



SAN DIEGO FIREFIGHTERS EMERALD SOCIETY

January 28th, 2009

**Fire Chief
Fire Service Professional
Firefighter Brothers and Sisters, and
Families of Firefighters**

Greetings from the San Diego Firefighters' Emerald Society;

We are pleased to invite you and your Agency to attend the **29th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade and Family Festival** will be held on Saturday March 14th 2009. This years' parade theme is "Celebrating Children's Services: Adoption – Fostering – Mentoring".

This annual event is organized by the *Irish Congress of Southern California* whom honors our service each year by appointing Firefighters to lead-off the parade. Attached to this email are Flyers for you to post in your respective Firehouse(s). We urge you to also share these Flyers with all of your friends and families.

A Saint Patrick's Day Parade is more than just a community event. It is a well deserved opportunity to meet and celebrate with family, friends and our neighbors. Some say the celebration of Saint Patrick's Day by the Fire Service has been a tradition dating back to the early 1800s. The Emerald Society encourages you to share with us this time honored tradition with a day of fellowship and celebration.

As always the Fire Service participation in the Parade consists of both a marching component and rolling stock. This year the Irish Congress has respectfully requested we begin keeping track of Agency's that participate so they can more formally communicate thanks for your support and participation.

Please complete the attached ***2009 St Patrick's Day Fire Service Parade Entry Form*** for your Marching and Apparatus entries. Parade entries are due back to the Emerald Society no later than February 28th, 2009. Once we receive your Parade Entry you will be contacted back with further details as well as provided a Staging Plan.

If you have any questions please feel contact us at clanchief@clanfiodhnach.com -or- (858) 603-9538.

P.O. Box 500222 San Diego California 92150-0222 (858) 603-9538
www.sdffemeraldssociety.org
www.myspace.com/sdffemeraldssociety



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~ Parade Day Agenda ~

- 0600 – 1000 ***Annual Emerald Society Firefighters' Breakfast***
Kick-off parade day with a traditional Irish Breakfast at the Pioneer Hook & Ladder Company Firehouse Museum. This popular annual event features a festive and family friendly social atmosphere complete with Irish Music & Dancers; the Emerald Society Pipes and Drum Unit, and; of course good food and libations. The Fire House Museum is located at 1572 Columbia Street, San Diego (in Little Italy). Bus transportation from the Museum to the Parade Staging Area will be provided courtesy of the San Diego Fire Rescue Department.
- 1000 – 1200 ***29th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade***
Plan to come out and march in the parade with the "Fir Na' Tine" Firefighters Marching Unit. Marching Attire will be Class A or B Uniform. Staging location is located at 6th Street (between Juniper & Ivy). The Fire Service Division Staging will start at 10:00 AM with the Parade kicking off promptly at 11:00 AM. Staging Plans will be provided by the Emerald Society in advance of the event.
- 1130 – 1700 ***Saint Patrick's Day Family Festival***
After the parade stick around Balboa Park and enjoy an old fashioned *Irish* Family Festival. There will be live *Irish* music and dance on two stages; vendors providing a wide range of food and refreshments, crafts and merchandise; a special Kid's Zone with games and rides; a Celtic Village demonstrating the ways of old, and; a display by WORLD MEMORIAL 9/11 Memorial and Tribute.

For additional information on the Parade and Family Festival; or if you would like to volunteer to assist please contact us at clanchief@clanfiodhnach.com -or- (858) 603-9538.. The Emerald Society looks forward to seeing you on Saturday March 14th 2008.

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On behalf of...

The San Diego Firefighters' Emerald Society

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