



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Paula Wiens
303-779-8522; cell: 720-219-8326
pwienspr@aol.com

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Fire Truck Buffs Set to Muster
24th Annual Fire Truck Parade & Muster, June 20th in Littleton

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For more than 150 years, firefighters across the U.S. have “mustered”, or gathered to show off their firefighting equipment, preserve fire service history, and promote fire safety. In celebration of this grand American tradition, antique fire truck collectors and active fire departments along the Front Range are gearing up for the **24th annual Fire Truck Parade & Muster**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 20th in Historic Downtown Littleton. Hosted by Littleton Fire Rescue, this free family event has been presented by Ralph Schomp Automotive since 1985 in partnership with Mile High Hook & Ladder, an all-volunteer antique fire truck club “dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and operation of fire apparatus in America.”

At 9 a.m., roaring sirens and clanging brass fire bells will signal the start of the parade, led by Littleton Fire Rescue’s classic 1914 Federal Chemical Truck. The procession will depart from Littleton High School, wind its way west on Littleton Blvd. down Main Street; turn left on Curtis; then “muster” from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Arapahoe Community College (ACC), 5900 South Santa Fe.

At ACC, fire buffs of all ages can take fire truck rides; climb on antique and new fire apparatus; talk to firefighters about their noble profession; observe fire safety demonstrations; and compete in traditional firefighter games, including the bucket brigade—the oldest form of firefighting when volunteers lined up to extinguish a fire with water-filled buckets.

Firefighting bunker gear is being provided for photo opportunities by Muster emcee, Art Gomez, coordinator/ instructor of the Fire Science Program at Red Rocks Community College. Junior firefighters sporting kid-size fire helmets and fire truck tattoos can work their way through the House-a-Fire and educational fire safety obstacle course set up by staff from the Denver Firefighters Museum.

Members of Littleton Fire Rescue will pry apart a crushed car with their “Jaws of Life” to remove an accident “victim” during their auto extrication demonstration. Barring a real medical emergency, Air Life will make a helicopter landing to pick up the “victim” freed from the crumpled car.

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A magnificent 1932 Ahrens Fox, considered the "Rolls Royce" of fire apparatus, is being transported to the muster from the Reliance Fire Museum in Estes Park. This elegant rig will join as many as 50 handsomely restored antique fire trucks and massive modern emergency vehicles--from platform ladder trucks, to specialized firefighting rigs like "Kermit", a giant green foam-dispensing aircraft firefighting vehicle operated by the North Metro Fire Department.

This state's hottest firefighters will autograph the 2009 Colorado Firefighter Calendar produced by "Fired Up for Kids", an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization created in 2004 to benefit The Children's Hospital Burn Center. Ralph Schomp Honda is the Presenting Sponsor of the calendar, which has helped raise more than \$200,000 toward burn care for neonates, infants, children and adolescents up to 21 years of age.

Youngsters can race Soap Box cars driven in the 2009 SERTOMA Mile High Soap Box Derby in four divisions: Stock, ages 8 to 13; Super Stock, ages 10 to 17; Master, ages 10 to 17; and Super Kids, specially designed for youth ages 8 to 17 with special needs.

Muster spectators can climb aboard BART (Big Animal Rescue Truck), the 82-foot Mobile Command Center of Code 3 Associates' "Riders on the Storm" Animal Rescue Team based in Erie, Colorado. A private non-profit, Code 3 is dedicated to providing professional response for animals affected by fires, floods, hurricanes and other federally-declared disasters in the U.S. and Canada.

In the aftermath of Katrina, BART served as Code 3's domestic animal operations center in New Orleans and most recently, was deployed to Fargo, ND to assist with animals impacted by the massive flooding in that community. BART is equipped with a horse trailer, animal triage, medical supplies, boats for water rescues, 50 small-animal kennels, and a portable corral for horses and livestock.

Snacks, ice-cold beverages, firefighting souvenirs, and fire safety apparatus will be available for sale. Fire hose spray will help cool off the crowds, but folks are reminded to bring lawn chairs for the parade, plus hats, sunglasses and sunscreen to the **24th Annual Fire Truck Parade and Muster.**

For more information: 303-738-5538.

Mile High Hook & Ladder will host the prestigious SPAAMFAA* National 2010 Convention and Muster on June 17 – 20 in Littleton.

****Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Motor Fire Apparatus in America***

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