

The MIFDI BULLETIN

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE
OF



FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS

MIFDI
PO BOX 507
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

February
2006

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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 - 2006

President: Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department
 1st Vice President: Captain Brian F. Belliveau, Fitchburg Fire Department
 2nd Vice President: Vacant
 Secretary: Vacant
 Treasurer: Firefighter / Instructor Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department

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Terms Expire 2006
 Deputy Chief John Sullivan, Billerica Fire Department
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Lieutenant George Churchill, Brockton Fire Department (retired)
 Captain Kevin Breen, Swampscott Fire Department
 Captain Barry Aptt, Gloucester Fire Department

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, 2006**

**It's Time to Renew
 your MIFDI Dues...**



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

Membership Information

Name _____
Address _____
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Work Information

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

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

MIFDI
 Attn: Michael McLeieer, Treasurer
 PO Box 507
 Merrimac, MA 01860-0510
 Phone: (978) 834-2015 or (978) 346-4731, ext. 1
 E-mail: michael.mcLeieer@merrimacfire.com

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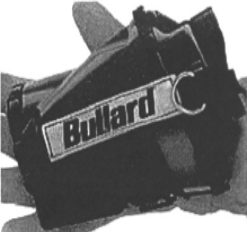
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FEBRUARY MEETING:

The 493rd meeting of MIFDI will be held on **Wednesday, February 22, 2006** hosted by the Billerica Fire Department courtesy of Chief Anthony Capaldo and MIFDI Director Deputy Chief John Sullivan. The meeting will be held in the training room of the Headquarters Station located at 8 Good St. just in from Rt.3A.

The training presentation will be provided by Mr. Timothy Riley CADSC, Inc. (Crime And Death Scene Cleaning). He serves as secretary of the American Bio-Recovery Association and he is also an instructor for the Bio-Recovery Technician Certification. Tim's presentation will focus on the hazards and proper decontamination of post-death incidents which we all witness during the course of our careers. Once the decomposing body has been removed, there is the difficult but necessary job of cleaning up which requires special resources. Tim's company is one of only four in New England that provides this service. This should be an interesting and informative presentation which will provide us with some answers when we face these tragic incidents.

As an added bonus, following the presentation we hope to have for display and demonstration a specialized bariatric ambulance courtesy of Eastern EMS (See this month's Instructors Corner article).

This meeting has been submitted to O.E.M.S. with the intent of providing 2-hours continuing education credit for members that are EMT's. As always, guests are welcome.

SCHEDULE:

0900 Coffee, **1000** Presentation, **1130** Ambulance demo, **1145** Business meeting
1200 Lunch-off site (For those still with an appetite after the presentation)

DIRECTIONS:

FROM RT. 128: Take Rt.3 North towards Lowell. Get off at Exit 27, Concord Rd. Follow the ramp toward Billerica, right turn onto Concord Rd. and follow to Rt.3A (Boston Rd.). Turn left onto Rt.3A North 2-blocks to Good St. Turn left on Good St., park in the lot before the station.

FROM RT.495: Take Rt.3 South, get off at Exit 29 (Rt.129). Follow Rt.129 East toward North Billerica, Rt.129 will merge with Rt.3A, remain on Rt.3A to Good St. Turn right on Good St., park in the lot before the station.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balances for 1/2006
 Checking 172.36
Savings 1,327.88
 Total \$1,500.24

Bills Paid January (Checking):
 Feb 06 Newsletter \$120.00 Mike
 (please note: the increase was due to the postage & supply increases approved by the membership at the November meeting)

50/50 Raffle = Collected
 Winner =
 Deposit from 50/50 Raffle =

Account Transfers:
 \$900.00 transfer from Checking to Savings

Total active members = 102
 Dues paid thru 2007 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2006 = 67
 Dues paid thru 2005 = 34
 Dues paid thru 2004 = 20 (deleted in January)

Mailings
 E-Mail - 27 Home - 62
 Work - 13
 102

Balances as of 02/04/2006
 Bank Statement Checking: \$ 179.64
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 120.00)
 Checking Balance: \$ 59.64
Savings Balance: \$2,035.42
 Total \$2,095.06

Membership Totals
 69 Active - 29 Retired - 4 Associate

New Members:

Bruce Gordon - Lieutenant - Swampscott Fire Department - January
 Glen Rogers - Deputy Chief - Falmouth Fire Department - January

Treasurer Notes:

- (a) *Reminder, your dues are DUE now for 2006. Please remember to look at your mailing label for the PAID THROUGH date. Thank you to all of you who have paid your dues.*
- (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.*

Respectfully submitted 02/04/2006
 Michael McLeicer
 Treasurer
 978-864-2015 (Direct Line)

Thank you for your continued support!


