



Greetings ! ..... The history and tradition of fire department participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in the North American fire service, dates back to the 1800's. F.D.N.Y. traditionally marches and leads the St. Patrick's Day parade in Manhattan every year, as well as fire departments in other major cities around the country.

On March 13th, 2010 ... The City of Delray Beach, Florida will be host to the 42nd annual Delray Beach St. Patrick's Day parade. Historically this has been the largest St. Patrick's Day parade in Florida.

Florida has a large population of North Eastern and mid Western transplants, people who grew up seeing their fire departments in their home town parade. The 2010 parade theme will be "Firefighter Appreciation", with the parade title "The Firefightin Irish".

Palm Beach County Firefighters Pipe and Drum corps would like to extend a global invitation to firefighters of all nationalities - volunteer, career and retired, along with their friends, neighbors and family, to come join their fellow firefighters in helping all American citizens bring back these traditional memories. This parade will be the largest fire service based parade in Florida state history.

Large 20' X 30' flags will be hung by fire department ladder trucks from multiple fire departments across the parade route so that the entire parade will march under a fire department flag tunnel. Something on this scale has never been done before and is a creative artistic display of community unity.

Antique along with front line fire apparatus with a marching multi agency fire department honor / color guard contingent, followed by multi agency fire department pipes and drums, and uniformed marching firefighters that will lead the parade.

The parade spectators and their children will be delighted and entertained by professional fire service clowns and various fire apparatus, firefighter motorcycle riders, civilian firefighter themed floats and Dalmatian dogs.

The Dublin Ireland Fire Brigade Pipe Band has accepted our invitation to come all the way over from Ireland and march with us in the parade. As of this time, they're still on track to come. This is quite an honor, and we'd like everyone else participating in the parade and festivities, to extend an extra warm American welcome to our fellow Firefighters from Ireland.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association has accepted our invitation to have one of their M.D.A. ambassadors lead the parade as the Parade Grand Marshal. This years M.D.A. Parade Grand Marshal will be 13 year old Trenton Kirchfeld. Trenton and his family are very excited to lead the parade and we look forward to marching behind him.

The parade festivities will begin Friday March 12<sup>th</sup>, with a pre-parade pub crawl to various establishments around Mizner Park Boca Raton, followed with a gathering inside Mizner Park. The fire service mass bands will play throughout. The meeting location will be the Wishing Well restaurant at 111 Southeast Mizner Boulevard Boca Raton, FL 33432-5007 in Boca Raton @ 17:00 hrs. Those needing transportation, transportation from the host hotel will be available from the host hotel @ 16:30 hrs. Pipe band members will have a short meeting prior to leaving host hotel for the pre-parade party. Any additional Friday night pre-parade info needed, call the number below. Boca Raton -I.A.F.F. Local 1560 is doing an outstanding job organizing this event.

Additional information is as follows:

- If your agency would like to enter a fire department apparatus in the parade, please call the number below.

- If your agency would like to enter an aerial - ladder truck for the flag deployment detail, please call the number below. (This will be the highest visual profile part of the parade. The media will be invited to take helicopter aerial photographs of this, as well as land based photographs and videos. The Good Year Blimp has been invited to fly over and take aerial photographs and video. All photographs and video footage will be considered for submittal to the major national fire service trade magazines.)

- Firefighters wishing to march in the parade, can march in one of the following two uniform selections:

1- Black shoes, navy blue / black dress slacks, black leather belt, long sleeve buttoned uniform shirt, black tie, Class-A fire department dress jacket with patches, Class-A fire department cap.

2- Black shoes, navy blue / black dress slacks, black leather belt, long sleeve buttoned uniform shirt, black tie.

Explorers can march in the uniforms issued to them from the prospective agency Explorer programs.

- Fire service pipes and drums bands wishing to march and play with the firefighters massed band, the uniform will be black shoes, hose, flashes, spats, kilt, Sporrán, belt, your long sleeve band parade shirt, black tie, Glengarry.

- Firefighters riding in the motorcycle procession, the uniform will be pants of your choice, fire department uniform boots or any black leather riding boots / shoes, (No combat firefighting boots) firefighter tee shirt of your choice, firefighters leather riding vest if you have one, and a fire helmet. Riders are encouraged to wear these items, St. Patrick's Day beads and whatever else you'd like to wear that's St. Patrick's Day related or fire department related.

If you would like to purchase a traditional antique - New York style - Green - St. Patrick's Day fire helmet, click here

[www.oldfirehat.com](http://www.oldfirehat.com) ... or ... [www.irishfiremansderby.com](http://www.irishfiremansderby.com)

- The official 2010, 42nd annual Delray Beach St. Patrick's Day Parade: "The Firefightin Irish" tee shirts with the logo you see on this [www.iaff2928.com](http://www.iaff2928.com) website

are on sale now. The colors are Shamrock Green, and black. Small, Large, and Extra Large - \$20.00 .... Double and Triple Extra Large - \$23.00 .... For more information on how to purchase one of these commemorative tee shirts, please call the number below.

