



## **Scott Firefighter Stairclimb set for Sunday, March 11 at Seattle Columbia Center**

*Graham firefighter vies for 14<sup>th</sup> overall women's title*

SEATTLE – World firefighting stairclimb women's champion Georgia Daniels will join 1,550 firefighters from across the US, Canada, and Germany on the stairs of Seattle's Columbia Center, Sunday, March 11 as she musters for an attempted 14<sup>th</sup> women's win at the 21st annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb benefiting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.



For nearly a decade-and-a-half, the 5-foot, 5-inch, 135-pound Graham, Washington firefighter has dominated the women's competition on the 1,311 Columbia Center steps. Regularly outclimbing all but 50 of the world's hardest firefighters, Daniels has won the event 13 of the past 14 years missing only the 2009 event for a vacation. Her 2011 time of 14 minutes, 52.17 seconds outpaced 1,502 firefighters, mostly male.

While racing up 69 floors of stairs to the Columbia Center observation deck, firefighters are required to wear the same 50 pounds of "bunker" gear – helmet, fireproof coat and pants, boots and breathing apparatus and air tanks used to fight fires. The world record in the event is 10 minutes, 53.79 seconds.

Recognized as the largest individual firefighter competition in the world, the event brings firefighters from 24 US states and the District of Columbia to Seattle to scale 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 57<sup>th</sup> tallest building in the world.

The 2011 event raised \$930,000 and together with the civilian version, The Big Climb later in March, combined to raise over \$2.35 million for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

The 2012 climb sold-out in just 65 minutes. Climbing is open only to firefighters and gets underway at 9 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m.

For the first time in three years, the men's climb will have a new champion. Although six of the top ten finishers from the 2011 firefighter climb are entered in this year's event including second-place finisher Andrew Drobeck of Missoula, Montana, three-time champion and current record-holder Kory Burgess of Montana will not return. Burgess won the 2011 even in 10 minutes, 53.79 seconds.

The 2012 climb honors Lillian Trippe of Corvallis, Oregon who at just three-years-old lost her battle with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) in August. ALL is a fast-growing cancer of the white blood cells and the most common form of leukemia among adolescents.

Although throughout Lilli's short life she endured bone marrow transplants, chemotherapy and complications from her disease, her parents Kristin and Aaron Trippe saw her as a beacon of light to everyone she met. With her bright, glowing spirit and beautiful smile lighting her way, she made the most of every day, living her life to the fullest. To learn more about Lilli and the Trippe's visit:

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/lilli/journal/1>

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](http://www.FirefighterStairclimb.org).

**Big Climb:** On Sunday, March 25, the public can tackle the same Columbia Center steps at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Big Climb, which also benefits LLS. For more information visit [www.BigClimb.org](http://www.BigClimb.org).

The Scott Firefighter Stairclimb is sponsored by Scott 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 Wear, Service Master Clean, Fado Irish Pub & Restaurant, SeattleHook.com, Seattle Bagel Bakery, Clif Bar, and Jamba Juice.

#### **“Like” us on Facebook**

“Like” us on Facebook to learn more about the firefighters competing in the 2012 Scott Firefighter Stairclimb and who they honor. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Scott-Firefighter-Stairclimb/318121251536813>

#### **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](http://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<sup>®</sup>, Light The Night<sup>®</sup> Walk, School & Youth Programs<sup>SM</sup>, the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb, Big Climb, Winter Pineapple Classic and The Leukemia Cup Regatta.

**[www.FirefighterStairclimb.org](http://www.FirefighterStairclimb.org)**

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