

RECALL OF MEETING #481

By Secretary Thomas Bogart

The 481st meeting of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors was held in Newton on December 15, 2004 courtesy of Newton Fire Chief Joseph LaCroix. Our host was Newton Fire Captain Mark Roche. Westwood Fire Lieutenant Billy Cannata, Jr. and Sharon Firefighter John McLean presented the program on Handling Autism Emergencies.

Lt. Cannata has a fourteen-year-old son who was diagnosed with autism when he was around two years of age. The program was presented in collaboration with the South Norfolk County Association for Retarded Citizens (SNCARC) and Family Autism Center (FAC). The program is funded by the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office and the Dedham Institution of Savings Foundation. The program was developed by the Autism Alliance of Metro West, Inc., an organization Cannata and others helped organize.

"The DA wanted to get this out to all police department and fire departments in the county and elsewhere," said Cannata. The goal of the program is two-fold: to provide an overview of the program and to identify symptoms. There are many sides of autism and the motion picture "Rain Man", which starred Dustin Hoffman shows only a "single side." Autism is not a disease or a mental illness. It is a developmental disability affecting the brain. Autism is a neurological disorder effecting over 1 million people in the U.S.

Autism Statistics

- Overall frequency consistent globally
- Four times more prevalent in boys
- Autism not affected by
 - Race, ethnicity, lifestyle,
 - Education level, income, or social status
- Appears in first 3 years of life
- Interferes with development relating to communication and social interaction
- Individuals with autism often struggle with
 - o verbal and non-verbal communication
 - o leisure and play activities

Autism is growing at a rate of 10 – 17% each year in Massachusetts. In 1993, there were 550 people diagnosed with autism. In 2003, there were 4007. In Norfolk County eight years ago, had seventy members of the Family Autism Center (FAC). They now have 550 families. The biggest problem according to Lt. Cannata is that there is "no known cure." There are a lot of theories, but "nothing concrete." Some researchers are looking at Preservative Thimerosal as a possible link. This is found in the DTP vaccination. Children usually receive this at a very young age.

NFL and former Boston College quarterback and Natick, Massachusetts native Doug Flutie has a son with autism. According to Cannata, Flutie thinks this DTP vaccination caused his son's autism. Before that, according to Flutie says of his son, "he was fine."

The vaccination is mercury-based and can cause brain poisoning, making this kind of a claim is very controversial. Pharmaceutical companies will fight the matter legally if anyone brings the issue up.

Categories of Autism

1. Autism
2. Aspergers Syndrome
3. Childhood Degenerative Disorder
4. Retts Syndrome
5. Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD)

Of PDD, Cannata said, “this is the big one.” Each category varies from mild to severe and from “high functioning” to “low functioning.”

Autism and the First Responder

Safety – the first priority

The following are example of autism patients who died as a result of incidents involving first responders:

- o Pennsylvania – child dies in house fire after retreating back in house to “safe place”
- o Florida – Mall shopper dies after being maced by police and forcibly restrained
- o Texas – Group home resident shot by police
- o Massachusetts – Twenty-one year old man arrested at mall after he was approached by a teenager who asked him to buy cigarettes escalated when police mistakenly thought he was on drugs or alcohol

In your community, you should know who the people with autism are. Encourage parents to discuss the condition with firefighters/EMT’s and police.

Largest Challenge

- o Communication
- o Individuals struggle to interact
- o Picture cards developed to aid communication by Mayer Johnson, Inc.
- o Problems with rescue
 - a. Forced entry due to locks inside and out
 - b. Barred or nailed windows
 - c. Fence with locked gates
 - d. Bolt risk after rescue (Will run away)

Condition at home

- o Bed on floor
- o Lack of furniture – for their own protection
- o Reportable conditions (DSS?)

Patient Care

- o Hypothermia – under developed muscles
- o High threshold of pain
- o Seizure disorders
- o Asthma
- o Heart condition
- o Medications
- o Blanket roll – wrap patient up in blanket’ makes them feel “snug”.

