

[News](#) [Entertainment](#) [Forums](#) [Blogs](#) [Autos](#) [Jobs](#) [Homes](#) [Classifieds](#)
[ydr.com](#) [FlipSidePA.com](#) [The Exchange](#) [yorkblog.com](#) [pacarbuyer.com](#) [pajobfinder.com](#) [homesinyork.com](#) [inyork.com/classifieds](#)

ydr.com York Daily Record
 YORK SUNDAY NEWS

[News](#) [Local](#) [Sports](#) [Business](#) [Living](#) [Opinion](#) [Photos](#)

Browse

[About us](#)
[Announcements](#)
[Awards](#)
[Calendar of Events](#)
[County History](#)
[Newslibrary](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[Pets](#)
[ProQuest Archive](#)

[Link To Article](#) [Print Article](#) [Email Ar](#)

Article Launched: 03/10/2006 2:40 AM EST

Downtown to get fired up

Firefighters from around the U.S. and Canada will compete in June in York.

By TED CZECH
 Daily Record/Sunday News

At bottom: • [IF YOU GO](#) • [TO SPONSOR](#)

Mar 10, 2006 — Two five-story metal towers will be constructed in the middle Continental Square the second weekend in June, as York hosts a Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge for the first time.

York City Fire/Rescue Services' team, now eight members strong, will compete with about 250 firefighters from around the country and Canada in the obstacle course that simulates tasks firefighters must perform while fighting a fire.

Jim Gross, York's director of public works, said Wednesday that an activity permit had been approved for Paul Davis Restoration, the company which sponsors the York team.

"Absolutely thrilled to see it come to York," said York City Fire/Rescue Service Chief John Senft. "This is clearly a demonstration of skills that firefighters use, and some of the best firefighters in the world are right here in York. And that includes those not on the team."

Matt Jackson, York's economic development director and redevelopment authority coordinator, said the challenge, which will have plenty of bleachers for spectators, will attract a crowd downtown.

"It's a novel event. It'll have a certain flair," he said. "We encourage diversity and uniqueness in our downtown events. I think this is something downtown will endorse."

York's team - Deputy Chief Richard Halpin, Lt. Dave Michaels, and firefighters Mike Anderson, Ivan Flanscha, Rolando Suarez, Chad Deardorff, Kevin Holtzapple and Mark Bowman - has competed in the annual circuit for six years and each year they have qualified for the world championships.

Steve Rotay, who owns several local Paul Davis Restoration locations and who helped spearhead the challenge coming to York, also expected a strong turnout.

"I'm just jacked up about it," he said. Of York's team, Rotay added, "They're living legends in this circuit. Everybody's going to want to come to York out of respect."

In 2004, five team members were inducted into the Lion's Den, the Combat Challenge's hall of fame, and last year, Anderson was the overall points leader for the circuit.

The challenge begins as firefighters in full gear throw a rolled-up hose over their shoulders and run up the five-story structure. At the top, they drop the hose and pull up another rolled hose, hand-over-hand, by rope from the ground.

Racing back down the stairs, they hop atop a metal sled and grab a mallet to slam a metal 165-pound beam five feet backward. Dropping the mallet, firefighters must negotiate a slalom course, then pick up a charged hose, pull 75 feet and blast it at a target.

Lastly, they must drag a 175-pound dummy backward 100 feet to the finish line.

Regularly seen on ESPN, the event has been called "The toughest two minutes in sports."

Halpin, who lifts weights and runs every off-season, said he hopes to have at least two Combat Challenges under his belt by the time the York event happens.

"I'm kind of anxious for it to come here," he said. "It'll be kind of nice to show off for our hometown people."

Reach Ted Czech at 771-2033 or tczech@ydr.com.

IF YOU GO

What? The Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge

When? June 9 and 10

Where? Market Street, between Beaver and Duke streets, and George Street between Philadelphia and King streets, in York.

The schedule

June 9: Opening ceremonies at 6 p.m., followed by introduction of the teams

and individual firefighter runs, ending about 10 p.m.

June 10: Corporate races at 9 a.m. and the firefighter tandem competition at noon. An awards ceremony will follow around 4 p.m. Admission is free.

[tc](#)

TO SPONSOR

Anyone interested in having their company sponsor the Scott Firefighter Comk Challenge is asked to Call Steve Rotay at 291-6000.

[tc](#)

[↑ RETURN TO TOP](#)

Main News >>

- [Where's the corned beef?](#)
- [Hair lost, money raised](#)
- [Seeking a cure by baldness](#)
- [Cancer patient dies after fire](#)
- [Police probe steer death](#)

[News](#) · [Local](#) · [Sports](#) · [Business](#) · [Living](#) · [Opinion](#) · [Photos](#)
[Jobs at the York Daily Record](#) · [Contact us](#) · [Submit Web site feedback](#)

Copyright © York Daily Record
122 S. George St., P.O. Box 15122
York, PA 17405, (717) 771-2000
[Privacy Policy](#)