

# PRESSRELEASE

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## For Release

**Date:** April 1, 2005

## **Kids Crawl Drag & Squirt Challenge Featured at Firefighter Combat Challenge in July**

**Michigan City, IN** (April 1, 2005) Firefighters have long enjoyed the admiration of children. Virtually every child at some point has looked wistfully at the fire trucks flashing their red lights and sounding their sirens, speeding on their way to assist citizens in need. The Firefighter Combat Challenge, as well as television news and movies, have brought nationwide awareness of the heroism shown by the men and women who risk life and limb to save others - our firefighters. In July 2005, children will have an opportunity to experience their own version of a firefighter's challenge in Michigan City, Indiana.

Craig Krivak, Michigan City Firefighter and Co-Chair of the Combat Challenge Committee, said, "Our nation's youth face many challenges, but there are two that can be easily remedied. The first is a lack of physical fitness. The second is that we lose more children to fire than all the major childhood diseases combined. In the fire safety category, the US leads all industrialized nations with the greatest loss of life and property per capita. The Kid's Crawl, Drag & Squirt (KCDS) is an effort to showcase the American Fire Service while at the same time promote physical fitness."

Positioned near the Firefighter Combat Challenge in Michigan City's Washington Park on July 16 and 17, 2005, the Kid's Crawl, Drag & Squirt will provide a tangible method of capturing the enthusiasm of children and channeling it in a positive direction.

Michael Drubert, Co-Chair of the Combat Challenge Committee and a Michigan City Firefighter, said, "For the KCDS Challenge each child is outfitted with a helmet and "turn-out gear." The events mirror those used in the Firefighter Combat Challenge. The details of the ensemble are accurate down to the reflectorized trim and Velcro closures on the tunic. In order, each child carries a shoulder load of hose, climbs to the top of our 12-foot inflatable tower, slides to the bottom, where they "stop, drop and roll." They then crawl through the tunnel, work the miniature Keiser Force Machine with the supplied mallet, advance a wildland fire line with authentic nozzle striking a target and finally "make the rescue" with an appropriately sized mannequin. It's an exciting event for everyone."

"Kids can't wait to take the Challenge," Mayor Chuck Oberlie said. "It is the dream of so many little boys and girls to become a firefighter, and the Kid's Challenge gives them an opportunity to experience something they've imagined over and over. This is also a great learning environment for safety-related topics, providing our youngsters with information that will help to keep them, their families and their

friends safer from fire.”

The Kid’s Challenge in Michigan City is scheduled to open at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> and at 11 a.m. on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. The KCDS will be held in Washington Park near the shore of Lake Michigan. Participants must register on site. There is no fee for competing in this event. Concessions will be available.

Kyle Kazmierczak, chair of the Combat Challenge Committee, 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](mailto:cityfire184@yahoo.com).”

Volunteers are needed to assist with this exciting event. 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](mailto:craigjess96@yahoo.com).

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