Handling Patients

- o Give them space
- o Let them “stim” – thresh, flap (keeps them calm)
- o Patient might be aggressive – biting, punching, hair pulls, etc.
- o Wear turn-out coat or heavy jacket for protection

Lt. Cannata then shoed the members a video tape entitled “Autism Asberger Syndrome, which was developed in Florida for training first responders on how to handle such cases.

BUSINESS MEETING:

New Business:

None

Old Business:

Nothing to report

The Treasurer’s Report:

		<u>Bills paid January 2005</u>	
Beginning Balances for 1/2004		Jan 05 Newsletter	\$105.00 Mike
Checking	\$ 646.77		
Savings	\$ <u>1,669.52</u>	Dec Coffee & Danish	\$55.00 Mark
Total	\$ <u>2,316.29</u>	Total	\$160.00

50/50 Raffle = Collected \$

Winner = \$

Deposit from 50/50 Raffle = \$

Owed to treasurer for Mailings \$ 26.00 - thru January 1, 2005

Labels \$ 10.00
\$ 36.00

Total members = 104

Dues paid thru 2006 = 2

Dues paid thru 2005 = 26

Dues paid thru 2004 = 76

Mailings

E-Mail - 23 Home - 70

Work - 11

81

Balances as of 01/01/05

Checking 172.36

Savings 1,327.88

Total \$1,500.24

Membership Totals

73 - Active - 27 Retired - 4 Associate

Message From The Treasurer

*Thank You for the calls & cards of condolences in the recent loss of my mother; words just cannot describe the feeling and sometimes **THANK YOU** is just not enough.*

*Be Safe
David*

Respectfully submitted 1/1/2005
David M. Jardin
MIFDI Treasurer
Fire Chief – Stoughton

MFTC UPDATE: Captain Steve Persson, as reported by Secretary Bogart

- nothing to report
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JANUARY MEETING SCHEDULE:

The 482nd meeting of M.I.F.D.I. will be hosted by the Merrimac Fire Department courtesy of Chief Ralph W. Spencer. The meeting will be held in the Hose Co #1 training / meeting room at Merrimac Fire Headquarters, 16 East Main Street, Merrimac, Mass on **Wednesday, January 26th, 2005.**

Our speaker will be Amesbury Fire Chief & long time MIFDI member Bill Shute. Chief Shute will speak on firefighter safety and discuss the various confined space rescue equipment his department uses for various emergency situations.

DIRECTIONS:

From Rte 495 in either North or South directions, **take exit 53**, the Broad Street exit. Follow Broad Street north to the end, and the Fire Station will be directly in front of you. Parking is to the left side and rear of the building. **Please, no parking on the apparatus apron area in the front of the station.**

SCHEDULE:

0900 Coffee & Pastry
1000 Program presentation
1130 Business Meeting
1200 Lunch (on site)

LUNCH:

As in the past, lunch will be provided on site for a cost of \$10.00 per person. There will be sandwiches and other refreshments available.

CANCELLATIONS:

During the winter months or hurricane season, check the MIFDI website for cancellations @ www.mifdi.org

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:

Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department

As we begin the 46th year of MIFDI, let me begin by thanking all of you for your confidence by allowing me to serve as your President. When I attended my first meeting of MIFDI as a guest of Past President Richard Hay around 20 years ago, I immediately recognized the benefit of this organization by witnessing some of the most dedicated fire service professionals joined as a group. The networking alone with so many skilled people proved as an advantage of belonging to this great establishment.

As President, I intend to continue building the membership as the previous presidents have strived to do. After Prop. 2 1/2, many departments sacrificed training officers in an effort to maintain suppression forces. Another apparent reduction with membership is that there is a high turnover rate in the training divisions of the fire service due to many "junior" officers being assigned to training as a condition of promotion until a spot in a company opens up and the next guy moves in. With the institution of 24 hour shifts and the many demands placed in the home life, there is little incentive for long term "day people". We all need to work on spreading the word about MIFDI to not only the new training officers that we know of in the many departments across the Commonwealth, but also let it be known that one does not have to be a training officer to join, the only requirement is to have an interest in improving the safety and quality of the fire service.