- The parade route will begin at Gleason Street and A1A, on Atlantic Avenue

- Parade steps off at 14:00 hrs.

- Aerial ladder trucks for flag detail, will report to staging location behind the Delray Beach South County Courthouse at 200 W. Atlantic Avenue no later than 10:30 hrs. A staging officer will greet each aerial apparatus and give them their flag and deployment location and the best routing to get there. The parade FIRE COMMAND will notify the staging officer when to release the aerials. Please download and fill out the simple registration form and fax it ASAP to: (561) 969-1059

- Fire department pipes and drums members are to report to the firefighter sign in table/tent at Gleason St. and Atlantic Avenue for tune up and instructions, no later than 11:00. A parade tune list is posted on the front page of this parade site. (The one you were on before you got to this page) Please download and fill out the simple registration form attached to this web page and fax it ASAP to: (561) 969-1059.

- Fire department honor / color guard teams / banner carriers, report to firefighter sign in table / tent at Gleason St. and Atlantic Ave. to meet with the honor guard commander for line up information and instructions, no later than 12:00. Jacket /cap hangers and clothing racks will be provided, so that you can dress down until step off time. Please be dressed out by 13:30. Please download and fill out the simple registration form attached to this web page and fax it ASAP to: (561) 969-1059

- Uniformed marching firefighters, report to the firefighter sign in table/tent at Gleason Street and Atlantic Avenue no later than 12:30 hrs. (Jacket /cap hangers and clothing racks will be provided so that you can dress down until step off time. Please be dressed out by 13:30). The parade honor guard commander will give all uniformed personnel their parade formation instructions. Please download and fill out the simple registration form attached to this web page and fax it ASAP to: (561) 969-1059

- Uniformed motorcyclist firefighters report to the staging officer at the motorcycle staging area at the Delray Beach city hall parking lot at 100 NW 1st Avenue Delray Beach, Florida 33444, no later than 12:00. There will be an organized motorcycle ride from the staging area, down Atlantic Avenue to the Gleason Street parade staging location just prior to the start of the parade. This is part of a ceremonial show that will signify to the crowd that the parade is about to begin. This creative part of the parade involving the bikes is actually quite an honor. This bike ride opening ceremony is what begins the IAFF Fallen Firefighter Memorial out in Colorado Springs every year. Upon completion of parade, those bikers that would like to stay, there will be a line up location at the Old School Square party, in the new park. Please download and fill out the simple registration form and fax it ASAP to: (561) 969-1059

- The entire parade will be photographed with still shot photography and video.

- There will be several high school marching bands in the parade, and band member will be asked to wear a fire department tee shirt from the many departments / agencies represented in the parade. If you would like your fire department represented by a high school marching band member, please call the number below to make arrangements to have a newly / never worn F.D. shirt from your agency delivered to us prior to parade day.

- Bottled water will be provided by the Coca Cola Corporation and IAFF Local 2928 who have generously donated a large quantity for us.

- Portable restroom units will be set up on site.

- Parents who've been cleared to have their children ride on the fire apparatus; have your children ready to get on the truck, no later than 13:30 hrs. And report to the firefighter sign in table / tent so we can space the children out evenly. All children must be accompanied by one of their parents on the apparatus. A eligibility list has been started.

- Dalmatian dog owners who've been cleared to have their dogs march or ride on the fire apparatus, please have your dogs ready no later than 13:00 hrs. and report to the

firefighter sign in table. Water bowls will be set up near the sign in table. Owners and their Dogs will have the option of attending the pre-parade and post-parade party / gathering at Old School Square where they can enjoy and admire their fellow Dalmatians and allow the spectators and their children admire / pet their Dalmatians.

- Firefighters coming in from out of town, out of state, and from out of the country, the following are the area international airports in order of closest distance to the hotels: 1- Palm Beach International Airport (20 minutes) 2- Fort Lauderdale International Airport (30 minutes) 3- Miami International Airport (60 minutes).

Call the number below with your flight information or e-mail it to [jfischer2009@comcast.net](mailto:jfischer2009@comcast.net) so we can arrange for you to be picked up and brought back to the airport.

