

PRESSRELEASE

Mayor's Office - 100 East Michigan Blvd. - Michigan City, IN 46360 - (219)873-1400 - Fax: (219)873-1515

www.emichigancity.com

For Immediate Release

Date: March 31, 2005

“Battle On Lake Michigan” Firefighter Combat Challenge Coming to Michigan City This Summer

Michigan City, IN (March 31, 2005) – “Where’s the fire?” will be a frequent question heard in July 2005 when the Firefighter Combat Challenge is held in Michigan City, Indiana. Hundreds of firefighters from across the United States and Canada, organized by departmental teams and representing the best of the bravest, will battle head to head against themselves and the clock for high honors at the Challenge.

The Challenge is an intense, spirited competition and seeks to encourage firefighter fitness and demonstrate the profession’s rigors to the citizens who support local fire departments. The Challenge has won high accolades for its fidelity to the job and for providing the public with a greater appreciation of the physical demands of firefighting. Unlike sports that exist solely for entertainment value, the Challenge is about performing one of the most dangerous and demanding jobs safer and better.

“The Battle On Lake Michigan” - the Firefighter Combat Challenge in Michigan City - is a two-day event scheduled for July 16 & 17. The Combat Challenge Committee in conjunction with the City of Michigan City is hosting the event. Kyle Kazmierczak chairs the Combat Challenge Committee and is supported by co-chairs Craig Krivak and Michael Drubert.

Mayor Chuck Oberlie said, “Firefighting is a physically demanding job. The men and women who serve in fire companies across the country face daily challenges that most of us cannot imagine. The Firefighter Combat Challenge allows the public to witness the rigors of the profession without the danger and tragedy of an actual fire. Michigan City is honored to host this unique event, and we invite everyone to join us in cheering the competitors on to victory.”

Wearing “full bunker gear” and a Scott breathing apparatus (SCBA), pairs of firefighters simulate the physical demands of real life firefighting by competing on a linked series of five tasks. Dominating the landscape in Washington Park on the shores of beautiful Lake Michigan will be a five-story hydraulic tower, the centerpiece of all the activity. Competitors will climb to the top of the tower carrying a 42-pound high-rise pack and then hoist a 42 pound hose roll to the top. Next they descend to the ground floor where they simulate chopping by swinging a 9 pound shot mallet on the end of a 160 pound steel beam known as the Keiser Sled. The professional firefighters then zigzag 140 feet through simulation hydrants to the fourth station where they advance an attack hose a distance of 75 feet and shoot water thru a target. Finally, the competitors drag a life-sized 175 pound “victim” a distance of 100 feet to the finish line.

Each member of a three-to-five-person team performs the standard evolutions against the clock, with the top three individual times added together to yield a team total. Other categories include male, female, over 40, over 50 and the Streamlight Relays. Qualifiers will advance to the World Championships held in Deerfield, Florida during the first week of November 2005.

The Battle on Lake Michigan schedule of events is:

Saturday, July 16

8:00 AM	Corporate Challenge Begins
9:00 AM	Kid's Crawl Drag & Squirt opens
10:30 AM	Opening Ceremonies
11:00 AM	Firefighter Combat Challenge begins
7:00 PM	Street Dance begins; located at 4th Street from Pine to Washington

Sunday, July 17

11:00 AM	Firefighter Combat Challenge begins
11:00 AM	Kids' Crawl Drag & Squirt opens

The Firefighter Combat Challenge is free to the public for viewing. Participants must pre-register at www.firefighter-challenge.com and pay a fee. Due to the magnitude of this event Lot 1 will be closed for general parking along with the boat ramp access. General parking will be available in Lot 2, in the Senior Center Parking Lot and in Fedder's Alley; parking fees apply.

A street dance is planned as a benefit for the Hoosier Burn Camp. The Hoosier Burn Camp is open to young people ages 8-18 years who have experienced a burn injury or have been treated in the state of Indiana requiring hospitalization. The dance will feature live entertainment and a refreshment tent.

Kazmierczak said, "We are still accepting sponsors for The Battle on Lake Michigan. Interested companies, organizations and individuals can contact me at 219/898-6622 or via email at cityfire184@yahoo.com."

Volunteers are needed to assist with the exciting events of the Firefighter Combat Challenge. Those interested in participating in The Battle On Lake Michigan should contact Craig Krivak at 219/898-3559 or via email at craigjess96@yahoo.com.

####

Janet L. Kostielney

Mayor's Office

City of Michigan City

219/873-1400 X350

Fax 219/873-1515

www.emichigancity.com

jkostielney@emichigancity.com