



**FARMERS  
BRANCH**

# News Release

City of Farmers Branch, Texas

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## For Immediate Release

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## **FBFD “Home Team” welcomes firefighters from across the U.S. & Canada to Farmers Branch for national competition**

FARMERS BRANCH | Thursday, October 1, 2015 ~ By simulating some of the most vital, and strenuous, activities firefighters can undertake, organizers of the Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge have created one of the most unique sporting events in the world.

Farmers Branch will be represented in the U.S. Nationals of the Firefighter Combat Challenge, which will be held Friday through Sunday at the Doubletree Hotel by the Galleria, 4099 Valley View Lane in Farmers Branch. Action begins at 2 p.m. on Friday, 12 noon on Saturday and 10 a.m. on Sunday.

Engaging in activity, such as racing up a five-story tower in full bunker gear, dragging and hoisting a hose, simulating forcible entry and racing around obstacles, the competition is timed with both individual, team and age divisions.

"Our firefighters are much better at their jobs and in much better shape than ever since becoming involved in the Firefighter Combat Challenge competition," said Farmers Branch Fire Chief Steve Parker. "We were very pleased to host a regional competition a few years ago and absolutely honored to be the site for this weekend's U.S. Nationals."

Firefighters from all over the U.S. and Canada will converge on Farmers Branch this weekend for the competition.

The "home team" will include Captain Melissa Murphey and Deputy Chief Gabriel Vargas competing in the "Over 40" age division. Battalion Chief Steve Lamar and Captain Brian Lafleur will run in the "Over 50" category.

Featuring specialties in different areas of the challenge, the Farmers Branch Fire Department Relay team will feature Firefighters Bryan Hardy, Brett Schonfeld and Michael Mania, along with Driver Morgan Bell and Lieutenant Eric Blunt.

There will also be a Kid's Firefighter Challenge, a miniaturized version of the adult course that kids can try out.

For more information, visit [firefighterchallenge.com](http://firefighterchallenge.com).