

# media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



## MFS firefighters compete at Belfast games

Tuesday, 30 July 2013

Sixty-three Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighters are heading to Belfast, Northern Ireland to compete in the **2013 World Police and Fire Games**.

They'll join thousands of serving and retired firefighters, police officers, correctional services and customs officers from over 60 countries who'll compete in 56 sports.

MFS Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Michael Morgan said up to 7,000 competitors are expected to attend the biennial event, which starts on Friday, 1 August.

"Our firefighters have trained long and hard to compete at world level in their chosen sports at this year's World Police and Fire Games in Belfast."

"They'll be participating in events such as the half marathon, dragon boat racing, dodgeball, angling, hose cart and bucket brigade, golf, indoor rowing, archery, squash, surfing, swimming and athletics, to name a few" Assistant Chief Fire Officer Morgan said.

In 2011, hurricane Irene disrupted the World Police and Fire Games in New York. Despite the unexpected cancellation of several events, a team of MFS and Adelaide Airport firefighters took home 21 medals.

MFS Station Officer, Neil Mangelsdorf has competed in 11 World Police and Fire Games events in various countries across the globe, including Adelaide in 2007.

"While our firefighters are hoping to achieve the best they can in their chosen sports, the best thing about the event is the camaraderie and friendships that are established between competitors.

"No matter what country competitors originate from and no matter the language they speak, we all feel a sense of familiarity and friendship with one another due to our roles in emergency situations," MFS Station Officer Mangelsdorf said.

Over the last two years, firefighters from the South Australian World Police and Fire Games Club have raised funds through raffles, quiz nights, barbeques and calendar sales to help the team make it to the games.

Over the past 20 years the Club has donated well over \$200,000 to the Women's and Children's Hospital's burns unit. This year, they will be donating \$35,000.

The 2013 World Police and Fire Games will begin in Belfast, Northern Ireland on Thursday, 1 August and final competitions end on Saturday, 10 August 2013.

For more information about the games, visit: [www.2013wpfg.com/](http://www.2013wpfg.com/)

**For media enquiries and interviews call the MFS Media Line on (08) 8204 3770**

[www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au)