

# The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute  
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
INSTRUCTORS**

January  
2008

MIFDI  
PO BOX 507  
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

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The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors is a non-profit organization and was established on September 30, 1959.

MIFDI's mission is "to promote fire department training and education by the mutual sharing of knowledge".

**THE MIFDI OFFICERS - 2007**

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2nd Vice President: Vacant  
Secretary: Vacant  
Treasurer: Firefighter / Instructor Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department

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**EDITOR**

Firefighter / Instructor Scott D. Maker, Merrimac Fire Department

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**Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors  
Membership Application  
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2008**

**Your MIFDI Dues  
are due Jan. 1st**



**or Join MIFDI for  
the first time.**

**Membership Information**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

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**E-mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax (Home)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Information**

**Department** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rank** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (work)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax (work)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address (work)** \_\_\_\_\_

**City & State (work)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>Membership Type:</u></b>	<b><u>Send Bulletin To:</u></b>	<b><u>Membership Dues:</u></b>
<b><u>circle one</u></b>	<b><u>circle one</u></b>	<b><u>Active</u> \$ 25.00</b>
<b><u>Active</u></b>	<b><u>Home</u></b>	<b><u>Retired</u> \$ 12.50</b>
<b><u>Retired</u></b>	<b><u>Work</u></b>	<b><u>Associate</u> \$100.00</b>
<b><u>Associate</u></b>	<b><u>E-mail</u></b>	

Please mail completed Application with check or money order payable to:

MIFDI  
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E-mail: michael.mcLeieer@merrimacfire.com

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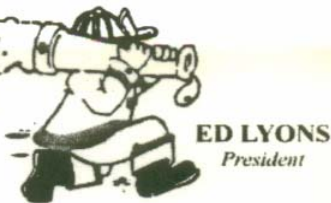
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## JANUARY MEETING:

The 512th meeting of MIFDI will be held on **Wednesday, January 23, 2008** hosted by the Wilmington Fire Department courtesy of Chief Edward Bradbury and MIFDI member Rick McClellan. We will meet in the Training Room of Wilmington's Public Safety Building, #1 Adelaide St @ Church St. (Rt.62). There is ample parking behind the station.

The training presentation will be provided by Deputy Chief Kevin Farrell of the Danvers Fire Department. Deputy Farrell has an informative presentation on the massive explosion and fire which took place in Danversport on November 22, 2006. The presentation will include; the overwhelming situation upon arrival, dealing with multiple agencies, statistics on the injuries and property damage, and the results of the investigation which caused the blast.

For those interested, we will be provided a tour of Wilmington's impressive new facility which opened in May 2001 and includes; 5 large drive-thru apparatus bays, spacious living quarters with air conditioning, combined Dispatch Center, combined training room and combined exercise room.

### SCHEDULE:

- 0900** Coffee
- 1000** Presentation
- 1130** Business Meeting
- 1145** Facility Tour
- 1215** Lunch (Off Site)

### DIRECTIONS:

**From Rt. 495;** Take Rt. 93 South to Exit 40 (Rt.62), turn left at the top of the ramp, follow Rt. 62 approx 2-miles and the station will be on the right.

**From I-95/Rt.128;** Take Rt.93 North (Exit 37B), follow 93 to Exit 38 (Rt.129), turn right at the top of the ramp onto Rt.129. Rt.129 will merge onto Rt.38. Follow Rt.38 a short distance to Rt. 62. Turn right onto Rt.62 and the station will be on your left.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER; DURING THE WINTER MONTHS TO CHECK THE MIFDI WEBSITE FOR MEETING CANCELLATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER @ WWW.MIFDI.ORG**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Beginning Balances for 1/1/2008  
 Eastern Cking. 57.39  
 ING Savings 618.57  
12 Mo. CD 1,027.37  
 Total \$1,703.33

Bills Paid December (Checking):  
 Jan. 07 Newsletter \$120.00 Michael - 12/31  
 Flowers - Judy O'Brien \$ 55.98 - FTD - 12/10  
 Flowers - Barbara Steele \$ 55.98 - FTD - 12/10  
 TOTAL: \$231.96