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RENEWAL of DUES or NEW MEMBERSHIPS

may be addressed to:

MIFDI - Attn: Michael McLeieer, Treasurer

PO Box 507

Merrimac, MA 01860-0510

Phone: (978) 864-2015 or (978) 346-4731, ext. 1

***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 #492

The 492nd meeting of MIFDI was held on January 25, 2006 hosted by Kidde Fenwal Fire Systems located at 400 Main St., Ashland. An informative training presentation by Mark Juitt provided an overview of the technology and product development including; the fire protection challenge, applications, and research.

Following the power-point presentation, members were provided with a fascinating facility tour including the cylinder fill area. The Kidde-Fenwal plant is a 255k sq.ft. facility with 600 employees specializing in fire protection systems and explosion suppression devices.

Following the tour, a brief business meeting was held beginning with a moment of silence for life member Mort Shurtleff. The meeting adjourned for lunch at the nearby Stone's Public House Restaurant.





IN MEMORIAM
Morton D. Shurtleff
1920-2006
(See Last Alarm page for tribute)

LAST ALARM:

FAREWELL TO MORT SHURTLEFF

By President Mark Roche

On January 9, 2006, the fire service lost a giant when Mort Shurtleff succumbed to a battle with cancer at his home in Brockton at age 85. Morton D. Shurtleff was born in Brockton, Massachusetts on March 8, 1920, the son of Harold and Marion he was a life-long resident of Brockton. He graduated from Brockton High School in 1937 and also attended Massasoit Community College.

In 1940, Mort enlisted in the United States Army and served during W.W.II. He attained the rank of Captain and was a Provost Marshall. While in the "service", Mort was appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on July 26, 1943. He swiftly rose through the ranks being promoted to Lieutenant May 23, 1950, Captain July 26, 1953, and Deputy Chief on September 24, 1957. It should be noted that when Mort was appointed Deputy, he was only 37 years old, the youngest ever appointed at that time until the record was broken by current Chief of Department Kenneth Galligan who was 34 and often joked with Mort over the new record!

Mort retired on April 6, 1979 after serving 36 years on the Brockton Fire Department, 22 of those years as a chief officer and most of those years as the Department Drill Master. Mort remained active in many organizations, but the one we remember him best for is MIFDI. He was a founding member of MIFDI in 1959 and served as Secretary-Treasurer from 1963-1972. He served as 1st. V.P. in 1975 and was elected President in 1976. He again served as Secretary for another 5 years from 1994-1999. During his 46+ years as a member, he attended nearly every meeting of the organization almost until the very end. There is indeed a void now at the meetings due to Mort's absence.

Mort's wife Phyllis pre-deceased him a few years ago. The organization offers our sincere condolences to his devoted daughter Nancy who cared for him during his illness, his loving granddaughter Leigh Anne who brought him so much joy, and his sister Rosamond. Mort, we thank you for your friendship and your devotion to improving the training and safety of firefighters throughout the country. We shall meet again someday on pavement of the drill yard in heaven. May you now Rest In Peace good and faithful servant.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to **Laurent "Larry" McDonald** on his appointment as Director of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy effective January 9, 2006. Director McDonald previously served as Chief of Department for the Town of Dudley Massachusetts. Prior to his position in Dudley, he devoted 21 years in the United States Air Force serving in the Air Force Fire Service. We wish Director McDonald well in this important position and offer him the support of the organization with any issue affecting the training and safety of firefighters.

And a belated congratulations to former member **Captain Thomas Lyman** on his retirement after serving 37 years on the Canton Fire Department. Tom was appointed to the C.F.D. in 1968, promoted to Lieutenant in 1979, and Captain in 2002 assigned as Training & Safety Officer. Tom was a dedicated professional and a true gentleman. On behalf of the officers and members of MIFDI, we wish you a happy and healthy retirement. We welcome his successor, new member **Captain John E. Farrington, Jr.**

GOOD & WELFARE:

The officers and members of MIFDI offer our condolences to member and Past-President, **Captain Stephen Persson** of the Cambridge Fire Department on the loss of his mother Janet Persson on January 16, 2006.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 16, 2006: Firefighter MDA Ski Muster 2006
Mt. Wachusett, Princeton, MA Contact: MDA @ 508-898-3375

February 19-23, 2006: Firehouse World Exposition & Conference
San Diego, CA Contact: www.firehouseworld.com

February 22, 2006: **MIFDI** - Billerica

March 8-9, 2006: Wildland Firefighter Conference
Phoenix, AZ Contact: www.iafc.org

March 18, 2006: Statewide Exam for Chief, Deputy & District Chief
GOOD LUCK!