Also on my agenda will be to apply for O.E.M.S. credits anytime a training topic may justify qualifying for credit. This will not only benefit our members who are EMT's, it may also attract more guests to attend with an incentive to join. Finally, I will continue to work with Vice President Brian Belliveau and the Board of Directors to provide quality and interesting training topics held at various fire related locations throughout the Commonwealth allowing our membership to gain knowledge from not only the topic, but also providing a prospective of how other departments do things.

In closing, I want to thank Past President Michael McLeieer for his professional leadership during the past two years. I think all would agree that Michael has done a superb job as MIFDI President. I also want to thank Scott Maker for his endeavor with the MIFDI Bulletin. Through Scott's efforts, what was once just a "Meeting Notice", is now a professional fire service publication. Our Treasurer David Jardin does a great job watching every penny received and spent allowing our members to get the most from their dues. Secretary Tom Bogart methodically records every meeting with such accuracy, we can now maintain a precise record of all meetings for reference. Last but not least, thanks to the Board of Directors for providing constant input and support for a strong foundation. This organization is truly blessed with a great leadership team to carry on the long tradition of MIFDI well into the future.

Stay safe
Mark

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 16, 2005, 17th Annual Apparatus Specification Symposium Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, FL
- Contact: www.fdsoa.org

January 26-28, 2005, Suppression & Detection Research Symposium Orlando, FL. Contact:
www.nfpa.org

January 31-February 4, 2005, Firehouse World Exposition & Conference San Diego Convention Center. Contact: www.firehouseworld.com

February 9-12, 2005, SPAAMFAA 2005 Winter Meeting Houston, Texas. Contact: www.texasspaamfaa.org

February 10, 2005, Firefighter 2005 MDA Ski Muster Wachusett Mountain, Princeton, MA. Contact: MDA 508-870-1687

February 11, 2005, DFS/MFA Firefighter Recruit Graduation (New location for the ceremony to be announced)

March 19, 2005, Statewide Exam for Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, District Chief **GOOD LUCK!**

April 11-16, 2005, FDIC (Fire Department Instructors Conference) 2005, Indianapolis, IN - Contact: www.fdic.org

April 16, 2005, Honor Guard Competition Indianapolis, IN - Contact: 508-881-3543

INSTRUCTORS CORNER:

Exploding Hood Strut During Vehicle Fire

Courtesy of Chief Gary Ruggiero, Windsor Locks Fire Department

On Sunday, November 21, 2004, the Windsor Locks, CT Fire Department responded to a reported car fire. Upon arrival the fire was confined to the engine compartment. While gaining access to the engine compartment, one of my firefighters had just released the hood safety latch when the hood shock strut exploded and fired into the firefighter, striking him in his upper thigh and piercing completely through his leg and bunker pants with the approximate 18 inch long strut. He is home recuperating and we will not know how extensive his injury is for a while. I wish to make other departments mindful that these struts are gas filled and are common on General Motors products, in particular Buick's that I am aware of. In my 30 plus years on the department this is the first time I had ever heard of one of these gas filled struts exploding like this. The fire and accident remain under investigation. Please pass this along to other firefighters to be aware of the potential for these shocks to fail when exposed to fire. I am just grateful that this accident did not have a worse outcome. A picture of the car in question is on the Department's website @ www.wlfd.com.

LAST ALARM:

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors regrets to report the death of the following;

- **Mrs. Gladys Jardin**, mother of MIFDI Treasurer Chief David Jardin, Stoughton F.D. Mrs. Jardin passed away on December 13, 2004.
- **Firefighter Allen E. Jenkins, Jr.**, 26 year veteran of the Worcester Fire Department, Engine Co.9, passed away on November 24, 2004 at age 53 from lung cancer.

- **Firefighter William Parenteau**, Call member of the Pepperell Fire Department, Engine Co. 1 passed away on December 12, 2004 at age 34 from cancer.
- **Firefighter Christian Engeldrum**, 5 1/2 year veteran of the FDNY, Ladder Co. 61 in the Bronx. Firefighter Engeldrum, a Sgt. in the Army National Guard, was killed in action on November 29, 2004 when his unit came under attack outside of Baghdad, Iraq.
- **Firefighter Thomas Dostie**, a volunteer with the South China, Maine Fire Department. Firefighter Dostie, a Sgt. in the Army National Guard, was killed in action on December 21, 2004 from an explosion in Mosul, Iraq.