50/50 Raffle = N/A  
 Winner = N/A  
 Deposit from 50/50 Raffle = N/A

Account Transfers:  
 ING Savings to Eastern Cking - \$100.00

Total active members = 118  
 Dues paid thru 2009 = 4  
 Dues paid thru 2008 = 49  
 Dues paid thru 2007 = 56  
 Dues paid thru 2006 = 9

Mailings  
 E-Mail - 41 Home - 62  
Work -15  
 118

Balances as of 01/14/2008  
 Bank Statement Checking: \$ 919.89  
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 120.00)  
 Eastern Checking Balance: \$ 799.89  
 ING Savings Balance: \$ 618.57  
Economy Co-Op 12.mo CD \$ 1,027.37  
 Total \$ 2,445.83

Membership Totals  
 79 Active - 33 Retired - 6 Associate

We welcome these New Members:

- Don Gazerro - Firefighter / Training Coordinator - Brockton
- Scott Dole - Firefighter / Training - Reading
- James Walsh - Captain - Easton
- Mark A. Picher - Captain - Brockton


*Treasurer Notes:*

- (a) Please remember to look at your mailing label for the PAID THROUGH date. Thank you to all of you who have paid your dues. **Your 2008 dues are due in January.**
- (b) If anyone needs an invoice for their city or town to pay their membership dues, or if you have any other questions about your membership, please feel free to contact me directly.
- (c) If you receive your bulletin via the U.S. Postal Service and it is damaged, please let me know. Recently, a few members, have received their MIFDI Bulletin severely damaged by the Postal Service.

Respectfully submitted 01/14/2008  
 Michael McLeier  
 Treasurer  
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Thank you for your continued support and for your prompt payment of your dues!

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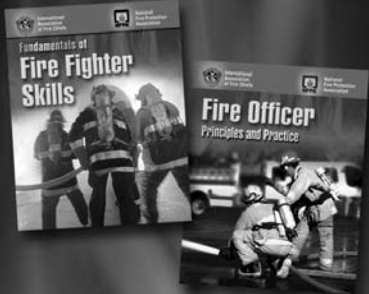
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**\*Dues are \$25.00 per year for Active members**

**\$12.50 for Retired members**

**\*100.00 per year for Associate members**

(which includes a 1/4 page of advertising in the MIFDI Bulletin and on the MIFDI website).

Membership dues are for one calendar year (January 1 through December 31).

Dues are DUE by January 1st .

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**RECALL OF MEETING #511**

The 511th. meeting of **MIFDI** was held on December 19, 2007 hosted by the Fire Tech & Safety located in Chelmsford courtesy of Mr. Larry Guerette.

The training session was provided by Mr. Brandon Millan from SCOTT Health & Safety Products. Brandon carefully explained the recent upgrades on the SCOTT 2007 SCBA as well as demonstrating the life-saving abilities of the SCOTT Tracker.

Special thanks to MIFDI member Captain Steve Persson of the Cambridge Fire Department Training Division for his help with this meeting.

President Roche opened the meeting with a moment of silence for MIFDI member Deputy Chief Charles Smith (retired) from Holbrook after recently learning of his passing last April. New members introduced included Capt. George Wedge from Malden, Capt. Seth Colby from Shrewsbury, Capt. Mark Picher from Brockton, Firefighter Robert Washburn (retired) from Lexington. Recognition followed by a round of applause for Deputy Chief Michael Grigorakos of Waltham on his upcoming retirement. Steve Persson gave an in-depth report from the Massachusetts Fire Training Council.

Members adjourned for a buffet lunch on site courtesy of Fire Tech.



## EMS RUN

### **Comfort Care & DNR Frequently Asked Questions:**

1) ***Does the EMT have to bring the original form with the patient to the hospital?***  
No, a copy is equally acceptable. The EMT shall confirm that the CC/DNR form is valid and document it on the trip report. If the EMT is transporting a resident of a long-term care facility to another health care facility, the EMT must take a copy of the CC/DNR form with the patient. Sending facilities are unlikely to allow original form to leave their possession, and its not necessary for the EMT to ask for it. The copy of the CC/DNR form must remain with the patient, and be returned with the patient upon discharge, so it is available to be honored by EMT's providing care and transport on the return trip.

