



City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139, [www.miamibeachfl.gov](http://www.miamibeachfl.gov)

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS, Melissa Berthier  
Tel: 305.673.7575, E-mail: [melissaberthier@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:melissaberthier@miamibeachfl.gov)

MEDIA ALERT

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 10, 2016

**Unveiling of New Miami Beach Fire Rescue Boat**  
– Join the inaugural ride on Tuesday, November 15 at 10 a.m.–

**WHO/WHAT:**

The City of Miami Beach is excited to announce the unveiling of their first fire rescue boat on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 to the Fire Department’s arsenal. Miami Beach Fire Boat 4 will respond to the 63 miles of seawall and nearly 30 miles of waterways along the barrier island.

“This vessel will be crucial for Miami Beach firefighters/paramedics to significantly decrease the response time to water-related emergencies, including frequent boat crashes, drowning in canals or the beach, medical issues and the numerous marine vessel fires that occur each year,” said MBFD Fire Chief Virgil Fernandez.

Until now, MBFD had no immediate waterborne life-saving response capabilities and relied on City of Miami and Miami-Dade County — fire departments that are already responsible for an enormous geographical area.

“This combination fire and rescue boat acquisition, staffed by a highly trained waterborne response team, will help close the geographical gap and enhance regional response to the South Florida area by providing not only service in Miami Beach waters, but be available to respond to mutual aid calls,” added Fernandez.

The 28 ft. long, 10-person capacity fire boat features a wide range of capabilities, including sonar technology to assist with the location of submerged objects up to 150 feet on either side of the fire boat; infrared thermal imaging with night vision to assess heat signatures in fires and

also locate objects on the water; a 1000 GPM fire pump that draws sea water through a built in sea chest; and removable doors with a dive ladder on either side to make water rescues more efficient.

All MBPD firefighter/paramedics assigned to Fire Boat 4 have a captain's license and are dive certified.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 10 a.m.

**WHERE:** Miami Beach Fire Station 4 | 6860 Indian Creek Drive

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