the PFD. And as the City and Fire Department move forward, the one thing I am sure of is that PFD members will continue providing dedicated service 24x7x365 ... which is what I, too, will continue to do, albeit in a different way. Together, we can make Philly a safer, cleaner and greener city, with economic opportunity for all. Stay safe!

– Adam K. Thiel

## FY23 by the numbers:



**Calls received**  
**372,860**



**EMS incidents**  
**268,332**



**Fire incidents**  
**52,890**

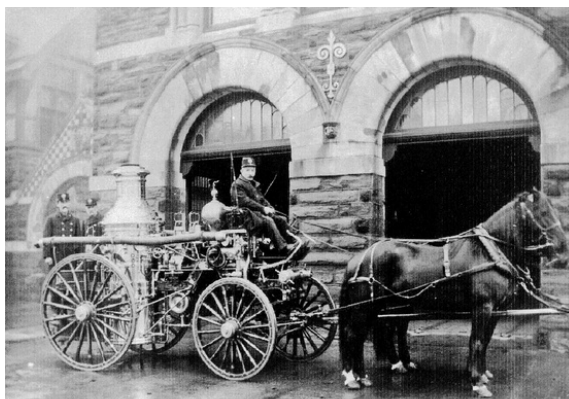


**Total runs**  
**500,324**



**Structure fires**  
**3,055**

July 1, 2022 through  
June 30, 2023



**Modern and historic:** In FY23, [we completed](#) a \$10 million renovation and expansion of Engine 37, the oldest continuously used firehouse in Philadelphia. Previously, the engine (above, right) could barely squeeze through doors once used for horse-drawn firefighting equipment. Now, the building has modern amenities and a spacious garage that houses an engine and EMS training unit.





# IN THE NEWS



**Highway collapse:** The PFD responded to an intense fire caused by an overturned gasoline tanker-truck in June 2023. The intense flames and heat stemming from the fatal accident caused a portion of Interstate 95 to collapse in Northeast Philadelphia, closing the heavily traveled road for 12 days.

**Sounding the alarm:** Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, the U.S. Fire Administrator, joined other fire service leaders and members of the PFD to outline a [comprehensive strategy](#) to combat the nation's fire problem. "Fire remains a serious threat to public safety," said Moore-Merrell, "and America is still burning."

The event -- held at Engine 8 in January 2023 -- also commemorated the one-year anniversary of Philadelphia's tragic Fairmount fire, in which 12 family members lost their lives.



**Search and rescue:** After Hurricane Ian hit Florida in September 2022, [Pennsylvania-Task Force 1](#) spent about a week searching damaged structures in Fort Myers Beach and Sanibel Island.

PA-TF1 includes members of the PFD and first responders from across the region who are specially trained in urban search-and-rescue. Also in FY23, Task Force members deployed to Puerto Rico for Hurricane Fiona and to Reading, Pa., after a factory explosion.





# AT A GLANCE



## Apparatus

New to our fleet: Three (green) foam pumpers, three engines, and 15 medic units. PFD also replaced old power stretchers, stair chairs and defibrillators.



## Investigations

Our Fire Marshal's Office, which handles nearly 2,000 incidents a year, added eight members to help lower the average caseload and increase on-scene safety.



## Safety education

More than 17,000 children learned about fire prevention, smoke alarms and home escape plans through PFD visits to schools and summer camps.



## Data & analytics

ESRI honored our GIS & Analytics Unit with its Special Achievement in GIS Award for making data more available, accessible and visible for PFD decision-making.



## Joint exercise

The PFD participated in "Dense Urban Terrain" training with U.S. Army Task Force 46. [The drill](#) tested interagency emergency response and communications.



## New members

Multiple classes of cadets graduated from our Fire Academy in FY23. Overall, we welcomed 138 firefighter/EMTs, 20 paramedics and 36 EMTs.



## Leather boots

Our Health & Safety Office tested, bought and distributed new leather boots as part of members' turnout gear. They replace older, heavier rubber boots.



## Dispatcher awards

Several dispatchers & supervisors in our Fire Communications Center [were recognized](#) for their dedicated service to the public and first responders.



## Battery training

Thanks to a FEMA grant, hundreds of PFD members took a course to learn how to handle emergencies involving lithium-ion batteries.