



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Jennifer Mann  
(212) 210-9108  
jennifer.mann@aetn.com**

## **THE FIREBOATS OF 9/11**

**Monday, September 8 from 10:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. ET/PT**

**New York, N.Y., August 22, 2003** — **THE FIREBOATS OF 9/11** tells the story of the New York City Fire Department marine division's fascinating 107-year-long history leading to its crucial role during the 9/11 terrorist attack. This program blends archival materials with contemporary footage and state-of-the-art animation to bring this interview-driven story to life. The courage of these firefighters and the effectiveness of marine firefighting on September 11th, 2001 underscores the marine division's long history safeguarding lives and property along the waterfront. **THE FIREBOATS OF 9/11 airs on The History Channel® on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 p.m.-11:30 p.m. ET/PT.**

The New York City Fire Department lost 343 members in the collapse of the World Trade Center towers. Al Fuentes, acting chief of the marine division, was one of the missing. Caught in the North Tower, a radio transmission proved that he was still alive but injured and buried somewhere in the rubble. His fellow firemen launched an intense search and rescue mission for the missing chief. Water mains and hydrants were buried deep in the rubble. For three days, the FDNY fireboats were the only water source used to fight the World Trade tower fires.

Interviews with historians, naval architects and designers illuminate the nineteenth century origins of New York's professional fire department, while focusing on the historic figures who spearheaded the marine division's growth into prominence to become one of its most important weapons in fighting fires. Viewers will see these technological marvels in action, get a fascinating below-deck tour of a fireboat's inner workings and witness firefighters in training drills, employing tactics and strategies that reveal the differences in fighting fires on the water versus those on land.

**THE FIREBOATS OF 9/11** draws attention to the firefighters' courageous roles in response to dangerous disasters. Some of the fires featured are the result of carelessness,

others are from ship collisions, mechanical breakdowns and wartime enemy sabotage. One re-creation centers on an ammunition ship fire in 1943 that historians believe had the potential to change the course of World War II.

Also told is the amazing tale of the John Harvey, a fireboat built in memory of a fireman who was killed in the line of duty. Abandoned and about to be sold for scrap, the boat was bought and restored by a group of preservationists that led to her finest moments on 9/11.

Executive Producer for The History Channel is Carl H. Lindahl. **THE FIREBOATS OF 9/11** is produced for The History Channel by Dreamtime Entertainment.

Now reaching 83.2 million Nielsen subscribers, **The History Channel** brings history to life in a powerful manner and provides an inviting place where people experience history personally and connect their own lives to the great lives and events of the past. **The History Channel** is the only place “Where the Past Comes Alive.™” **The History Channel** received the prestigious Governor’s award from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for the network’s “Save Our History™” campaign dedicated to historic preservation and education. **The History Channel** web site is located at [www.HistoryChannel.com](http://www.HistoryChannel.com).

###