

The **MIFDI** BULLETIN

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

MIFDI
PO BOX 507
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

March
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
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Lieutenant George Churchill, Brockton Fire Department (retired)
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 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 _____
City & State _____
Zip Code _____
Phone (Home) _____
E-mail Address _____
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Work Information

Department _____
Rank _____
Phone (work) _____
Fax (work) _____
Address (work) _____
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Zip Code _____

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

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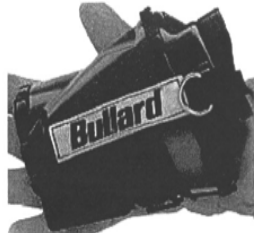
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MARCH MEETING:

The 494th MIFDI meeting will be held **Wednesday, March 22, 2006** hosted by the Department of Fire Services / Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow. This is our semi-annual visit to the MFA courtesy of Fire Marshal Stephen Coan and MFA Director Larry McDonald. Please be sure to sign in at the front reception desk.

Our program will be a review of the new regulations for carbon monoxide detectors in residential properties required to be installed by the end of March.

We also plan on meeting the new MFA Director Larry McDonald and expect him to address our membership.

For those interested a tour of the facility and latest equipment will be arranged.

The MFA food cafeteria is back in operation and appropriately named "Jakes".

SCHEDULE:

0900 Coffee, **1000** Presentation,
1130 Business meeting, **1200** Lunch

DIRECTIONS:

From Rt.128/I 95: Take Rt. 20 west to Rt.27 in Wayland. Turn right onto Rt.27 and continue until Rt. 27 makes a right towards Maynard. **DO NOT TURN RIGHT**, continue straight for aprox 3 miles and the Academy will be on the right.

From Rt.495 North: Take Rt. 85 (Exit 25) towards Hudson. At the traffic light, turn left onto Rt.85. Turn right onto Broad St. (First traffic light), and at the second traffic light, turn right onto Rt.62. Continue straight until Rt.62 takes a left toward Stow. **DO NOT TURN LEFT**, continue straight for aprox 4 miles and the Academy will be on your left.

From Rt.495 South: Take Rt.62 (Exit 26) into Hudson Center. Continue halfway around the rotary and continue on Rt.62 east. Continue straight until Rt.62 turns left towards Stow. **DO NOT TURN LEFT**, continue straight for aprox 4 miles and the Academy will be on your left.

NOTE: There will be Green signs with gold MFA symbols to help point the way.

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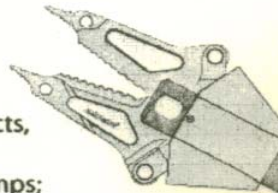
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TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Bills Paid February (Checking):
 March 06 Newsletter \$120.00 Mike
 FDIC 2006 Conference \$370.00 Mike
 Old Colony Hospice \$50.00 for Mort

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

Account Transfers:
 \$350.00 transfer from Checking to Savings
 \$100.00 transfer from Checking to Savings

Total active members = 106
 Dues paid thru 2008 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2007 = 2
 Dues paid thru 2006 = 81
 Dues paid thru 2005 = 22
 Dues paid thru 2004 = 20 (deleted in January)

Mailings
 E-Mail - 30 Home - 62
Work - 14
 106

Balances as of 03/06/2006
 Bank Statement Checking: \$ 245.64
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 540.00)
 Checking Balance: (\$ 294.36)
Savings Balance: \$2,486.31
 Total \$2,191.95

Membership Totals
 73 Active - 29 Retired - 4 Associate

New Members:

Kent Campbell - Lieutenant - Norton Fire Department - February
 James Vuona - Captain - Shrewsbury Fire Department - February
 Ira Hoffman - Hudson, MA - February

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.*
- (c) *We received a note from the Family of Morton D. Shurtleff "To Thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated"*
- (d) *We received a letter from Old Colony Hospice from Marilyn A.. Jackson, Director of Development, thanking MIFDI for the \$50.00 donation in memory of Morton Shurtleff.*

Respectfully submitted 03/06/2006
 Michael McLeicer
 Treasurer
 978-864-2015 (Direct Line) or
 978-346-4731, ext. 1

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 #493

The 493rd meeting of MIFDI was held on February 22, 2006 hosted by the Billerica Fire Department courtesy of Chief Anthony Capaldo and MIFDI Director, Deputy Chief John Sullivan.

An informative training presentation was provided by Mr. Timothy Riley of CADSC, Inc. (Crime & Death Scene Cleaning) of Ipswich, MA. Tim's lecture and power-point presentation focused on protecting ourselves against the many biological and infectious hazards we may encounter in the performance of our duties. Invited guests of the organization included several members of the Billerica Police Department.

