



*SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT*  
Public Information Office

10/23/08

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Media Advisory

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1500 Hrs

For Immediate Release PST

Lt. Mindy Talmadge – 415 – 558-3656

Lt. Mindy Talmadge - 415 – 699-6150(C)

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**San Francisco Fire Department's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Alcatraz Swim**  
**Thursday, October 23, 2008**

**(San Francisco, October 23, 2008)** Approximately 35 San Francisco Firefighters, active and retired, will be diving into the chilly waters of the San Francisco Bay at 9:15 AM Thursday morning, to raise money for the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation and awareness of the high rate of Firefighting-related cancers.

Retired Chief of Department Ed Phipps, who completed the Alcatraz swim in a time of 35 minutes in the early 50's, is the Honorary Race Marshal for this event.

The San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation was founded by a retired SF Firefighter who, while on the job, was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. Research shows that 1 in 3 retired SF Firefighters either has had or currently has cancer. The mission of the Foundation is to screen active Firefighters for various forms of cancer through annual testing. Early detection is key to the outcome of the patient.

**MEDIA OPPORUNITY**

**8:00AM** Swimmers will meet at the South End Rowing Club

**(Swim Event Coordinator, Battalion Chief Tom Abbott and Ret. Chief of Department Ed Phipps will be available for interviews.)**

**8:45AM** Swimmers will be transported to Alcatraz by the Fireboat and the Fire Department Rescue Watercraft

**9:15AM -10:45AM** Swim

**\*\*\*For More Information, contact Tom Abbott, (415)308-4038\*\*\***