

The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

February
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 - 2008

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

THE MIFDI BOARD of DIRECTORS

Terms Expire 2008

Deputy Chief John Sullivan, Billerica Fire Department
 Assistant Chief Robert MacKendrick, Lynnfield Fire Department (Retired)
 Chief Richard Gomes, Norton Fire Department
 Firefighter / Instructor Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department (Past President)

Terms Expire 2009

Lieutenant George Churchill, Brockton Fire Department (retired)
 Chief Frank W. Fitzgerald, Jr., Malden Fire Department (retired)
 Captain James M. Vuona, Shrewsbury Fire Department

EDITOR

Firefighter / Instructor Scott D. Maker, Merrimac Fire Department

VISIT US ON THE WEB!

www.mifdi.org

E-MAIL- info@mifdi.org

**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 _____

City & State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone (Home) _____

E-mail Address _____

Fax (Home) _____

Work Information

Department _____

Rank _____

Phone (work) _____

Fax (work) _____

Address (work) _____

City & State (work) _____

Zip Code _____

Membership Type:

circle one

Send Bulletin To:

circle one

Membership Dues:

Active \$ 25.00

Retired \$ 12.50

Associate \$100.00

Active **Retired** **Associate** **Home** **Work** **E-mail**

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) 864-2015 or (978) 346-4731, ext. 1
 E-mail: michael.mcLeieer@merrimacfire.com

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FEBRUARY MEETING:

The 513th meeting of MIFDI will be held on **Wednesday, February 27, 2008** hosted by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority at the Riverside Yard in Newton.

The training presentation will be "SAFETY ON THE RAILS" held in the Training Building at the MBTA Riverside Yard, 295 Grove St., Newton.

SCHEDULE:

0900 Coffee, **1000** Presentation,
1130 Business meeting, **1200** Lunch-off site

DIRECTIONS:

The Riverside MBTA is located just off Rt.128 near the Mass Pike.

FROM RT. 128 (I 95): Take Exit 22 (Grove St.), Turn right at the end of the exit heading EAST. You will immediately see the Hotel Indigo (Former Holiday Inn.). The Riverside Yard is on the left just past the hotel.

When you enter the terminal, turn left at the end of the driveway and the Training Building (Bldg.1) will be directly in front of you. Parking will be provided in the area at the left of the Training Building.

(For those who feel adventurous, you can take the MBTA Green Line directly to Riverside)

***IMPORTANT REMINDER DURING THE WINTER
MONTHS TO CHECK THE MIFDI WEBSITE @
www.mifdi.org FOR MEETING CANCELLATIONS DUE
TO INCLEMENT WEATHER***

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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 January (Checking):

Feb. 07 Newsletter \$120.00 Michael - 01/22
 Pastry Jan. meeting Cash\$ 45.00 Mark - 01/23
 Annual Website \$ 71.95 Michael - 01/22
 TOTAL: \$236.95

50/50 Raffle = \$100.00 collected

Winner = Lt. Paul Barry - Walpole Fire \$50.00

Deposit from 50/50 Raffle = \$5.50 (\$45.00 paid to M. Roche - see above)

Account Transfers:

Eastern Cking to ING Savings - \$600.00 - 01/22

Roche - see above)

Eastern Cking to ING Savings - \$600.00 - 02/05

Total active members = 119

Dues paid thru 2009 = 6

Dues paid thru 2008 = 74

Dues paid thru 2007 = 36

Dues paid thru 2006 = 3

Mailings

E-Mail - 45 Home - 58

Work - 16

119

Balances as of 02/08/2008

Bank Statement Checking: \$ 300.94

Less uncleared checks: (\$ 0.00)

Eastern Checking Balance: \$ 300.94

ING Savings Balance: \$ 1,821.39

Economy Co-Op 12.mo CD 1,035.79

Total \$ 3,158.12

Membership Totals: 119

79 Active - 34 Retired - 6 Associate

We welcome this New Member:

- William Whalen, Jr. - Firefighter / EMT - Concord

Treasurer Notes:

- 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.**
- 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.
- 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 02/08/2008

Michael McLeicer

Treasurer

978-864-2015 (Direct Line) or

978-346-4731, ext. 1

Thank you for your continued support and for your prompt payment of your dues!