For members certified as EMT's who signed the roster, OEMS approved this lecture for 2 hours continued education credit. The approval number is 267038.

Unfortunately, the special bariatric ambulance was tied-up and unable to provide a demonstration, however, we do hope to have them at a meeting in the future to show our members the advantages of this specialized unit. (See February 2006 Instructors Corner).

Following the presentation, a brief business meeting was held by President Roche. The meeting adjourned for lunch at the nearby Rick's Cafe Restaurant. Again, special thanks to our host Chief Capaldo for his hospitality and generosity shown to our members.

FEATURE ARTICLE "Farewell to the Fire Patrol"

Captain Mark Roche, Newton Fire Department

On January 31, 2006, the New York Board of Fire Underwriters (NYBFU) voted to disband the last of the insurance operated fire patrols in the nation. The New York Fire Patrol was formed by the insurance companies in 1803 using volunteers (similar to the early days of fire departments). The main objective of these patrols was to protect the contents of buildings from fire and water damage. Many of the major cities throughout the country had operating Fire Patrols, Salvage Corps, or Protective Depts. including Boston and Worcester.

One by one the fire patrols were phased out and over the years and much of the salvage work at fires became the responsibility of ladder companies. The Hook & Ladder trucks were now outfitted with salvage covers, (do you think there were any grievances filed?). Some fire departments went as far as creating 'Salvage Companies' which were the predecessors of many of today's Rescue Companies.

The last remaining Fire Patrol's operated three units in New York City, two in Manhattan and one in Brooklyn designated 'Patrol 1', 'Patrol 2', & 'Patrol 3' respectively. The 100-member force, distinguishable by their red helmets, was funded by a 2-percent surcharge on all fire insurance policies written in New York City. The Patrol's respond 24/7 averaging 10,000 runs annually with a focus on protecting contents. Some of the high-value contents protected included museum treasures, store stock rooms, up-scale residences, computer and electronic equipment in high-rise office buildings, etc. The Patrol's mission of placing covers, pumping water from basements, removing smoke, dewatering floors, content removal, and changing sprinkler heads to restore sprinkler systems saves an estimated \$100 million in insured property damage each year.

The Fire Patrol also became a stepping-stone where many firefighters started out their careers. The Patrol personnel have a good working relationship with the FDNY and are members of IAFF Local I-26. In the Patrol's history, 32 members died in the line of duty including one on 9/11.

Some may trivialize the decision to disband the Patrol by saying why give CPR to a dinosaur, but I see this as another fire service tradition forever lost.

LAST ALARM:**NATIONAL L.O.D.D. (January)**

F.F. Richard Longoria	Corpus Christi, TX	(C)	01-03-06	CVA	(54)
F.F. Jerry Hall	Richmond, VA	(C)	01-06-06	Heart	(62)
Capt. James Dillon	Miramar, FL	(C)	01-10-06	MVA	(46)
F.F. Mike McMullen	Salisbury, MD	(C)	01-10-06	KIA/Iraq	(25)
F.F. Amy Pennwitt	Ann Arbor, MI	(C)	01-13-06	Trauma	(34)
F.F. Jason Johnson	Rose Hill, KS	(V)	01-14-06	U/K	(28)
F.F. Roger Armstrong	Atlanta, IL	(V)	01-21-06	Heart	(42)
Capt. Matthew Keck	El Dorado Co., CA	(C)	01-21-06	Cancer	(36)
F.F. John Westervelt	Spring Valley, NY	(V)	01-22-06	Heart	(57)
F.F. Tracy Champion	Philadelphia, PA	(C)	01-28-06	Heart	(49)
F.F. John Thomas	Prince Wm. Co., VA	(C)	01-30-06	Cancer	(34)

NATIONAL L.O.D.D. (February)

F.F. Gary Kistler	Saucier, MS	(C)	02-05-06	Infection	(65)
F.F. Edward Marbet	Burlington, NJ	(V)	02-09-06	Trapped	(31)
F.F. William Malone	Greenburgh, NY	(C)	02-10-06	Heart	(46)
Capt. Lloyd McCullogh	Moulton, AL	(V)	02-21-06	Crushed	(23)
F.F. Dusty Jones	Moulton, AL	(V)	02-21-06	Crushed	(64)
F.F. Donald Herbert	Buffalo, NY	(C)	02-21-06	Trapped	(45)
F.F. Robert Wisting	Rio Grande, NJ	(V)	02-23-06	Heart	(77)
Lt. Robert Norman	W. Springfield, MA	(C)	02-25-06	Cancer	(52)

CONGRATULATIONS:

Best wishes to **Commissioner Paul Christian** upon his retirement on February 15 from the Boston Fire Department after 38 years of service. Chief Christian had the ability of being skillfully progressive while maintaining the strong traditions of the fire department. His successor, **Chief Kevin MacCurtain**, is no stranger to MIFDI and the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and we wish him great success in his new position.

