

Sunday, March 6, 2011

World stairclimbing record set in Seattle as Montana firefighter climbs 69 floors in under 11 minutes

Graham, Washington firefighter wins 13th women's title in 14 years

SEATTLE – Montana firefighter Kory Burgess set a new world firefighter stairclimbing record on the way to his third consecutive Scott Firefighter Stairclimb championship Sunday at Seattle's Columbia Center. The 20th annual climb benefits The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Burgess, 29, of Lolo, Montana, ten miles south of Missoula, and firefighter with Missoula Rural Fire and Rescue climbed 69 flights of stairs, 1,311 steps in all, of Seattle's tallest building in just 10 minutes, 53.79 seconds wearing over 50 pounds of firefighting bunker gear and breathing apparatus. His time dropped the previous mark, which stood for two years, by nearly 2 seconds. The previous record, of 10:55.75 was also set by Burgess.

In women's competition, 5-foot, 5-inch, 135 pound, Graham firefighter Georgia Sans Daniels continued her decade-long dominance of the world firefighter competition winning her 13th championship in 14 years. Daniels, 43, of Tacoma climbed to the 73rd floor observation deck in 14 minutes, 52.17 seconds, just .27 seconds off of her 2010 time. She finished 52nd overall.

1,550 firefighters from 27 states, Canada and New Zealand competed in the world firefighter stairclimbing championship. With two weeks of fundraising remaining, firefighters have already raised over \$695,000 for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

To make a contribution to the LSS on behalf of a participating fire department or firefighter, log on to www.FireFighterStairClimb.org before March 31.

In total, firefighters aged 18 - 69 from a record 281 different fire departments strapped on fire fighting bunker gear and breathing apparatus weighing about 50 lbs. and sprint-climbed 788 feet in vertical elevation (1,311 stairs / 69 stories) from the Fifth Avenue lobby to the 73rd floor observation deck of the 76-story skyscraper.

At 943 feet, about one-and-a-half times the height of Seattle's Space Needle, the Columbia Center is the tallest building (by stories) on the West Coast and the 57th tallest building in the world.

Leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma and myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) are types of cancer that can affect the bone marrow, the blood cells, the lymph nodes and other parts of the lymphatic system. These cancers are all related since each are likely a result from acquired changes to the DNA of a single stem cell.

An estimated 912,938 Americans are living with leukemia, Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, myeloma and myelodysplastic syndromes. According to the National Cancer Institute, an estimated combined total of 137,260 people in the United States will be diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma in 2011 with one person in the US being diagnosed with a blood cancer approximately every four minutes. New cases of leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma will account for 9 percent of the 1,529,560 new cancer cases diagnosed in the US this year alone.

How to Help: Although the event is open only to firefighters the public can contribute to a local firefighter or firehouse participating in the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb. To contribute, please visit www.FirefighterStairclimb.org.

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Our mission: *cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and improve the quality of life of patients and their families*

On Sunday, March 20, the public will tackle the same Columbia Center steps at the 25th annual Big Climb, which also benefits LLS. The event is sold out.

The Scott Firefighter Stairclimb is sponsored by Scott Health & Safety, CAC Real Estate Management Co. Inc., McCormick's Fishhouse and Bar, Lion Apparel, Firehouse.com, Fairmont Olympic Hotel, Alaska Airlines, Talking Rain, Columbia Tower Club, True North, Dragon Fur, Service Master Clean, fado Irish Pub & Restaurant.

About The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer. The LLS mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world and provides free information and support services.

About the Washington/Alaska Chapter

The Washington/Alaska Chapter (www.lls.org/wa) is one of 60 local chapters across the U.S., with an additional 11 chapters in Canada. Located in Seattle since 1984, the Washington/Alaska Chapter is close to the treatment facilities where patients and families come for lifesaving therapies. Major annual fundraising campaigns include Team In Training[®], Light The Night[®] Walk, School & Youth ProgramsSM, the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb, Big Climb, Winter Pineapple Classic and The Leukemia Cup Regatta.

2011 Scott Firefighter Stairclimb / World Firefighter Stairclimbing Championship

Sunday, March 6, 2011

Columbia Center – Seattle

69 Floors / 1,311 Steps With Full Firefighter Gear

Men's Top 10

1. Kory Burgess, 29, Lolo, MT (Missoula Rural Fire) 10:53.78, 2. Andy Drobeck, 29, Missoula, MT (Missoula City Fire) 10:56.64, 3. Paul, Kimball, 27, Spokane, WA (Spokane Valley Fire Department), 4. 11:51.41, Brent Molsberry, 31, Bellingham, WA (Everett Fire Department Local #46) 11:57.83, 5. Brandon French, 30, Kalispell, MT (Kalispell Fire Department) 12:19.22, 6. Martin Ranney, 32, Olympia, WA (Lacey Fire District # 3) 12:34.79, 7. Ryan Pickering, 33, Woodinville, WA (Orting Valley Fire and Rescue) 12:42.33, 8. Mark Austin, 27, Meridian, ID (Boise Fire Department) 12:52.54, 9. Peter Kilga, 38, University Place, WA (West Pierce Fire & Rescue) 13:07.69, 10. Kelsey Backen, 32, Eagle, ID (Eagle Fire Department) 13:15.29.

Women's Top 10

1. Georgia Daniels, 43, Tacoma, WA (Graham Fire & Rescue) 14:52.17, 2. Liz Thompson, 36, Ridgefield, WA (Portland Fire & Rescue) 16:50.93, 3. Rachel Ford, 33, Portland, OR (Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue) 17:08.05, 4. Michelle Croft, 42, Portland, OR (Columbia River Fire & Rescue) 17:10.74, 5. Kara Phillips, 42, Elizabeth, CO, (South Metro Fire Authority) 17:10.99, 6. Jessica Nemens, 30, Renton, WA (Kent Fire Department) 17:11.73, 7. Andra Thompson, 42, College Place, WA (Kennewick Fire) 17:22.63, 8. Patricia Connolly, 41, Bend, OR (Bend Fire & Rescue) 17:32.09, 9. Marissa Martinis, 34, Portland, OR (Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue), 18:24.72, 10. Kourtney Dexter, 30, Bellevue, WA (North Highline Fire) 18:28.20.

www.FirefighterStairclimb.org

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