



44th Annual Delray Beach International Fire Service - St. Patrick's Parade

Greetings! On Saturday March 17th, 2012 the City of Delray Beach, Florida and Festival Management Group Inc. will be host to the 44th annual Delray Beach – International Fire Service - St. Patrick's parade.

Historically this has been the largest St. Patrick's parade in the state of Florida. Palm Beach County Firefighters would like to extend a global invitation to firefighters of all nationalities to come join their fellow firefighters in helping all citizens, everywhere - bring back and hold onto these traditional memories and to share the image of clean cut, sharply dressed / uniformed Firefighters, who are marching together, shoulder to shoulder, with pride, honor, dignity, and discipline - with children. Today's children need to see this.

Large 20' X 30' flags will be hung by fire department ladder trucks representing multiple cities, towns, and counties, across the parade route so that the entire parade will march under a fire service flag tunnel. This is a beautifully creative artistic display of community unity and literally the highest focal point of the parade. Nothing like this on this scale has ever been done before in the region, and will be aerial photographed and video'd from a helicopter when the parade begins.

Antique along with front line fire apparatus with a marching multi agency fire department honor / color guard contingent, followed by multi agency fire department pipes and drums, and uniformed marching firefighters that will lead the parade. A different fire department leads the parade each year.

The parade spectators and their children will be delighted and entertained by professional fire service clowns and various fire apparatus, firefighter motorcycle riders, civilian floats /entertainment and Dalmatian dogs.

There will be lots more unique fire service entertainment in the parade. You can call (561) 883-7763 for parade entertainment updates.

The firefighter hospitality room at the host hotel will be up and running on Friday March 16th. Firefighter based groups and organizations wanting representation in the hospitality room to sell tee shirts, etc, please contact the number below. The Palm Beach County Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society will head up firefighter hospitality for the parade weekend.

The organized parade festivities will begin Friday March 16th, with a pre-parade gathering starting at 5 P.M. at the Delray Beach - Brus Room at 35 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach 33441 --> Web Site [Click here](#)

The pre-parade Friday night event will move to several other Delray Beach establishments throughout the evening. The fire service mass band and various other fire service and EMS bands will also play throughout the evening. The Host hotel hospitality room will shut down from the rest of the night, and will re-open the following morning / parade day.

- If you have an antique or contemporary fire apparatus that you'd like to enter into the parade, please call the number at the bottom. All fire service floats and apparatus must be registered prior to parade day. Fire apparatus entries in the parade are FREE of charge.

- Firefighters wishing to march in the parade, can march in one of the following two uniform selections:

1- Black shoes, navy blue / black dress slacks, black leather belt, long sleeve buttoned uniform shirt, black tie, Class-A fire department dress jacket with patches, Class-A fire department cap.

2- Black shoes, navy blue / black dress slacks, black leather belt, long sleeve buttoned uniform shirt with brass, black tie.

- Explorers can march in the uniforms issued to them from the prospective agency Explorer programs.

- Fire service pipes and drums bands wishing to march and play with the firefighters massed band, the uniform will be black shoes, hose, flashes, spats, kilt, Sporran, belt, your short sleeve band parade shirt with brass, Glengarry or Balmoral.

- Firefighters riding in the motorcycle procession, the uniform will be pants of your choice, fire department uniform boots or any black leather riding boots / shoes, (No combat firefighting boots) firefighter tee shirt of your choice, firefighters leather riding vest if you have one, and a fire helmet. Motorcycle riders (Primarily the one operating the bike, passengers not required) are required to wear firefighter helmets while riding in the parade, WITHOUT EXCEPTION. St. Patrick's Day beads and whatever else you'd like to wear that's St. Patrick's Day related or fire department related can be worn.

If you are in need of a fire helmet and would like to purchase a traditional antique – New York style – Green – St. Patrick's Day fire helmet, www.oldfirehat.com ... or ... www.irishfiremansderby.com ... Those motorcycle drivers without a fire helmet, will be turned away.

