

The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

February
2009

MIFDI
PO BOX 507
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

*50th Anniversary
(1959-2009)*

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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 (Retired)
 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, 2009**

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

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FEBRUARY MEETING:

The February meeting of MIFDI will be held on **Wednesday, February 25, 2009** hosted by Nuvera Fuel Cells, 129 Concord Rd., Billerica. Nuvera produces hydrogen fuel cells and hydrogen fueling equipment. During the past year, Nuvera opened the first hydrogen refueling station in Massachusetts. As with every new alternative fuel source, the fire service must be kept informed with the challenges posed by all new alternative fuel products.

Special thanks to Deputy Chief Thomas Conway of the Billerica Fire Department for his help arranging this presentation for MIFDI.

SCHEDULE:

0900 Coffee, 1000 Presentation, 1130 Business Meeting, 1200 Lunch

DIRECTIONS:

Nuvera is simple to get to. From Rt. 3, take EXIT 27 "Concord Rd." Proceed east toward Billerica Center. Turn left BEFORE the first traffic light at 129 Concord Road. Building 1 is at the bottom on the right. Parking and main entrance are in the rear of the building. We will meet in the Nuvera training room.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balances for 01/01/2009

Eastern Bank Cking. \$ 38.98
 Consumers Cking. \$ 0.00
 Consumers Savngs. \$233.47
 ING Savings \$342.39
 18 Mo. CD CCU \$1,007.30
Total \$1,622.14

50/50 Raffle = N/A

Winner = N/A

Deposit from 50/50 Raffle = None

Bills Paid January, 2009 (Checking):

Feb 09 Newsletter \$120.00 Michael - 01/30
TOTAL: \$120.00

Account Transfers:

None

Total active members = 110

Dues paid thru 2011 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2010 = 6
 Dues paid thru 2009 = 66
 Dues paid thru 2008 = 37

Mailings

E-Mail - 44 Home - 52
Work - 14
 110

Balances as of 02/07/2009

Bank Statement Checking: \$ 801.48
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 120.00)
 Eastern Checking Balance: \$ 681.48
 ING Savings Balance: \$ 343.06
 Consumers C.U. 18Mo.CD: \$ 1,010.91 - Matures 05/02/2010 - 4.22% APY
 Consumers C.U. Checking: \$ 0.00
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 0.00)
 Consumers C.U. Savings: \$ 661.13
Total \$ 2,696.58

Membership Totals: 110

76 Active - 28 Retired - 6 Associate

We Welcome these New Members in January:

- Mark A. Sullivan - Lieutenant - Bedford Fire Department
- Matt Pacheco - Lieutenant - Newton Fire Department

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 2009 dues are due in January, 2009.**
- (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 02/07/2009

Michael McLeier

Treasurer

978-346-4731 or

978-864-2015

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

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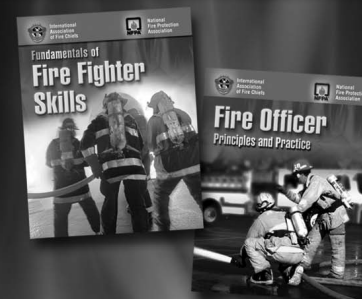
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RENEWAL of DUES or NEW MEMBERSHIPS
may be addressed to:

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 #522

The 522nd meeting of MIFDI scheduled for January 28, 2009 was cancelled due to a snowstorm.

Sgt. Thomas Fitzgerald of the Massachusetts State Police (MSP) C.V.E.S. (Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Section) commonly known as the “Truck Team” was originally scheduled to speak to our membership in January. Due to the tragic event in Boston where a ladder truck was involved in an accident on January 9, 2009, claiming the life of Fire Lieutenant Kevin Kelly, Sgt. Fitzgerald regretfully had to cancel his presentation to MIFDI citing an overload of requests by both municipalities and union representatives seeking information and advice on fire apparatus safety. This is a sensitive subject since the tragedy in Boston and the M.S.P. honestly wants to avoid this controversy which has resulted in a dispute between many members of both labor and management looking for answers regarding aging fire equipment, a problem that we ALL share. So unless the M.S.P. is ordered by the Governor to a help resolve a municipal incident, than they will continue to focus on their main function of “Commercial Vehicle Enforcement”. Sgt. Fitzgerald was very apologetic to MIFDI and asked for understanding regarding the cancellation. He did however want to convey the following;