Firefighters coming in from cities, counties, towns within the state of Florida and are in need of chartered bus / coach transportation, here are two companies:

<http://www.midnightcoaches.com>

<http://www.martzgroup.com>

- Hotels: .... When calling, advise them that you're with the "Firefighters pipe and drum group" ... The following hotels are the ones we've established thus far:

The HOST hotel will be the Delray Beach Marriott Residence Inn at 1111 East Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, Florida, 33483. (561) 276-7441. The front lobby door of this hotel will put you out on the street at the very starting location of the parade. Free breakfast, and free parking, with a rate of \$189.00 a night The rooms are "Suites" ... which means they have kitchenettes / dining areas. There will be a hospitality table / room set up at the host hotel to welcome out of town firefighters with a complimentary goody bag, complete with support and contact information on the pre-parade, parade, post parade activities and events, as well as suggestions on area attractions and things to do while in Delray Beach.

Delray Beach Marriot at 10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach, Florida, 33483. (561) 274-3200. This hotel is right in front of the host hotel Marriot Residence Inn, and is

right on the beach. Little more upscale with obviously a better view of the ocean, with a rate of \$229.00 a night.

Boynton Beach Courtyard Marriott at 1601 N. Congress Ave., Boynton Beach, Florida, 33426, (561) 737-4600. This hotel is about 15 minutes North of Atlantic Ave. by car / van, but has a considerably cheaper rate than the two above. The rate is \$109.00 a night. Includes parking and breakfast.

### **Holiday Inn Express Boynton Beach**

480 West Boynton Beach Blvd., Florida, 33435

\$92.00 a night, includes complimentary breakfast, complimentary internet access, free local calls. (561) 734-9100 ..... <http://www.hieboynton.com>

Holiday Inn - Highland Beach at 2809 South Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach, Florida, 33487. (561) 278-6241. This hotel is right on the beach and is about 5 minutes South of Atlantic Ave. by car/van and the room rate is also being checked on at this time, but should be somewhere in between the two above (\$189.00 - \$229.00).

Colony Hotel and Cabana at 525 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, Florida, 33483, (561) 276-4123. (DOG FRIENDLY) This hotel is right in the middle of the parade route, in the downtown business district area and is a quaint historical hotel that's been recently renovated. Rates are going to be somewhere in the \$189.00 a night range. (\$25.00 / night extra for dog) Rate also includes parking and breakfast.

### **Embassy Suites @ Boca Raton**

661 N.W. 53 St. Boca Raton, 33483

\$123.00 a night, (561) 994-8200

[http://embassysuites1.hilton.com/en\\_US/es/hotel/BCTNWES-Embassy-Suites-Boca-Raton-Florida/index.do](http://embassysuites1.hilton.com/en_US/es/hotel/BCTNWES-Embassy-Suites-Boca-Raton-Florida/index.do)

Seagate Hotel at: 1000 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach Florida, 33483, (877) 577-3242. This hotel is brand new and whose front desk / lobby area puts you right out onto Atlantic Ave. where the parade begins. Firefighter discount rates start at \$189.00 a night. <http://www.theseagatehotel.com>

Hilton Garden Inn at: 8201 Congress Ave., Boca Raton, 33487, (561) 988-6110. Hotel is within 2-3 miles from the parade route. Firefighter discount rates start at \$109.00 <http://www.hiltongardeninn.com> (Rates are non commissioned rates, which means you can only get them directly through the hotel, not a travel agency)

- Parking recommendation will be any one of the three Delray Beach downtown municipal parking garages near old school square. (Vicinity of Swinton Blvd. / Atlantic Ave. / N.E. - S.E. 1st Ave.)

- Please note that the above times for the various groups to show up at the perspective locations gives you ample enough time to factor in the parking garage locations and the walk to where the parade begins. Atlantic Ave. will be shut down to traffic several hours prior to the beginning of the parade. There for, if you've got equipment to drop off, or personnel to drop off at the parade's starting location at Gleason St. and Atlantic Ave., do it early. As it gets closer to step off time, it will become increasingly harder to find parking, once the garages fill up.

- Uniform / civilian clothing - change out location will be the old school square amphitheater / back stage dressing rooms. Fire Safety Clowns will have access to a host hotel room at the parade starting location.

- Group photograph - A group photograph opportunity of uniformed personnel to be taken with the pipes and drums and honor guard teams, will be available in Old School Square at the after parade party.

- To see fire service pictures of the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Delray Beach St. Patricks Parade, see us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=150946580997&ref=ss>

- FMG is the governing body that is organizing the parade and their information can be found at:

<http://www.festivalmanagementgroup.com/index.php?s=content&p=2008StPParade>

- Please continue to check back on this web site: [www.iaff2928.com](http://www.iaff2928.com) for any changes made between now and parade day.

- Please spread the word to friends, family and neighbors. Please tell anyone you know that's coming to the parade, to stay away from the area near Atlantic Ave. and the railroad tracks / downtown. This is where the highest concentration of spectators will be, and won't necessarily have the best view. Send them down closer to Federal Highway or the intra-coastal bridge.

- For additional information, please call: Palm Beach County Firefighters Pipe and Drum corps. Captain John Fischer - (561) 883-7763