- Tee Shirts - The official 2012, 44th annual Delray Beach – International Fire Service - St. Patrick's Day Parade: "The Firefightin Irish" tee shirts are on sale now. [View T-shirt design click here](#) The colors are Shamrock Green, and black. Small, Large, and Extra Large - \$20.00 Double and Triple Extra Large - \$23.00 For more information on how to purchase one of these commemorative tee shirts, please call the number at the bottom.

- The parade route will begin at Gleason Street and A1A, on Atlantic Avenue

- Parade steps off at 14:00 hrs. SHARP

- Times and Staging locations as follows

- Aerial ladder trucks for flag detail, will report to staging location behind the Delray Beach South County Courthouse at 200 W. Atlantic Avenue no later than 10:30 hrs. A staging officer will greet each aerial apparatus and give them their flag and deployment location and the best routing to get there. Please download and fill out the simple registration form and fax it ASAP to: (561) 969-1059

- Fire department pipes and drums members are to report to the firefighter sign in table at the host hotel hospitality room, no later than 11:00. A parade tune list is posted on the front page of this parade site. (The one you were on before you got to this page) Please download and fill out the simple registration form attached to this web page and fax it ASAP to: (561) 969-1059. We would like to have an idea of how many bands / band members will be coming, so please e-mail us your projected numbers ASAP to: fireman9722003@yahoo.com

- Fire department honor / color guard teams / banner carriers, report to the host hotel hospitality room to meet with the honor guard commander for line up information and instructions, no later than 11:00. Jacket /cap hangers and clothing racks will be provided in the Firefighter V.I.P. tent area, so that you can dress down until step off time. Please be dressed out by 13:30. Please download and fill out the simple registration form attached to this web page and fax it ASAP to: (561) 969-1059. We would like to have an idea of how many honor guard members will be coming, so please e-mail us your projected numbers ASAP to: fireman9722003@yahoo.com

- Uniformed marching firefighters, report to the firefighter sign in table to turn in registration forms at the host hotel hospitality room no later than 11:00 hrs. on parade day, or fax them to (561) 969-1059 (Jacket /cap hangers and clothing racks will be provided in the Firefighter V.I.P. area so that you can dress down until step off time. Please be dressed out by 13:30). Registration forms can be downloaded from this website. Please e-mail your intent to participate and the estimated number of firefighters you'll be coming with; fireman9722003@yahoo.com

The parade honor guard commander will give all uniformed personnel their parade formation instructions. Please download and fill out the simple registration form attached to this web page and fax it ASAP to: (561) 969-1059. We would like to have an idea of how many uniformed firefighters will be marching, so please e-mail us your intent on marching in the parade ASAP: fireman9722003@yahoo.com

- Uniformed motorcyclist firefighters report to the staging officer at the motorcycle staging area at the Delray Beach city hall parking lot at 100 NW 1st Avenue Delray Beach, Florida 33444, no later than 12:00. Upon completion of parade, those bikers that would like to stay, there will be a static display - line up location at the Old School Square party, in the new park. Please download and fill out the simple registration form and fax it ASAP to: (561) 969-1059. We would like to have an idea of how many riders will be in the parade, so please e-mail us your intent on riding in the parade ASAP to: fireman9722003@yahoo.com

- At 12:30 P.M. there will be a introduction / welcome presentation done at the command post.
- The entire parade will be photographed with still shot photography and video.
- Bottled water will be provided. And there will be a Firefighters V.I.P. tent set up with refreshments in a lot near the host hotel.
- Dalmatian dog owners who've been cleared to have their dogs march or ride on the fire apparatus, please have your dogs ready no later than 13:00 hrs. and report to the command post. Water bowls will be set up near the command post. Owners and their Dogs will have the option of attending the pre-parade and post-parade party / gathering at Old School Square where they can enjoy and admire their fellow Dalmatians and allow the spectators and their children admire / pet their Dalmatians. If you have a Dalmatian or a Harlequin - Great Dane, and would like to march with or ride an apparatus with your dog, please e-mail your information ASAP to: fireman9722003@yahoo.com