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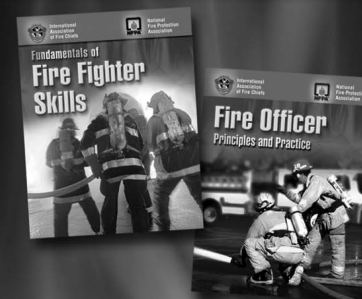
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may be addressed to:

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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 #512

The 512th. meeting of **MIFDI** was held on January 23, 2008 hosted by the Wilmington Fire Department courtesy of Chief Edward Bradbury.

The training session was provided by Deputy Chief Kevin Farrell of the Danvers Fire Department. Deputy Farrell offered us a power-point presentation on the massive explosion and fire which took place on November 22, 2006 in the Danversport section of town.

The presentation included an interesting video with radio traffic audio from incident.

Special thanks to MIFDI member Rick McClellan for his help with this meeting.

President Roche conducted a brief business meeting which included re-election of the current slate of officers as well as the addition of new Board of Directors; Chief Frank Fitzgerald of Malden and Captain James Vouna of Shrewsbury. Member John O'Donoghue spoke on some important elevator code updates. Member Richard Francis from Brockton was congratulated on his upcoming promotion to Deputy Chief. Member Frank Fitzgerald mentioned a new State Hotline 2-1-1 for public use during storms and other statewide emergencies with the intent of alleviating some of the non-emergency calls to local 9-1-1 Centers by providing answers and helpful information to the public during emergencies. Member Paul Barry from Walpole won the 50/50 raffle.

Following the business meeting, Rick McClellan provided our members with a tour of some of the features of Wilmington's impressive new Public Safety Building

Members adjourned for lunch at nearby Rocco's Restaurant.

EMS RUN

Unprotected Exposure

Courtesy of Massachusetts D.P.H.

An Unprotected Exposure Form should be completed for any pre-hospital emergency care worker (EMT, Firefighter, Police Officer) who believes he/she may have had an unprotected exposure to a patient's blood or other contaminated body fluid(s) in the course of attending, assisting, or transporting a person to a health care facility as part of his/her professional duties. It is the responsibility of each care provider to complete and file a form with the receiving facility.

If you believe you may have had an unprotected exposure, you should seek immediate medical evaluation for possible prophylactic immunization and/or treatment, as indicated. You must provide the information on the form to the facility, which received the patient from whom you received the exposure. Ambulance personnel or other emergency care providers having an unprotected exposure must complete a form on arrival and leave it at the health care facility with the patient. Other individuals shall file their own forms with the receiving facility within 24 hours of the unprotected exposure.

The health care facility will review the information which you provide and will determine if you have sustained an unprotected exposure as defined in DPH regulations. If the patient to whom you were exposed is diagnosed as having a blood borne infectious disease dangerous to the public health, and if you sustained an unprotected exposure which, in the opinion of the health care facility, is capable of transmitting such disease, the facility shall provide oral notification within 48 hours of the diagnosis and written notification within 72 hours of the diagnosis. The notice shall be given to the designated infection control officer for your agency who must be listed on the unprotected exposure form. Upon notification, the designated infection control officer shall notify you. The notice shall include the appropriate precautions and actions which you should take, the identity of the disease to which you were exposed, necessary precautions to prevent the transmission of the disease to others, and instructions to contact a physician for medical follow-up.

NOTE: The health care facility's determination that you have had an unprotected exposure does NOT necessarily indicate that you have contracted an infectious disease. The report from the health care facility to the designated infection control officer to you is confidential and governed by Mass. General Laws and DPH Regulations.

Due to the time it may take to diagnose a patient with an infectious disease, or the possibility that a patient may never be diagnosed, and the time it may take to notify you of the exposure, the Department recommends that anyone who believes that they have suffered an unprotected exposure, such as a needle stick with a bloody needle, should see a physician immediately. Certain prophylactic regimens should be started within hours of an unprotected exposure.

