

America's Hottest Firefighters in the Buff!

PLAYGIRL

ENTERTAINMENT FOR WOMEN

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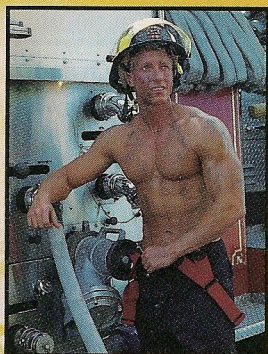


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Presenting America's Sexiest Firefighters

RESCUE ME!



In an emergency, there's no more welcome or appreciated sight than a firefighter coming your way. America's 1.5 million firefighters—men and women who work full-time and on a voluntary basis at 32,000 fire departments—are an admirable and valiant bunch for sure!

With their rigorously trained bodies and minds, these guys are on call 24 hours a day to fight blazes both indoors and out, swiftly pry open mangled vehicles, administer life-saving medical procedures, race into burning high-rises and, yes, even pull small cats out of big trees.

About 100,000 firefighters are injured on the job each year, and around 75 killed. When entering a particularly harrowing scene, a firefighter never knows what his fate will be. Many thoughts race through his mind, the most prominent being, *Will everyone—including me—get out alive?* Though all firefighters are to be honored and cherished, we picked out a group of fellows we think are particularly special—besides being all the things firemen should be, they're pretty darn sexy, too. It is with this in mind that we bring you John Diomantopoulos, Vinny Princiotta, Carlo Pacileo and Scott Dreyer....four guys who will set your eyes and hearts ablaze!

Photography by Mish'ka



VINNY PRINCIOTTA

They do everything large in the big city, and that includes fires. As a firefighter in a major East Coast seaport, Vinny Princiotta knows all about it. "If you want to go into my profession," he says, "a big city is the best place to do it. Their stations are the busiest in the world."

The 5'10"-165-pounder spends his days and nights battling blazes in row stores, brownstones, tenements and even local tourist attractions, but finds that the most challenges lie in high-rise buildings and cellars. "When the fire is above you, you have to slowly work your way up," he explains. "With cellars, you have to go down while the heat's coming up. In each situation, there's no telling what hazards you'll face. Everyone is different and anything could happen. I've never, ever *not* been afraid of a fire."

It's not wonder, then, that the 32-year-old has suffered major injuries to a knee and hand, but it's all part of the package—a part that can force a firefighter to the sidelines to recover. "It's not like ballplayers, who can work through their injuries," he points out. "They would only lose a *game*. If we screw up, we could lose our *lives*."

Sure, being a firefighter is dangerous, but there are also lots of positive aspects about the job. For Vinny, one of them is the camaraderie: "I don't have a brother, but now it's like I have 50. We hang out, cook, play softball and have company picnics. I get along with everyone!"

But don't think that this brave man only hangs out

with "the guys." He also likes to spend time with women who are funny and easygoing. Vinny says that his ideal date would be to take a woman he's really crazy about to New York City for a helicopter ride around the island, a carriage through Central Park, dinner, a nightclub and then the Plaza Hotel.

Overnight? Vinny isn't one to kiss and tell, but he does, however, enthusiastically announce that he's thrilled with his job: "I'll never be rich, but I really love what I do!"





JOHN DIAMANTOPOULOS

John Diamantopoulos's most harrowing rescue as a firefighter didn't involve fire, but it *did* change his life. While driving in Connecticut on a bone-numbing January day, the volunteer fireman from Long Island, New York, saw a van go over a bridge and into a river, submerging and trapping a family inside.

John, 27, explains what happened next: "The local fire department came, threw down cables and I hooked them to the front and back of the van. When they got a corner of it about two feet above water, I went in. I first found the mother, then a four-year-old girl and an 11-year-old boy. Finding the father was tough because he was wedged behind the driver's seat. Someone else pulled out an eight-year-old boy."

Despite all the rescuers' courageous efforts, not everyone survived the horrifying ordeal. "After the accident," remembers John painfully, "I visited the eight-year-old in the hospital. He was eating ice cream and smiled when I said, 'Your family will be fine and all of you will be together.' As I was leaving, the nurse told me the mother had died, then the father passed away a few weeks later. It really blew me away." Nonetheless, John received numerous citations and awards for his bravery and proudly shows them off.