Travel and lodgings:

- Please send us your travel itinerary - arrival / departure information as soon as possible for airport pick-ups and drop offs. (Airline / Airport / Times / Amount of people/ what hotel you've booked) ASAP to: fireman9722003@yahoo.com or Call: 561- 906-4104 (Scroll down for airport / hotel information)
- Firefighters coming in from out of town, out of state, and from out of the country, the following are the area international airports in order of closest distance to the hotels:

- 1- Palm Beach International Airport (20 minutes)
- 2- Fort Lauderdale International Airport (30 minutes)

Those firefighters, who are in need of pick-ups and drops off at the airport, please send your itineraries ASAP to: fireman9722003@yahoo.com

- Firefighters coming in from cities, counties, towns within the state of Florida and are in need of chartered bus / coach transportation, here are two companies: www.midnightcoaches.com www.martzgroup.com

- Hotels: When calling, advise them that you're with the "Palm Beach County Firefighters Group" ... When checking in, you will have to provide Fire Department I/D. The following hotels are the ones we've established thus far.

The HOST hotel will be the Delray Beach Marriott Residence Inn

The hotel is located at 1111 East Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33483. Phone (561) 276-7441. The front lobby door of this hotel will put you out on the street at the very starting location of the parade. Free breakfast, and free parking, with a rate of \$205.00 a night the rooms are “Suites” ... which means they have kitchenettes / dining areas. There will be a hospitality table / room set up at the host hotel to welcome out of town firefighters with a complimentary goody bag, complete with support and contact information on the pre-parade, parade, post parade activities and events, as well as suggestions on area attractions and things to do while in Delray Beach. Direct registration link – [Click here](#)

..... All Firefighter groups will be able to set up a table in the hospitality room and sell their tee shirts, hats, challenge coins, patches, ect ect.

Delray Beach Marriott at 10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach, Florida, 33483. (561) 274-3200. This hotel is right in front of the host hotel Marriott Residence Inn, and is right on the beach. A little more upscale with obviously a better view of the ocean, with a rate of (To be announced soon) a night. ** You will have to provide Firefighter Identification at the desk upon arrival to check in.
www.marriottdelraybeach.com

Boynton Beach Courtyard Marriott at 1601 N. Congress Ave., Boynton Beach, Florida, 33426, (561) 737-4600. This hotel is about 15 minutes North of Atlantic Ave. by car / van. The rate is \$129.00 a night. Price includes parking, breakfast, and complimentary internet access. ** You will have to provide Firefighter Identification at the desk upon arrival to check in.
www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/pbibb-courtyard-boynton-beach

Holiday Inn Express Boynton Beach - 480 West Boynton Beach Blvd., Florida, 33435 rooms start at \$89.00 a night, includes complimentary breakfast, complimentary internet access, free local calls. (561) 734-9100. The following link will open up to a registration page with the group code already set up for registration. ** You will have to provide Firefighter Identification at the desk upon arrival to check in. [Holiday Inn Express Boynton Beach](#)

Holiday Inn – Highland Beach at 2809 South Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach, Florida, 33487. (561) 278-6241. This hotel is right on the beach and is about 5 minutes South of Atlantic Ave. by car/van and the room rate is also being checked on at this time, ** You will have to provide Firefighter Identification at the desk upon arrival to check in. www.highlandbeachholidayinn.com

Colony Hotel and Cabana at 525 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, Florida, 33483, (561) 276-4123. (DOG FRIENDLY) This hotel is right in the middle of the parade route, in the downtown business district area and is a quaint historical hotel that's been recently renovated. Rate: \$149.00 a night. As of this time, there is a 3 night minimum on this rate. (\$25.00 / night extra for dog) Rate also includes parking and breakfast. ** You will have to provide Firefighter Identification at the desk upon arrival to check in. www.thecolonyhotel.com/florida