2) ***If EMS arrives to find an individual, with a valid DNR order but NO Comfort Care/DNR verification form, in cardiac arrest/respiratory arrest, should the EMS personnel honor the valid DNR order?***

EMS personnel are obligated to begin CPR and transport because there is no valid Comfort Care/DNR form. That is the only document that EMS personnel can use to verify that the DNR order is valid.

3) ***What if someone identifies themselves as the health care agent and states they do not want you to resuscitate and there is no CC/DNR form with the individual?***

If there is no valid CC/DNR verification form, the EMT must resuscitate and transport.

4) ***What if someone identifies themselves as the health care agent and states they do want you to resuscitate and there is a CC/DNR form with the individual?***

Even if there is a valid CC/DNR verification form, if there is any question as to the validity of the verification, CPR must be initiated.

5) ***What if the patient does not want to be resuscitated but does want to be intubated and provided with ventilatory support?***

If the patient does not meet the protocol criteria for CC/DNR verification program, they should not be enrolled and will be a "full code" if EMS is activated. (CC/DNR is an all or nothing protocol).

6) ***What if the individual enrolled in Comfort Care has a sudden emergency condition that is not related to his/her DNR status, e.g. choking on a piece of food?***

The individual will receive the same emergency medical care as any other individual without a DNR order. The Comfort Care Protocol clearly states to EMS personnel those situations that require clinical intervention. EMS personnel are trained in the Comfort Care protocol.

7) ***Does the Emergency Department have to honor the Comfort Care Form?***

The comfort care program is designed to provide EMS a standardized system for verifying a valid Do Not Resuscitate Order in an out-of-hospital setting. The Department of Public Health Office of EMS only has jurisdiction in the emergency medical services area of health care. Emergency Departments may honor a Comfort Care Form, but are not legally bound to. Hospital policy should determine how the underlying DNR orders are followed.

## LAST ALARM:

We recently learned of the passing of MIFDI member **Deputy Chief Charles B. Smith, Jr.** (retired) of the Holbrook Fire Department. Charlie died on April 24, 2007 after a period of failing health. May he rest in peace.

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Lt. Kenneth E. Fowler** of the West Newbury Fire Department. Lt. Fowler died suddenly on December 6, 2007 at age 37. May he rest in peace.

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Lt. Robert McKenna**, active member of the Billerica Fire Department. Lt. McKenna, a 27 year veteran of the B.F.D., died suddenly on December 30, 2007 at age 53. May he rest in peace.

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to the family and friends of **F.F. William J. McCarthy, Jr.**, active member of the Boston Fire Department, Rescue Co.2. F.F. McCarthy died of kidney cancer on January 4, 2008 at age 55. May he rest in peace.



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**CONGRATULATIONS:**

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our best wishes to member **Deputy Chief Michael Grigorakos** upon his retirement from the Waltham Fire Department after 28 years of service. Good luck, health and happiness to you Mike.



*Photo courtesy of Lt. Rick Belida, Waltham Fire*

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

February 3-7, 2008: FirehouseWorld 08  
San Diego, CA Contact: firehouseworld.com

February 13, 2008: 11th Annual Firefighter MDA Ski Muster  
Wachusett Mountain Info: 508-898-3375

February 27, 2008: **MIFDI**

March 22, 2008: Statewide Exam; District & Deputy Fire Chief  
GOOD LUCK!

March 26, 2008: **MIFDI**

March 31, 2008: PFFM Annual Legislators Night  
Florian Hall, Boston Contact: pffm.org

April 7-12, 2008: FDIC 2008  
Indianapolis, IN Contact: fdic.com

April 26, 2008: Statewide Firefighter Exam; Municipal Service  
APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 18, 2008

April 23, 2008: **MIFDI**

**FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:**  
**Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department**

As we begin the 49th year of MIFDI, I want to thank all of the members who have supported and believed in this great organization and have kept it strong for so many years. I especially want to thank Vice President Brian Belliveau, Treasurer & Webmaster Michael McLeieer, Bulletin Editor Scott Maker, and the members of the Board of Directors for their help and support during the past year. I also want to thank all of the members who have stepped up and offered their help with presentations and/or meeting locations during the past year. It is through the team effort of all of our members that help keep this organization operating. Thank you!