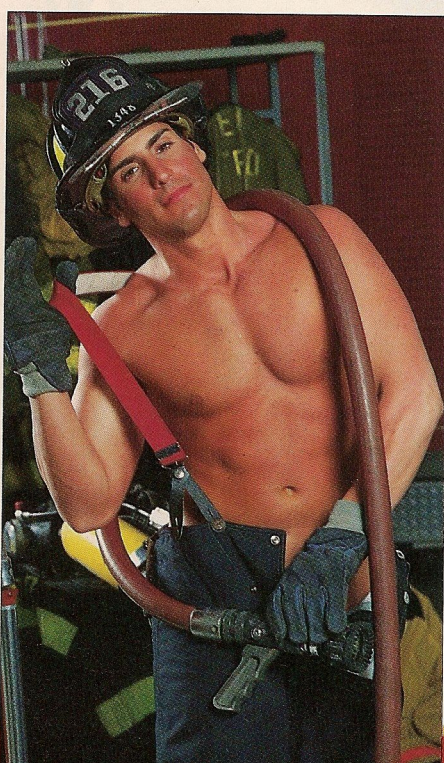
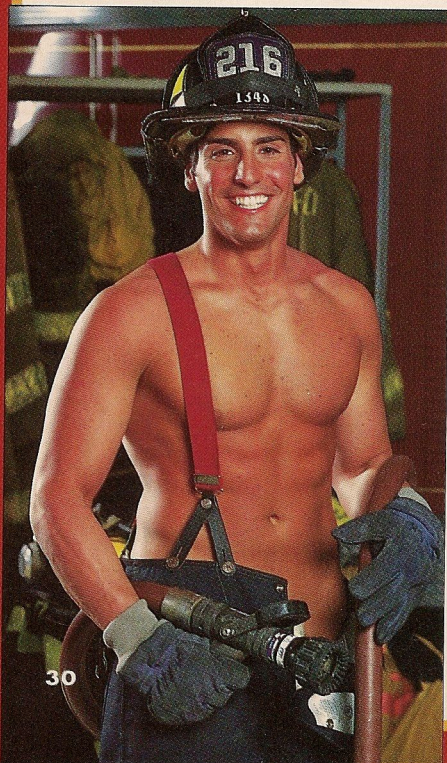
Not only was that an experience John will never forget, it also forced him to examine his life: "I decided that you must follow your dreams, no matter what anybody thinks, because in seconds it can be gone without your ever realizing it. Don't waste a moment."

The 5'10", 180-pound John decided that living life to the fullest meant pursuing a career as a model and actor. He's also finishing up a screenplay and book, which he says is "about what a young man has to go through to find himself and reach maturity in today's world."

John stays fit by practicing martial arts, hiking and scuba diving, and enjoys reading up on a wide variety of subjects.

He also professes to be a true romantic, and has been known to spend up to 90 minutes driving his date to the perfect intimate French or Italian restaurant.

So, no matter what John's future holds, he'll always be a hero to us.





CARLO PACILEO

Carlo Pacileo says that his job as an Arlington, Virginia, paramedic firefighter is "the best on the planet." Why? "Because you're actually saving someone's life. It's not like sitting behind a desk and pushing a pencil."