Hampton Inn - Boynton Beach at 1475 West Gateway Blvd. Boynton Beach, Florida, 33426 - \$119.00 a night - (561) 369-0018 ** You will have to provide Firefighter Identification at the desk upon arrival to check in. [Hampton Inn Boynton Beach](#)

Embassy Suites @ Boca Raton 661 N.W. 53 St. Boca Raton, 33483 - \$123.00 a night, (561) 994-8200 ** You will have to provide Firefighter Identification at the desk upon arrival to check in. [Embassy Suites](#)

Hilton Garden Inn @ 8201 Congress Ave., Boca Raton, 33487, (561) 988-6110. Hotel is within 2-3 miles from the parade route. Firefighter discount rates start at \$109.00 (Rates are non commissioned rates, which means you can only get them directly through the hotel, not a travel agency). ** You will have to provide Firefighter Identification at the desk upon arrival to check in. www.hiltongardeninn.com

- Parking recommendation will be any one of the Delray Beach downtown municipal parking garages near old school square. (Vicinity of Swinton Blvd. / Atlantic Ave. / N.E. – S.E. 1st Ave. and next to the South County Courthouse at 200 West Atlantic Ave.)

- Please note that the above times for the various groups to show up at the perspective locations gives you ample enough time to factor in the parking garage locations and the walk to where the parade begins. Atlantic Ave. will be shut down to traffic several hours prior to the beginning of the parade. There for, if you've got equipment to drop off, or personnel to drop off at the parade's starting location at Gleason St. and Atlantic Ave., do it early. As it gets closer to step off time, it will become increasingly harder to find parking, once the garages fill up.

- Uniform / civilian clothing - change out location option will be the old school square amphitheater / back stage dressing rooms. Uniformed personnel are encouraged to drop off their duffel / gym bags with civilian change out clothing at the amphitheater prior to the parade. Fire Safety Clowns will have access to a host hotel room at the parade starting location if needed.

- Group photograph - A group photograph opportunity of uniformed personnel to be taken with the pipes and drums and honor guard teams will be made prior to stepping off.

Videos of this year's 2011 parade please click on the following links.

[Video 1](#) [Video 2](#) [Video 3](#) [Video 4](#)

Videos of the 2010 Parade please click on the following links.

[Video 1](#) [Video 2](#) [Video 3](#)

To see photographs of the 42nd annual Delray Beach – International Fire Service – St. Patrick's Parade:

www.georgiahandyphotography.com/parade

Sign in to Facebook to view the following albums of past parades

www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=162909&id=710682043

www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=160683&id=710682043

www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=160675&id=710682043

See us on Facebook: [Click here](#)

- Festival Management Group is the owner and governing body of the parade and if you'd like to enter a float or be a parade sponsor, their information can be found at: [Festival Management](#) or you can call (561) 279-0907

*** Fees for Fire service floats and entries are waived / exempt.

- If you would like to make a donation to the firefighter parade hospitality support fund, and tax exempt 501-C3 organizations, please call (561) 883-7763

- Please spread the word to friends, family and neighbors to come cheer their firefighters on.

- Please tell anyone you know that's coming to the parade, to stay away from the area near Atlantic Ave. and the railroad tracks / downtown. This is where the highest concentration of spectators will be, and won't necessarily have the best view. Send them down closer to Federal Highway or the intra-coastal bridge, or between Swinton Ave and the Delray Beach Fire Rescue Headquarters Station.

- For additional information and official parade tee shirt orders, please call: Palm Beach County Firefighters / Parade Committee Chairman, Captain John Fischer - (561) 883-7763

Thank you, and we'll see you at the parade of parades!!!
Be safe Slainte' !!!

Update 12/20/11