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Firefighters compete for title

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Sun staff report
8:04 am, September 21, 2007

The 4th Annual Southeast Regional Firefighter Combat Challenge, which attracts competitors from around the state, starts Saturday in Gainesville.

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The event is meant to encourage firefighter fitness and to show spectators the physical demands of being a firefighter, according to organizers. Teams participating in the competition in Gainesville include groups from Delray Beach, Boca Grande, Sarasota, Tallahassee, Palm Bay and Martin County, Gainesville Fire Rescue reported.

Among the competition's requirements are wearing full gear while climbing to the top of a five-story tower, carrying a 42-pound pack and dragging a 175-pound "victim" 100 feet to a finish line. Those who qualify advance to world championship competitions.

Events start at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Oaks Mall parking lot and again at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

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