March 21-25, 2006: EMS Today Conference & Expo
Baltimore, MD Contact: www.jems.com

March 22, 2006: **MIFDI** - DFS/MFA

April 24, 2006: Application Deadline for the June 10 Firefighter Exam
Contact: www.state.ma.us/hrd

April 24-29, 2006: F.D.I.C. 2006
Indianapolis, IN Contact: www.fdic.com

April 24-26, 2006: FIRE-RESCUE-MED 2006
Las Vegas, NV Contact: www.IAFC.org

April 26, 2006: **MIFDI** - TBA

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

The new year began with sad news due to the passing of Founding Member Mort Shurtleff on January 9, 2006 at age 85. And although the news was expected due to his declining health caused by a battle with cancer during the past several months, it is still difficult for us to let him go. There is not enough space in this publication to say all there is to say about Mort, so we tried to cover some highlights of Mort's life on the "Last Alarm" page.

I want to thank the staff at Kidde-Fenwal Fire Protection Systems for hosting our January meeting. In particular I want to thank Mark Juitt for his presentation and Kate Houghton for arranging the meeting. The hospitality shown to our members by the Kidde-Fenwal employees was nothing short of professional. Those in attendance experienced an enjoyable and informative visitation.

In January, State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan announced the appointment of Laurent "Larry" McDonald as the new Director of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. On behalf of the organization, I want to offer our support to Director McDonald and look forward to having him address our membership at our meeting on March 22 at the academy.

Finally, I would be remiss if I fail to mention the death of Francis L. Brannigan on January 10, 2006 at age 87 at his home in Calverton, Maryland. Frank was a well known expert on building construction and collapse. He authored the book "Building Construction For The Fire Service" and wrote numerous articles and publications on the subject of building construction as it pertains to the fire service. His favorite motto, "The building is your enemy, know your enemy!"

A reminder during the winter months to check for severe weather cancellations of meetings on the MIDFI website @ www.mifdi.org

I hope to see you all in Billerica on the 22nd. Until then, stay safe.

Mark

INSTRUCTORS CORNER: "Handling the Plus-Size Patient"
Captain Mark Roche, Newton Fire Department

Occasionally, fire departments across the country are involved with the removal of extremely obese patients. These incidents commit a great deal of manpower, are very time consuming, and can be dangerous for both the patient and the rescuer. There are some options for us to be aware of when we respond to incidents involving obese or bariatric patients, but first let's try to get a better understanding of this condition.

According to the C.D.C., obesity is defined as "the condition of an excessively high amount of body fat or adipose tissue in relation to lean body mass". For a more technical definition, obesity is defined as a body mass index (BMI) greater than 30. The BMI index is calculated by dividing patient weight by height squared. This is an internationally accepted classification. These terms are fine, but for the rescuer all we have to do is look at the patient to realize that we are facing an incident with a challenge.

Medical problems associated with morbid obesity include: diabetes, stroke, heart disease, hypertension, and gall bladder disease. Being obese can subtract 20 years from a person. Many researchers believe that after smoking, obesity is the second leading preventable cause of death in North America.

When dealing with the bariatric patient, the priority must be on the prevention of injury to emergency personnel during patient handling and movement. As previously mentioned, there must be sufficient manpower on scene before attempting a lift. Some high risk tasks may be reduced by allowing the patient to perform certain moves independently. Medical care facilities such as nursing homes and rehab centers that provide bariatric patient services should be equipped with transfer devices or hydraulic patient lifts with slings.

It is important to be aware of the weight capacities of existing equipment to ensure that weight limits are not exceeded. One item specifically made for the oversized patient is the "Maxi Breakaway Flat" made by Minto. It is constructed of extra heavy duty materials and equipped with 14 easy-grip handles for carrying and a pullout center strap to break into two pieces. The departments that are equipped with this device have had success by rolling the patient onto the unit, and strapping them in firmly to allow angling through doorways and tight passageways. These maxi-flats are usually stored in the station and brought to the scene when requested or taken on the call when it is a known address of a bariatric patient.

If the patient is above the first floor of a non-elevator equipped building, it may be necessary to completely remove a window and load the victim onto the basket of a tower-ladder. The basket of a tower is a much safer method of removal than lowering with ropes along the top rails of a conventional aerial ladder. Tower-ladders are much more available these days than they once were, therefore if your department is not equipped with such a unit, don't feel uncomfortable requesting one from another community to safely perform the task. Towers are not just for building fires.

With regards to transporting, specialized bariatric patient ambulances are now available through Eastern EMS in Woburn and also AMR in Natick with units operating statewide 24/7. These ambulances are specially modified with a ramp and winch system capable of loading a patient into the ambulance quickly and safely. The wide durable stretcher is capable of handling up to 1600 lbs. for the obese patient or those immobilized with devices exceeding standard size stretchers.

Finally, it is important to maintain sensitivity when dealing with the obese patient and provide them with the same level of personal privacy and professional care as all EMS patients.