

# The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute  
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
INSTRUCTORS**

March  
2007

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**

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 2008**

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**Terms Expire 2007**

Lieutenant George Churchill, Brockton Fire Department (retired)  
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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, 2007**

**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></b> \$ 25.00
<b><u>Active</u></b>	<b><u>Home</u></b>	<b><u>Retired</u></b> \$ 12.50
<b><u>Retired</u></b>	<b><u>Work</u></b>	<b><u>Associate</u></b> \$100.00
<b><u>Associate</u></b>	<b><u>E-mail</u></b>	

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

**MIFDI**  
 Attn: **Michael McLeieer, Treasurer**  
**PO Box 507**  
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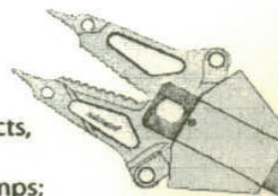
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ED LYONS  
President



## MARCH MEETING:

The 504th MIFDI meeting will be held **Wednesday, March 28, 2007** 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 Interim Director Kevin Partridge. Due to security reasons, please be sure to sign in at the front reception desk upon your arrival. The display screen in the lobby will indicate our assigned room.

Our program will be provided by our resident expert on elevators, Chief John O'Donahue. John will deliver an interesting presentation on the elevator code update and other interesting points regarding elevators and the fire service. As always, John does an outstanding job on this very important subject.

**NOTE:** Due to recruit examinations taking place, our classroom may not be available until 10am. So if we could all meet in the cafeteria, "Jakes", or wait quietly in the hall outside the assigned room until it becomes available it would be greatly appreciated by the MFA instructors.

## 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 approx 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 approx 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 approx 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.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

## Beginning Balances for 1/1/2007

Checking 138.26  
Savings 887.66  
9 Mo. CD 515.44  
Total \$1,541.36

Bills Paid February (Checking):

March 07 Newsletter \$120.00 Michael  
FDIC Early Bird Reg. \$410.00 Michael  
TOTAL: \$530.00

50/50 Raffle = \$0.00 Collected

Winner = N/A

Deposit from 50/50 Raffle = \$0.00

Account Transfers:

Transfer from CD to Savings = \$520.15

Total active members = 109

Dues paid thru 2009 = 1  
Dues paid thru 2008 = 4  
Dues paid thru 2007 = 68  
Dues paid thru 2006 = 36

Mailings

E-Mail - 37 Home - 59  
Work - 13  
109

## Balances as of 03/07/2007

Bank Statement Checking: \$ 118.30  
Less uncleared checks: (\$ 0.00)  
Checking Balance: \$ 118.30  
Certificate of Deposit: matured / closed out  
Savings Balance: \$ 2,308.32  
Total \$ 2,426.62

Membership Totals

73 Active - 30 Retired - 6 Associate

• New Members: None

## 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 2007 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.
- The \$410.00 payment for FDIC is the early bird discount for the Fire Department Instructors Conference held in Indianapolis, Indiana in April. I was selected by the membership last September to again represent MIFDI. The annual recap will be held in Merrimac May 23rd and free CD's will be available to those members who attend the May meeting.

Respectfully submitted 03/07/2007

Michael McLeieer

Treasurer

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

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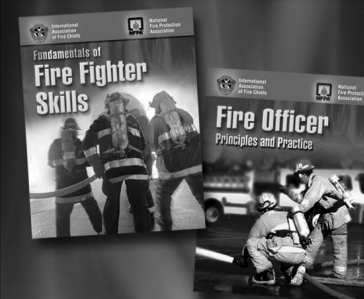
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**RENEWAL of DUES or NEW MEMBERSHIPS**  
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Merrimac, MA 01860-0510  
Phone: (978) 864-2015 or (978) 346-4731, ext. 1

**\*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 #503**

The 503rd meeting of MIFDI was held on February 28, 2007 hosted by the Norwood Fire Department courtesy of Chief Michael Howard.

The training session was provided by Mr. John Daly, Field Safety Manager for NSTAR who provided an informative power-point presentation on Electrical Safety. Jack explained the electrical distribution process from generation to distribution and the associated hazards.

The presentation concluded with a brief business meeting held by President Roche. Two new members from Brookline were introduced. Deputy Chief Dolloff from Stoughton passed around a new helmet showing a redesigned arrangement for the eye shields. Training Council member Persson gave an update from the Massachusetts Fire Training Council meeting.

Following the business meeting, MIFDI member and retired Norwood Firefighter Ed Williamson provided our members with a tour of Norwood's impressive new Public Safety Building. Following the tour, members adjourned for lunch at the Chateau Restaurant on Rt.1.



**EMS RUN**

***Food Allergen Warnings***

Dining out can be a pleasant experience for most, however, for people with food allergies it could have life-threatening consequences. Pending legislation at the State House would require; 1) Allergy training for restaurant workers, 2) Adding a "tag line" on menus for customers to alert servers prior to ordering, 3) A poster displayed prominently in kitchens of restaurants showing the most common food allergens as well as ways to avoid cross-contamination. According to the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network, Massachusetts and New Jersey are the only states with restaurant legislation pending while other states are expected to follow.

The Eight major food allergies include; soy, wheat, dairy, shellfish, eggs, tree nuts, peanuts, and fish. Over 12-million American have food allergies, and that number is expected to increase. Peanut allergies are the most common and appear also to be the fastest growing allergy. The U.S. Food & Drug Administration estimates that of the 30,000 people treated in emergency rooms each year with allergic reactions, 150 of them will die.

