



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**The official home of the North Carolina Fourth of July Celebration
Announces 35th Annual Fireman's Freedom Competition & 911 Never Forget Memorial Mobile Exhibit**



The 4th of July Committee is pleased to announce The Southport Fire Department will be presenting the 35th Annual Fireman's Competition on Saturday, June 30th 1st from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The competitive events will be held on location at the Southport Fire Substation on 111 E. Nash Street, Southport, NC.

Since 1984, The City of Southport Fire Department has invited area fire departments to Southport to compete in the N.C. 4th of July Festival Fire Fighter Freedom Competition.

What looks like fun games to the spectators is really an event to test the teamwork of a department, as it pays homage to training and firefighting methods of our past. Take for example the bucket brigade. It was the method of extinguishing fires until the invention of the hand pumped fire engine. There is a tremendous amount of teamwork and physical endurance that is needed to complete this duty. Teamwork and endurance is the key to an effective Fire Department.

The competitive events included Ladder Climb, Tanker Tug, Command Post, Bucket Brigade, and Barrel Push. There are plenty of Fire engines, ladder trucks and equipment on display and the firefighters are happy to answer any questions.

The public is invited to enjoy the viewing the competition, see fire apparatus displays, take tours, visit with Fire Vendors and enjoy water sprinklers and activities for children.

Also on display from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. will be the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation presentation of the [911 Memorial Mobile Exhibit](#).

The history of Southport's Fourth of July Festival celebration was first recorded in a newspaper in 1795. Now the event has grown to attract over 40,000 visitors each year. Through the years it's the efforts of civic groups and citizens the festival has evolved to encompass a wide variety of American celebration traditions. And what could be more American than a Naturalization Ceremony which was incorporated into the N.C. Fourth of July Festival in 1996 and administered by what is now the United States Department of Homeland Security U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS). Holding true to its mission of promoting patriotism, the festival also holds a Veterans Recognition Ceremony, Flag Retirement Ceremony and Flag Raising Ceremony.