

# Media Release

ACT Fire Brigade



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## ACT Firies to take on the world in New York

A team of ACT firefighters who will compete in this week's 2011 World Police and Fire Games in the sport of Gaelic football, has today held their last practice hit out before travelling to New York City.

"With 65 sporting events during the games, Gaelic football is just one of the sports that 24 ACT firefighters will take part in," ACT Fire Brigade Chief Officer Paul Swain said.

"They have held various fundraising activities and will compete in a variety of sports including cycling, dragon boat racing, boxing, rugby, rowing, a stair climb, bench press and a half marathon," he said.

"Previously the ACT has been well represented with 12 medals won during the last games in Vancouver in 2009.

The 2011 World Police and Fire Games begin on Friday 26 August for 11 days before finishing on 5 September, 2011.

"Today's final training session for the Gaelic football team is an opportunity for us to wish all of our ACT firefighters the best before leaving Australia," Mr Swain said.

"The Gaelic football team have been busy preparing for the games with the added benefit of calling on local Irish coach Jerry Cronin during the past six weeks to finalise their skills," he said.

"Jerry's direction has ensured the team is competitive for the games, with only one of the 12 members having played the sport previously."

Mr Swain also made mention of a special ceremony following the World Police and Fire Games.

"The importance of the games take on another significant role at the completion of the event, with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragic events of September 11 in New York," Mr Swain said.

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ACT Fire Brigade  
9 Amberley Avenue,  
Fairbairn Business Park,  
MAJURA ACT 2609.  
Ph: (02) 6207 8444 Fax: (02) 6207 8447  
[www.firebrigade.act.gov.au](http://www.firebrigade.act.gov.au)  
[esahaveyoursay@act.gov.au](mailto:esahaveyoursay@act.gov.au)

A member of the ACT Emergency Services Agency