LAST ALARM:

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Lt. Vincent P. Russell**, active member of the Boston Fire Department, Rescue Co.1. Lt. Russell, a former MFA Instructor, died suddenly January 9, 2008 at age 56. Vinnie's death is being carried as Line-Of-Duty due to an infection caused by an injury on the job. May he rest in peace.

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Firefighter Richard L. Besse**, active member of the Boston Fire Department, Rescue Co. 2. F.F. Besse died of cancer on January 22, 2008 at age 61. May he rest in peace.

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Lt. Daniel A. Boyle** of the Holyoke Fire Department. Lt. Boyle died on January 22, 2008 at age 40 after a 3-year battle with cancer. May he rest in peace.



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CONGRATULATIONS:

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our congratulations and support to member **Deputy Chief James Carritte** of the Lynn Fire Department upon his appointment to Acting Chief of Department due to the retirement of Chief Joseph Higgins on January 5, 2008.

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our congratulations to member **Captain Richard Francis** of the Brockton Fire Department on his promotion to Deputy Chief on January 28, 2008.

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our best wishes to former member **Chief Allan McEwen** upon his retirement from the Arlington Fire Department on February 8, 2008.

GOOD & WELFARE:

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 22, 2008: Fiscal Year 2008 S.A.F.E. Grant Applications due into the Department of Fire Services.

March 9, 2008: Daylight Saving Time
"Change your clocks, change your batteries"
(Don't forget the clocks in your S.A.E.D. units)

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

March 26, 2008: **MIFDI**

March 28, 2008: "A Night For Tony"
Florian Hall, Boston (Tickets available at the door)
Benefit for Milton F.F. Antonio Pickens severely injured on duty.

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

The first meeting of 2008 was indeed informative and compelling. As we watched this major incident unfold from the original 9-1-1 calls through the arrival of the first due companies and the subsequent request for additional resources, one could only imagine the overwhelming task that the original Shift Commander was faced with upon his arrival. I thank Deputy Chief Farrell for providing MIFDI with this powerful presentation. I also thank Chief Bradbury and the members of the Wilmington Fire Dept. for hosting MIFDI in their impressive new facility. Thanks also to MIFDI member Rick McClellan for his help with this meeting.

One more reminder to our members to ensure that your dues for 2008 are paid up to keep this great organization going. We are grateful to our associate members who 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 February meeting will provide an overview of "Safety on the Rails" courtesy of the MBTA Training Division.

I hope to see you all at Riverside on the 27th. Until then, stay safe!

Mark

INSTRUCTORS CORNER
"COLLYERS' MANSION"

Courtesy of WNYF Publication

The "Collyers Mansion" is a dreaded term used by firefighters throughout the country. This type of occupancy has also been called a "habital" or "packer house", a term referring to pack rats. Basically it is a term that is used to describe a dwelling where someone resides with this obsessive/compulsive disorder. The person simply is unable to dispose of items such as garbage, newspapers, clothing, food, etc. The most famous of people with this disorder were Homer and Langley Collyer, who were found dead in their Manhattan brownstone in 1947 amid 100 TONS of their possessions.

These structures are nightmares for firefighters. There are usually narrow isles running through the dwelling with debris piled high as the ceiling. Entrances and exits may be compromised by this trash. The rubbish can easily fall on top of interior firefighting forces, exacerbating an already difficult situation.

The weight of the debris is also a major concern. This is not typical residential fire loading. When firefighters add thousands of gallons of water to the equation, collapse potential must be included in the size-up. The fire can sometimes burrow into the rubbish making extinguishment very difficult.

Removal of the refuse can be a monumental and time-consuming task. The junk that has to be removed must be put somewhere else. What do firefighters do with it while attempting to get to the seat of the fire?

Personnel must be rotated often. This is a tedious job, even under the best of circumstances. Battling heat, smoke, and lack of illumination, this undertaking can be quite tiresome.