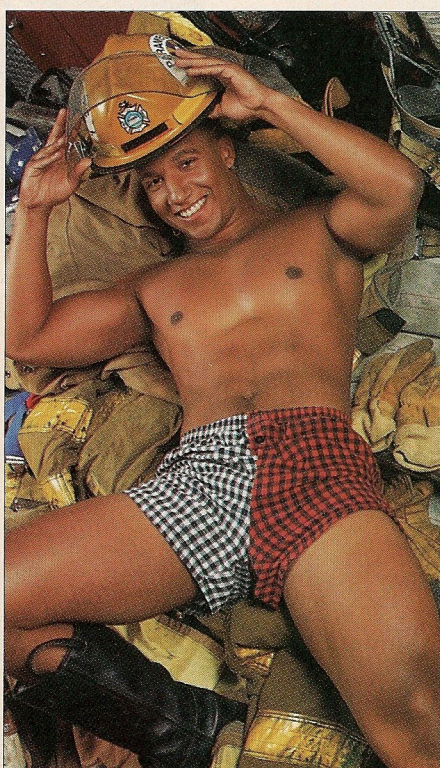
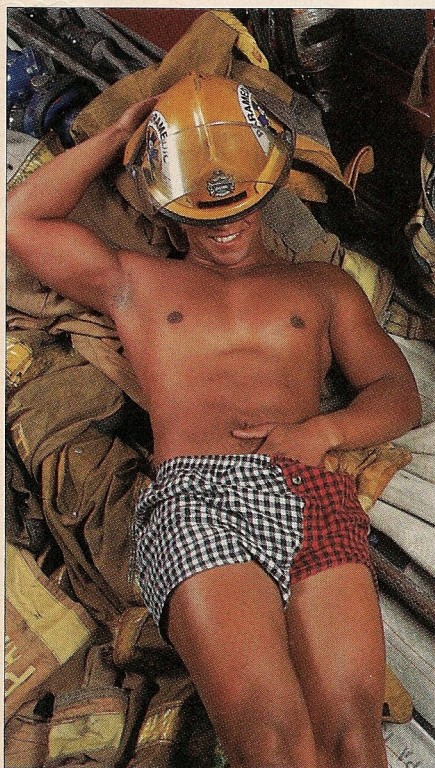
The 24-year-old from Youngstown, Ohio, first decided to become either a firefighter or police officer way back in the 1970s, intrigued by a popular TV series about two L.A. paramedics called *Emergency*. The calling also runs in the family: An uncle, stepfather and stepgrandfather are firemen as well!

One of the most satisfying parts of Carlo's job is when he hears back from the people he has helped. "A woman whose husband had a heart attack sent me some cookies and a nice letter," he recalls. "That really, really made me feel good. It makes everything I did well worth it."

Carlo's most harrowing call involved helping a group of construction workers who had plunged five floors from an unstable scaffold. While strapping the victims on backboards, the rescuers had to avoid making the workers' possible neck and back injuries worse, and they worried that the strong wind might send the teetering scaffolding and bricks crashing down on everyone. Luckily, the casualties only amounted to some broken bones and bruises.

Other perils of Carlo's job include possible exposure to diseases such as meningitis, TB, AIDS and hepatitis. "You can't avoid it," he says. "I've had calls where I had to hose out the back of the ambulance because there was blood absolutely everywhere!"

Carlo keeps his 5'5", 153-pound body in shape for all of those nerve-racking duties by working out with weights, mountain biking, white-water rafting and playing beach sports. Not all of his free time involves athletics, though. "My coworkers and I see a lot of death," he explains, "so we respect life and are always living it up." His professional recommendation? "If you want to party, hang out with a firefighter—you'll have a great time!"





SCOTT DREYER

Scott Dreyer is stationed at the firehouse that was just two blocks from his childhood home in Lyons, Illinois, and was his inspiration to become a firefighter. "I like knowing that if an emergency arises, I can try to help out, instead of just being a bystander," says Scott, who's also a paramedic.

The 25-year-old's training certainly came in handy when he and his partner resuscitated a newborn baby that had been locked in a freezer for four hours. The child was put there deliberately by her murderous mother. "It was unbelievable," recalls the six-foot, 200-pounder proudly. "We didn't think we were going to be able to save the baby, then everything just started going right. She's fine now."

Scott knows that not all calls have happy endings, so he banishes those negative thoughts to the back of his mind, especially during more perilous activities such as entering a burning building. "I don't think about the danger until it's all over," he states. "My adrenaline is pumping, and I only have time to concentrate on the job to be done. It's better that way."

Scott works out for over an hour each day to maintain a solid physique that any woman would notice. His profession is also an asset to his social life. "When I go out and strike up conversations with women," he says, "sometimes they think I'm only trying to pick them up, but if I mention I'm a fireman, they really open up and we can have a great time talking."

Being a firefighter also influences the kind of women Scott chooses to go out with. "Because there's got to be so much trust between me and my coworkers—our lives are in each other's hands—I must also be able to trust a woman."

Sexy and sensitive Scott is a great guy, but admits that he just may have a tiny screw loose: "Sometimes I think firefighters have to be a bit crazy. After all, most people run *out* of a building when it's on fire. Few, like us, run *in*."