Federal regulations require labels to be placed on foods notifying people of possible allergens. Proponents of the restaurant bill would like the same information when they dine out. To learn more, go to the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN) @ [www.foodallergy.org](http://www.foodallergy.org).

*Presidents Note: This being 2007, there is no excuse for every fire company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts not to be equipped with epinephrine auto-injectors or "Epi-Pens". This simple syringe with a spring-loaded needle injects epinephrine into the muscle when pushed against the thigh. This simple action can help reverse the allergic reaction when administered quickly. It time for the fire service to step up and be at the forefront of this simple but important life saving measure.*

**LAST ALARM:**

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to our Vice President, **Acting Deputy Chief Brian F. Belliveau** of the Fitchburg Fire Department on the recent loss of his Mother-In-Law.

**CONGRATULATIONS:**

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our congratulations to **Deputy Chief Herbert C. Fothergill, Jr.** of the Chelsea Fire Department on his promotion to Chief of Department as of February 27, 2007.

Chief Fothergill is the son of former Chief Herbert C. Fothergill, Sr. who served as Chief of Department from 1966-1988.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

March 11, 2007: Daylight Saving Time  
"Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries"

March 11-15, 2007: IAFF Legislative Conference  
Washington, DC Contact: [www.iaff.org](http://www.iaff.org)

March 20-23, 2007: IAFF Burn Foundation Annual Meeting  
San Diego, CA Contact: [www.iaff.org](http://www.iaff.org)

March 23-28, 2007: Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Asso. Spring Meet.  
Key West, FL Contact: [www.fama.org](http://www.fama.org)

March 24, 2007: Statewide Exam: Fire Chief / Deputy Chief / Dist. Chief **GOOD LUCK!**

March 28, 2007: **MIFDI** - DFS/MFA

April 16-21, 2007: F.D.I.C. 2007  
Indianapolis, IN Contact: [www.fdic.com](http://www.fdic.com)

April 30-May 2, 2007: FIRE-RESCUE-MED 2007  
Las Vegas, NV Contact: [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org)

April 25, 2007: **MIFDI** - Beverly

May 23, 2007: **MIFDI** - Merrimac (Annual FDIC Recap)

June 20, 2007: **MIFDI** - TBA

**FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:**

**Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department**

The February meeting was an interesting presentation provided by the NSTAR Field Safety Unit established for public safety employees in communities served by NSTAR. I thank Jack Daly from NSTAR for this informative power-point presentation titled "Electrical Safety Awareness" that clearly explains the electrical distribution system from the generating station to the residential service drop and the associated hazards throughout the system.

Thank you also to Chief Michael Howard and the members of the Norwood Fire Department for hosting MIFDI, and a special thank you to MIFDI member Eddie Williamson for providing us with a tour of the new Public Safety Building and explanation of what works well and what was learned during the construction of the facility.

Our March meeting will be our semi-annual visit to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. The training will be provided by our own elevator master John O'Donoghue with a presentation on the elevator code changes as well as the "Firefighters Emergency Operation" (FEO) formerly known as the "Firefighters Service".

I hope to see you all at the Academy on the **28th**. Until then, stay safe.

*Mark*

**INSTRUCTORS CORNER**

***"Watch your backs on the tracks"***

Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department

Recently, several high profile incidents involving trains have been in the spotlight of the news including; an incident in New York where a stranger jumped on the tracks to shield a seizure victim as a train miraculously passed over them; a grab by a Transit Police officer at the Davis Square T-Station saving the life of a distraught male narrowly being missed by an oncoming train; and a tragic accident in Mansfield where a mother witnessed her son struck and killed by an Acela train as it passed through the commuter rail station at over 100mph.

An incident that troubles me the most occurred near the Montvale Ave. crossing in Woburn on January 9, 2007 where two workers were killed and four others were injured as well as ten train passengers when a commuter train struck a work crew at nearly 60mph. The thing that concerns me about this is that the two victims and four injured workers were all MBCR employees, people accustomed to working on and around the rails every day. The cause of this tragedy is suspected as "human error" due to an incorrectly set warning signal. A dispatcher at the Somerville Rail System Control Center was operating a track switching system to transfer trains back and forth across tracks to avoid work crews. Allegedly, the dispatcher did not reset the track switching system to protect the original work crew when a second crew left the area. This tells me that if habitual railroad workers can be victims, then what about firefighters that occasionally respond to incidents on and along the tracks? The first lesson here is NEVER assume the trains are stopped just because the dispatcher told you so. When the order is given from the I.C. on scene, it goes from our dispatcher, to the railroad dispatcher, then to the trains on the line at the time. A train traveling over 60mph may be unable to stop the required distance by the time the order is received.

The railroads also use a signal light system along the railways. A green light indicates that a train can proceed safely, the red light signals the train of a speed restriction ahead due to an occupied track. Again, if the train passed the signal before the light is changed, it may not stop in time. The train horns are a sure indication of an approaching train, however, the Federal Railroad Administration rules do NOT require trains to blow their whistles when they pass through stations. Trains are required to sound their horns when passing roadway grade crossings but more and more communities nationwide are establishing "quiet zones" to mitigate the effects of train horns by creating "whistle bans" through residential areas.

So whether you are operating at a brush fire along the tracks, a medical emergency at a commuter station, or an accident or pin along the rails, be vigilant for approaching trains. Post a Safety Officer or Deputy Chief's Aide on a nearby bridge with binoculars as an added safety measure. Be careful and always "Watch your backs on the tracks!".

*This article is dedicated to victims; James Zipps (54), Christopher Macauley (30).*