The December meeting hosted by Fire Tech & Safety was both informative and enjoyable. I thank Larry Guerette for the hospitality and generosity shown to our members. I also thank Brandon Millan from Scott Products for his presentation and member Steve Persson for his help with arranging this meeting.

Once again we must ask our members to pay their dues for 2008 to keep this great organization going. The good news is that dues will remain at \$25.00 for active members, \$12.50 for retired members, and \$100.00 for associate members. It is thanks to our associate members that help keep our organization financially stable and I ask everyone to patronize those companies and products advertised in our bulletin and on our website.

Our January meeting is expected to be a very informative presentation by Deputy Chief Kevin Farrell as he take us through the horrific conditions faced by the Danvers Fire Department during the early morning hours of November 22, 2006. This is a must see presentation.

I hope to see you all in Wilmington on the 23rd. Until then, stay safe!

*Mark*

**INSTRUCTORS CORNER**  
**Fire Deaths Jumped 32 % in 2007** (State House News Service)

Eleven fire-related deaths during December punctuated a 32% increase in the number of fire deaths in Massachusetts last year, according to state fire officials who are hoping to reverse the trend in 2008. A total of 58 people died in fires in Massachusetts during 2007, including the state's most recent fire victims, a husband and wife killed after a blaze broke out in their apartment in South Boston on New Year's Eve. Eleven of the 58 fire deaths occurred in Boston according to fire officials.

Fire officials say cold weather, a rise in domestic violence-related fires, older housing stock, and fire staffing shortages contributed to the state's rise in fatalities. The number of fire fatalities in 2007 may rise because some severely injured victims may not survive their injuries, State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan told the News Service. The state tallied a record low 44 civilian fire deaths in 2006. Over the past decade, fire-related deaths have trended downward, from 65 in 1997 to 44 in 2006 with the exception of a spike in fire deaths in 2000 when 79 deaths were recorded. It is difficult to track the reasons behind the latest trend because several fires are still under investigation. Marshal Coan said he was disturbed by a trend in domestic violence-related fire fatalities. Fire claimed the lives of at least 5 victims in domestic violence-related incidents, including one that killed a 49-year-old woman in January after she was sprayed with gasoline in an elevator and set on fire.

Fire fatalities spike during the cold winter months, said Coan, because people have accidents using space heaters and there is an increased rate of electrical fires. A fire, which may have started from a space heater, killed an 11-year-old brother and 9-year-old sister in their triple-decker apartment in Dorchester on December 29. Older Bay State homes with balloon construction, open stairwells, and voids in walls can accelerate fires, said Coan. The early December fire that killed a man in Gloucester occurred in a pre-World War II building. "Older housing stock does contribute to the number of fires and the severity of fires we have in the state" said Coan.

Bob McCarthy, President of the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts, said that low staffing rates are a factor. "In my opinion the fire services are in crisis and no one is paying attention" said McCarthy, who is pitching lawmakers to fund a \$20 million community firefighters bill in next years state budget.

Historically, smoking related accidents have been the leading cause of residential fires, said Coan. In 2006, 32% of all residential fires were smoking related. Since the most recent fires in the state are still under investigation, the leading cause of the 2007 fires is "undetermined". Massachusetts recently became the latest of a handful of states to require retailers to sell self-extinguishing cigarettes. Coan said he hopes the new law will limit the number of fire fatalities but that it will take some time before the success rate of the law can be tracked. Recent laws mandating carbon monoxide monitors in homes and sprinklers in nightclubs should also help reduce death tolls in the long run. Lawmakers should also consider changing building codes to require sprinklers in all new single and two-family homes.

At the end of November 2007, there had been 47 fire deaths in Massachusetts, slightly more than the 2006 record low total. Since then, 11 people died in fires, included a smoking-related fire that killed a local blues singer in Jamaica Plain. Coan said technology and smoke detectors have led to the decline in fire deaths over the years. In the 1970's there were 200 fire deaths per year. Coan said the Department of Fire Services plans to continue its public awareness campaigns and is encouraging all residents to maintain smoke alarms and create a fire safety plan for their families. "It pains me when I look in a building that's been burned and I can't find any smoke alarms" said Coan.