GOOD & WELFARE:

The officers and members of MIFDI offer our condolences to past member **Captain Gerard Mahoney** of the Cambridge Fire Department on the loss of his father Paul F. Mahoney, Sr. on February 14, 2006.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

March 21, 2006: Avian Flu Pandemic: Preperation & Response
UMASS, Worcester Contact: www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa

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

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

April 2, 2006: Change Your Clocks, Change your Batteries

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

May 6, 2006: Statewide Exam for Fire Alarm Operator
Contact: www.state.ma.us/hrd

May 24, 2006: **MIFDI** - Merrimac

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

I want to thank our February speaker, Tim Riley of CADSC, for his informative presentation. In keeping with a goal of providing a variety of training programs, the topic of "Crime and Death Scene Cleaning" was one that many members were unsure of what to expect. Mr. Riley's presentation adapted to the audience with a focus of protecting one-self against the hazards in which we encounter during the performance of our profession.

A special thank you to our February host, Chief Anthony Capaldo of the Billerica Fire Department for again providing the members of this organization with his generous hospitality.

In February, State Secretary of Public Safety Edward Flynn announced his resignation to accept the position of Police Commissioner in the financially challenged City of Springfield. We wish Secretary Flynn well in his new position after serving as Public Safety Secretary since 2003. This month, Governor Mitt Romney has announced the appointment of Robert Hass as the new Secretary of Public Safety for the Commonwealth. Secretary Hass formerly served as Flynn's undersecretary of law enforcement responsible for developing initiatives for homeland security. Hass previously held the position of Chief of Police for the Town of Westwood. We wish Secretary Hass well in this important position.

Its been over 25 years now since the first fulltime female firefighter in Massachusetts was appointed in Lexington. Since then, many departments throughout the Commonwealth have hired women firefighters and it is now seldom to see a graduating MFA class without at least one female recruit. On March 29 at 8pm, WGBH will be airing a documentary titled "*Taking The Heat: The First Women Firefighters of New York City*" profiling the careers of the first women firefighters of the FDNY.

Finally, in this busy world in which we live in with never enough time in the day, it is important to mention that a great deal of time and effort is devoted to providing meaningful and educational presenters each month to help us all better perform our job. I can honestly say that I learn something from every MIFDI meeting and that the "mutual sharing of knowledge" is what makes this organization worth the time and the travel each month to help us be the best that we can be in our profession.

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

Mark

INSTRUCTORS CORNER:
Truss System Failures WARNING!

Courtesy of National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

Firefighters may be injured and killed when fire-damaged roof and floor truss systems collapse, sometimes without warning. Firefighters should take the following steps to minimize the risk of injury and death during structural firefighting operations involving roof and floor truss systems:

- Know how to identify roof and floor truss construction.
- Immediately report the presence of truss construction and fire involvement to the incident commander.
- Use extreme caution and follow standard operating procedures when operating on or under truss systems.
- Immediately open ceilings and other concealed spaces whenever a fire is suspected of being in a truss system:
 - * Use extreme caution, as opening concealed spaces can result in a backdraft.
 - * Always have a charged hose line available.
 - * Be positioned between the nearest exit and the concealed space to be opened.
 - * Be aware of the location of other firefighters in the area.
- Understand that fire ratings may not be truly representative of real-time fire conditions and that truss systems' performance may be affected by fire severity.

Fire departments should take the following steps to protect firefighters:

- Conduct pre-incident planning and inspections to identify structures that contain truss construction.
- Ensure that firefighters are trained to identify roof and floor truss systems and that they use extreme caution when operating on or under truss systems.
- Develop and implement standard operating procedures to safely combat fires in buildings with truss construction.
- Ensure that the incident commander conducts an initial size-up and risk assessment of the incident scene before beginning interior firefighting.
- Evacuate firefighters performing operations under or above trusses as soon as it is determined that the trusses are exposed to fire and move to a defensive attack.
- Use Defensive overhauling procedures after extinguishing fire in a building containing truss construction. Use outside master streams to soak the smoldering truss and prevent rekindles.
- Use a thermal imaging camera as part of the size-up to help locate fires in concealed spaces.

(For additional information, see NIOSH Alert: "Preventing Injuries and Deaths of firefighters due to Truss System Failures" Publication # 2005-132)