



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Annual Firefighter's Freedom Competition Announced for Fourth of July Festival**  
*9/11 Never Forget Memorial Mobile Exhibit to Return for 2019*



**Southport, N.C.** – The Southport Fire Department will present the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Firefighter's Freedom Competition on Saturday, June 29 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Southport Fire Substation at 111 E. Nash Street.

This event has drawn firefighters from area fire departments to compete since 1984. What looks like fun games to the spectators is really an event to test the teamwork of a department, as it pays homage to the 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 include Ladder Climb, Tanker Tug, Command Post, Bucket Brigade, and Barrel Push. Fire engines, ladder trucks and equipment will be on display and firefighters will be available to answer any questions.

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

The Southport Fire Department is also sponsoring the return of the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation presentation of the [9/11 Never Forget Memorial Mobile Exhibit](#) to the Fourth of July Festival. The exhibit will be on display at 115 E. Nash Street, July 3 and 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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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 more than 50,000 visitors each year. Through the years, the efforts of civic groups and citizens has helped the festival evolve 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.