NATIONAL L.O.D.D.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Age</u>
Fire Marshal Roger Allard	Grand Forks, ND	11-29-04	Cancer	65
EMT Molly Algren	Sitka VFD, AK	11-30-04	Vehicle Accident	47
Chief James L. Rogers	Claxton, GA	12-13-04	Short Illness	55
F.F. Jackson H. Gerhart	Chambersburg, PA	12-05-04	Head Injury	65
F.F. Michael R. Dunlap	Hydetown VFD, PA	12-14-04	Heart	47
F.F. Herbert C. Caldwell	Etters VFC, PA	12-17-04	Heart	49
F.F. Nito R. Guajardo	Baytown, TX	12-20-04	Smoke Inhalation	24
F.F. Theodore Myhre	Bishop Hill, IL	12-21-04	Struck by Vehicle	73
Chief Jason T. Rowe	Elkhorn City, KY	12-23-04	Struck by Object	30
F.F. John Stoudt	Summit Hill, PA	12-25-04	Heart	67
F.F.O.P. Jared Moore	Basehor, KS	12-29-04	Vehicle Accident	19

MAY THEY ALL REST IN PEACE

WELCOME NEW MIFDI MEMBERS:

- **Firefighter Bruce Ware** - Oakham Fire Department

CONGRATULATIONS:

- The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our congratulations and best wishes to **Assistant Chief John J. O'Donoghue** upon his retirement from the Cambridge Fire Department. John, who is a long time associate of MIFDI and the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, has an in-depth knowledge of elevator procedures during firefighting and rescue operations. John was appointed to the C.F.D. on May 1, 1966, promoted to Lieutenant October 21, 1973, Promoted to Captain May 9, 1982, promoted to Deputy Chief June 7, 1987, appointed Assistant Chief in charge of Operations July 29, 2001. John, who spent many years on Cambridge's busy Rescue Company, retired on December 10, 2004 after over 38 years of service. Good luck John and we hope to see you more often now that you have some extra time!
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A REMINDER for RE-NEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP:

Issues regarding **RENEWAL of DUES** or **NEW MEMBERSHIPS** may be addressed to:

MIFDI

Attn: David Jardin, Treasurer **If you have not already done so, it's time to renew your dues. Due Jan. 1st.**

**52 Willow Street
Stoughton, MA 02072-1027**

***Dues are \$25.00 per year for Active Members - Please review your bulletin label for the date your dues will expire.**

***\$100.00 per year for Associate members** (which includes a 1/4 page of advertising in the MIFDI Bulletin and on the MIFDI website).

***Retired members dues are \$12.50 for one calendar year (January 1 through December 31).**

FIRE SERVICE FEEDBACK:

This forum is an extension of the [Guest Book](#) on the MIFDI Web-site, and provides our members a way to ask questions and get answers about problems encountered in the Fire and EMS service. If you would like to reply to a question, pose your own question or submit an article for publication in the MIFDI bulletin, but have no internet capabilities, you may do so in writing to: **Michael McLeier, President - MIFDI, PO Box 507, Merrimac, MA 01860-0510. Fax # (877) 327-4353. Faxing or e-mailing of articles is preferred. Please e-mail articles in MS Word format to michael.mcLeier@merrimacfire.com**

Name:

Email:

Comments:

Fire Department:

Rank:

DRILL SCHEDULE:

<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	
<u>482</u>	<u>- January 26, 2005:</u>	Merrimac	<i>"FF Safety, Survival & Rescue"</i>
<u>483</u>	<u>- February 23, 2005:</u>	Lynn	<i>TBA</i>
<u>484</u>	<u>- March 23, 2005:</u>	Stow - MFA/DFS	<i>TBA</i>

485 - April 27, 2005:

Billerica

TBA

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