



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

1st August 2011

AUSSIE FIREFIGHTERS SET OFF TO U.S.A ON A GOODWILL JOURNEY

Media Opportunity Emmitsburg , Maryland

9am. National Fallen Firefighters Memorial

10.30 am Paddle Start @ Toms Creek.

[Directions to Location](#)

On Wednesday 3rd August 2011 two leading firefighters from City of Sydney Fire Station in Australia will embark on the inaugural Fire Paddle, a 24 day relay paddle up the East Coast of America. Their aim; build relationships and raise awareness and funding for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

In a fun and relaxed relay paddle using both Kayaks and Stand Up Paddleboards a team of firefighters led by City of Sydney firefighters; Ben Chalmers and Shane Austin will begin their paddle on August 2nd from the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland down the Potomac River to Washington DC, then up the Intercoastal Waterway arriving in New York City for the Opening of the World Police & Fire Games 2011.

Reason for the adventure, Shane Austin says "After completing an International Firefighter Exchange I wanted to continue to develop the strong relationships both personally and professionally that exists between firefighters worldwide. This trip is an excellent chance to meet fellow emergency personnel and support them in the great work they do."

The 2011 World Police & Fire Games are being held in New York City respectfully coinciding with the ten year remembrance of September 11, 2001. The games' will be empowered by two themes: Remembrance (always remember those who lost their lives on September 11 2001) and Gratitude (an opportunity for all New Yorkers to thank the world for the support that flooded into New York City).

The Fire Paddle team are still recruiting participants, looking for sponsorship and encourage fire-fighters from all over the globe to get involved. Visit www.firepaddle.org



to sign up or for further information. You can follow the journey on **Twitter: @Firepaddle2011**.

For further information or to arrange an interview please contact:

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About National Fallen Firefighters Foundation:

The United States Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to lead a nationwide effort to remember America's fallen firefighters. Since 1992, the tax-exempt, non-profit Foundation has developed and expanded programs to honour our fallen fire heroes and assist their families and co-workers.

The Foundation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, located in Emmitsburg, Maryland. It is registered as a corporation in the State of Maryland. The Foundation receives funding through private donations from caring individuals, organizations, corporations, and foundations.

A grant from the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance supports programs for survivors of fallen firefighters. The Federal Emergency Management Agency partners with the Foundation to sponsor many of the National Memorial Weekend activities. The National Institute of Standards and Technology supports work on a national research agenda to prevent line-of-duty deaths.

About World Police & Fire Games:

The 2011 World Police & Fire Games and Memorial Inc. is an established 501(c)(3), registered not-for-profit organisation. The World Police & Fire Games are currently the second largest multi-sport event in the world, surpassed only by the Summer Olympics. The entities goal is to become the largest, most memorable sporting event the world has ever seen.

About Ben Chalmers:

Ben's involvement within the paddle industry spans 25 years and includes numerous long distance paddle races. Currently Ben runs a kayak and SUP fitness and rental business in-addition to the past 21 years that he has continued his role as a professional lifeguard. Ben has been a firefighter with Fire & Rescue NSW for the past 12 years

About Shane Austin:

Shane Austin's love of the water dates back to his early years when he began working as a diver which he continues to this day as a Scuba Instructor. This work has also guided Shane to becoming a Marine Master (Captain) who will be joined by other commercial skippers to



assist with the navigation along the passage. Shane has been a firefighter with Fire & Rescue NSW for the past 13 years .

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