



News Release

San José Fire Department

For immediate release

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San José Firefighter Competes in Season Premier of *American Gladiator*

Program to be aired May 12, 2008 at 8:00 PM (PST) on NBC television

San José, CA - Monday, May 12 at 8:00 PM, the premier of NBC production *American Gladiator* will feature San José Firefighter Elena Maskalik as a contestant. Maskalik was one of twenty women and the only person from the Bay Area of the 35,000 entries selected to compete. *American Gladiator* challenges contestants to perform various physical trials that demonstrate athleticism and determination against action stars and stunt professionals. During one *American Gladiator* competition Elena broke her finger but continued and completed the segment.

Maskalik has been a San José firefighter since 2006 and is committed to public service and lifelong wellness. She embraces “fitness as a way of life” as a personal trainer and a first degree black belt in the martial art, Shaolin Kenpo. In high school she went to the state championships in wrestling and also went to Central Coast Section (CCS) in track and cross country. Her weekly training includes cardio and weight lifting; but Maskalik also enjoys playing tennis, rock climbing, wake-boarding, snow skiing and bike riding in her spare time.

Please contact CA Craig Schwinge to arrange an interview and photo opportunity with Firefighter Elena Maskalik, San José’s *American Gladiator*.

The San Jose Fire Department encourages everyone to
PREPARE, PRACTICE AND PREVENT.
For fire and life safety tips go to www.sjfd.org/PubEd.

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