SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
Public Information Office

Media Advisory

For Immediate Release PST
 Lt. Mindy Talmadge – 415 – 558-3656
 Lt. Mindy Talmadge - 415 – 270-4895(P)

“Commemorate, Celebrate, Educate”

102nd Anniversary of the
Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906

(San Francisco, April 17, 2008) - The San Francisco Fire Department, along with other early
risers, will be commemorating the 102nd anniversary of the Great Earthquake and Fire of 1906 at
an annual commemoration ceremony being held at the historic Lotta’s Fountain in downtown San
Francisco.

The event, which begins precisely at 5:12 AM, the exact time the 1906 earthquake struck the
sleeping city of San Francisco is, “the time that we San Franciscans commemorate those who
suffered great losses and to celebrate the spirit and resolve of the people of San Francisco who
overcame the devastation of that historical day and rebuilt this great City.” said Fire Chief Joanne
Hayes-White. “This is also a time to educate and remind all people of the importance of disaster
preparedness.”

After the commemoration ceremony at Lotta’s Fountain, a procession will be made to the
infamous golden fire hydrant, on the corner of 20th and Church streets, for a re-painting
ceremony. The celebrated fire hydrant is said to have been the sole source of water, used by
thousands of volunteers, responsible for saving the south side of the Mission District during the
aftermath of the 1906 earthquake.

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