Firefighters and fire mechanics driving fire apparatus in the performance of their duties are NOT required to have a CDL License within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A suggested resource for information on truck requirements is the CDL Manual which can be downloaded in Adobe format in 3-sections on the Registry of Motor Vehicles website @ mass.gov/rmv

It is the hope of Sgt. Fitzgerald, as well as many of us, that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in conjunction with the Department of Fire Services/Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, the Fire Chief’s Association of Massachusetts, and the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts, all work to establish a comprehensive “Fire Apparatus Driving Program” offered to both new recruits as well as anyone responsible for driving fire apparatus in Massachusetts.

EMS RUN:

“Sledding Hazards”

Captain/EMT Mark Roche, Newton Fire Department

According to a recent article in the Boston Globe, a Bill is being sponsored by Massachusetts State Senator Steven Panagiotakos of Lowell to establish a Law that would require children 12 and under to wear a helmet when sledding. While this may seem like another over-kill regulation and difficult to enforce, those of us with the responsibility of providing EMS welcome the measure.

According to the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, roughly 22,870 people are injured while sledding each year. What is more troubling than the number is the type of sled-related injuries with head and neck trauma accounting for more than half of these sledding EMS incidents.

It reported that recently in New York, two girls died as a result of two separate sledding accidents. In Syracuse, a 12-year-old died from injuries after her sled slammed into a parked vehicle causing massive head trauma. And just north of New York City, a 13-year-old died from traumatic cardiac arrest when her sled struck a tree on a golf course.

The old “Flexible-Flyer” sleds had ropes to grasp and foot power steering to provide some control. These days children (and adults) use just about anything including; pieces of cardboard, plastic sheeting, inflatable tubes, etc. These improvised items offer very little control with steering and stopping once they get going. Injuries also increase when sledding head-first as opposed to feet-first.

What are some of the things we can do?

- Ask your representative to support the Legislation requiring children under 12 to wear helmets when sledding.
- Be familiar with the locations of the popular sledding areas in your communities including best access, especially towards the bottom of the hill.
- Many of these sledding areas are remote from roadways so be sure to send enough help to provide the manpower needed to carry the patient long distances through the snow.
- Always include back-boarding and C-Spine precautions when removing a victim of a sledding accident.

LAST ALARM:

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Lt. Kevin M. Kelly** of the Boston Fire Department, Ladder Co. 26. Kevin died tragically in the line-of-duty on January 9, 2009 when the ladder truck, returning from a run, crashed into a building, killing Lt. Kelly and injured the other three members of the company. Kevin was 52 years old and leaves his wife and three daughters. May he rest in Peace.



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- ☐ Genesis Rescue System
- ☐ Koehler-Bright Star
- ☐ SOG Knives



CONGRATULATIONS:

Nothing Submitted

LOOKING BACK ON MIFDI

Nothing Submitted

GOOD & WELFARE:

Boston **Chief of Department Kevin P. MacCurtain** retired on January 16, 2009 after 37 years of service. Chief MacCurtain was appointed in 1972, promoted to Lieutenant 1978, promoted Captain 1982, promoted District Chief 1986, promoted Deputy Chief 1991, appointed Chief of Operations 1993, reverted back to Deputy Chief 2001, appointed Acting Fire Commissioner 2/2006, appointed Chief of Department 9/2006. **Chief of Operations John Hasson** has been appointed Acting Chief of Department as of January 16, 2009. Hopkinton **Chief Gary T. Daugherty** has been appointed Chief of Department in Framingham as of January 31, 2009 due to the retirement of **Chief Ollie D. Gadson** at the end of 2008. Halifax **Chief Lance Benjamino** has been appointed Chief of Department in Middleboro replacing **Chief Robert Silva**. Chief Benjamino has been Chief in Halifax since 2003.



Instructors from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (past & present) attend the recent Memorial Plaque dedication to Boston Fire Lieutenant and MFA Instructor Vincent P. Russell who died from injuries received in the line-of-duty January 9, 2008
(Photo by Bill Noonan B.F.D.)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 15-19, 2009: FIREHOUSEWORLD 2009
San Diego, CA firehouseworld.com

February 25, 2009: **MIFDI** - Billerica

February 26, 2009: MDA 2009 Ski Muster
Wachusett Mountain

March 8, 2009: Daylight Saving Time
“Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries”

March 21, 2009: Statewide Exam; Chief, Deputy & District Chief
Good Luck!

March 24-28, 2009: EMS Today Conference & Expo
Baltimore, MD iaff.org

March 25, 2009: **MIFDI** – Hudson

March 30, 2009: PFFM 2009 Annual Legislators Night
Florian Hall, Boston ***POSTPONED to September 28***

April 20-25, 2009: F.D.I.C. 2009
Indianapolis, IN FDIC.org

April 22, 2009: **MIFDI** – Marlborough

May 27, 2009: **MIFDI** – Merrimac

REPORT of the PRESIDENT:

Our first meeting of 2009 regretfully was cancelled due to another snowstorm. We try to avoid cancellations whenever possible due to the preparations which are made for every meeting that include both presenters and meeting locations, some that are arranged months ahead. The primary concern when considering a cancellation is of course the safety of our members, many of whom drive a long distance to attend meetings. So I hope that everyone received the cancellation notice in time and I apologize for any inconvenience that the cancellation may have caused to anyone.

As things turned out, our presenter for January had to cancel (See "Recall" Pg.4). I thank Firefighter/EMT Charles Foote of the Belmont Fire Department for offering to step in on short notice to provide his informative and heart-wrenching presentation on emergency response incidents involving S.I.D.S. (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). We will reschedule this excellent presentation in the near future.

Another reminder to those who have not paid their 2009 dues, you may bring your check to the next meeting or mail it to; MIFDI P.O. Box 507, Merrimac, MA 01860. At \$25.00 for active and \$12.50 for retired members, this organization is a tremendous investment for what you receive as a member of this great educational resource. Thanks to our treasurer and our Associate Members, we are again able to prevent increasing membership dues. As always, I ask all of you to patronize the MIFDI Associate members advertized in our bulletin and on our website.

Our next meeting will offer us a look at another fuel source which of course presents another challenge to the fire service. I thank Deputy Chief Tom Conway of the Billerica Fire Department for his help with arrangements for this presentation to MIFDI.

Don't forget that during the winter month's to check the MIFDI website www.mifdi.org for meeting cancellations due to storms and severe weather.

See you on the 25th (if it doesn't snow). Until then, stay safe!

Mark

INSTRUCTORS CORNER

D.F.S. Advisory – “*Mailings to Military Facilities*”

Recently, a number of suspicious mailings have been delivered to various military and National Guard facilities throughout the country. The first Massachusetts mailing was at Devens. Members of the Massachusetts DFS Haz-Mat Response team examined the package and determined the following test results;

Bomb Screening by X-Ray = *negative*,

Radiation Screening by Ludlum = *negative*,

LRN Lab evaluation = *no visible powders*,

Swipe sample = *negative PCR*.

Additional packages of a similar nature have been received at Otis and Westover. Reporting indicates packages also received at facilities in Brockton and Worcester.

The packages are described as follows;

The outside container consists of red, blue, or green construction paper folded and taped into an envelope. They do not contain a return address. They have all been postmarked from Memphis, TN. The packages also contained a CD-ROM and several pages of anti-government literature.

The United States Postal Inspection Service and the FBI have been advised of the packages received to date in the Commonwealth. Should a public safety agency be called regarding one of these packages, the DFS suggests the following;

Treat the package as suspicious. Request a TEIR I Haz-Mat Team response. (NOTE: The DFS will advise the Bomb Squad)

The regional Haz-Mat Team and Bomb Squad will respond and evaluate the threat.

If cleared, the package will be double-bagged by DFS and returned to the recipient. If a package is determined to be a threat, the response team will take the appropriate action.

Report the package to the Fusion Center @ 978-451-3700