

The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

March
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
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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!

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

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MARCH MEETING:

The March meeting of MIFDI will be held **Wednesday, March 25, 2009** at Hudson Fire Headquarters, 296 Cox Street courtesy of Chief of Department John M. Blood.

Our presenter will be Sergeant Paul Zipper, a 22-year member of the Massachusetts State Police. Sgt. Zipper has spent most of his career assigned with the Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit (FIU) of the Office of the State Fire Marshal. He has conducted hundreds of fire investigations throughout his career gaining expertise in witness and suspect interview and interrogation techniques. His work with the Lawrence Arson Task Force, which began in 1992, brought him national and international recognition.

In addition to our presentation, MIFDI Associate member Ira Hoffman of FSP Books & Videos will offer an update on some expected study material changes for upcoming promotional exams in addition to some other new products available through FSP.

SCHEDULE:

0900 COFFEE, 1000 PRESENTATION, 1130 BUSINESS MEETING, 1200 LUNCH (Off site)

DIRECTIONS:

From Rt.128/I 95, Take Rt. 20 West to Rt. 27 in Wayland. Turn right on Rt. 27 and continue into Sudbury until Rt. 27 makes a right towards Maynard, **DO NOT TURN RIGHT**, continue straight for approx 3-miles and the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy will be on your right. Continue past the Academy for another 3-miles to the 2nd traffic light, that is Cox St. Turn right on Cox St. and the station will be on your right.

From Rt.495, Take Rt. 62 (Exit 26) into Hudson Center. Drive half-way around the rotary and continue East on Rt. 62. Continue straight on Rt. 62 until the traffic lights just before Rt. 62 turns left toward Stow (2 traffic lights within sight of each other). The first light is Cox St., turn left on Cox St. and the station will be on your right.

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

Total active members = 112

Dues paid thru 2011 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2010 = 6
 Dues paid thru 2009 = 73
 Dues paid thru 2008 = 32

Balances as of 03/07/2009

Bank Statement Checking: \$ 31.48
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 0.00)
 Eastern Checking Balance: \$ 31.48
 ING Savings Balance: \$ 993.89
 Consumers C.U. 18Mo.CD: \$ 1,014.18 - Matures 05/02/2010 - 4.22% APY
 Consumers C.U. Checking: \$ 175.00
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 0.00)
 Consumers C.U. Savings: \$ 236.38
Total \$ 2,450.93

We Welcome these New Members in February:

- Kevin F. Breen - Deputy Chief - Swampscott Fire Department
- Edward Bradbury - Fire Chief - Wilmington (MA) 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 were 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 03/07/2009

Michael McLeicer

Treasurer

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978-864-2015

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

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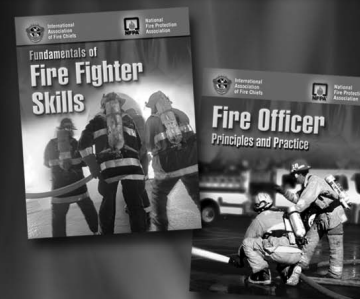
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RENEWAL of DUES or NEW MEMBERSHIPS

may be addressed to:

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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 #523

The 523rd meeting of MIFDI was hosted by the Billerica Fire Department and held on location at Nuvera Fuel Cells facility at 129 Concord Rd., Billerica. Our Presenter Aaron Harris, Environmental Health & Safety Manager for Nuvera provided an informative and educational look at the challenges and safety issues posed by Hydrogen Powered Vehicles as well as environmental benefits of this future alternative fuel source.

Some important points:

- Hydrogen fuel power is widely used in the fork-lift industry.
- Hydrogen burns with an invisible flame so the Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) is a crucial tool when approaching hydrogen fueled equipment fires.
- As with any combustible gas fire, it is best to let it burn and protect the exposures. Most hydrogen gas fires will burn themselves out very quickly.
- Refer to the ERG "Guide 115" for incidents involving Hydrogen Gas.
- Look for a *Blue Diamond* marker for hydrogen powered vehicles.

Following the training presentation, President Roche conducted a brief business meeting beginning with a moment of silence for Boston Fire Lieutenant Kevin Kelly who died in the Line-of-Duty on January 9.

Four new members were introduced; Lt. Mark Sullivan (Bedford), Lt. Jeremiah Foster (Brookline), Lt. Matt Pacheco (Newton), and Deputy Chief Steve Mahoney (Waltham).

Member Steve Persson provided a full report from the past two meetings of the MFTC. Members adjourned for lunch at Rick's Café in Billerica.

EMS RUN:

Flu Season Again?

Many people think of the flu as a seasonal nuisance that everyone tries to avoid. Seldom is it thought of as life-threatening except for the elderly or those with weakened immune systems, usually associated with other medical issues. When an otherwise healthy 12-year-old boy dies from complications of the flu, its time to take the flu epidemic as serious.

During the second week of February when children were enjoying the confectionary delights of Valentine's Day, a seventh grader from the Boston Latin Academy became the first child in Massachusetts to die from flu complications in 2009. As of the beginning of February, there were four flu related child deaths reported nationwide. For any child to die from the flu is tragic and unacceptable. The flu season is now peaking and can stretch into the month of April. Below are some basic rules for EMS incidents involving flu patients;

Transport the flu patient with any of the following symptoms;

- Breathing problems
- Difficulty keeping fluids down
- Fever that will not break
- Appearing to get better only to have fever go up again
- Change in mental status
- Underlying medical conditions

LAST ALARM:

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Firefighter Leo J. Hayes** of the Acton Fire Department. Firefighter Hayes died from injuries received from an MVA in Westminster while returning home from the MDA Ski Muster fundraising event on February 26, 2009. May he rest in Peace.



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CONGRATULATIONS:

Wellesley **Deputy Chief Richard DeLorie** was appointed Chief of Department on February 24, 2009 replacing retired **Chief Kevin Rooney** who served as chief for the past 8-years. Congratulations to them both.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Nothing Submitted

LOOKING BACK ON MIFDI:



Somerville Chief Sal Scalesse and MIFDI Secretary/Treasurer Morris Margolis
c.1990 (Photo by Dick Hay)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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 - Interview Techniques - Sgt. P. Zipper.

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

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

May 4-6, 2009: FIRE-RESCUE-MED
Las Vegas, NV iaff.org

May 27, 2009: **MIFDI** – Merrimac - Annual F.D.I.C. Recap.

June 24, 2009: **MIFDI**

REPORT of the PRESIDENT:

Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department

Our February meeting hosted by Nuvera Fuel Cells in Billerica was very informative as we were educated for another future challenge for the fire service. I thank Aaron Harris from Nuvera for his presentation and tour. I also thank Deputy Chief Thomas Conway of the Billerica Fire Department for arranging this presentation as well as Billerica Chief Anthony Capaldo for his continued support and hospitality shown toward MIFDI.

It was encouraging to see such a great turnout at our February meeting. We will continue to pursue informative and interesting training topics to provide for MIFDI training and education meetings. As always, members are encouraged to share their ideas for future training subjects as well as offerings of meeting locations.

I thank those members who have renewed their membership to MIFDI for 2009 and remind those who have put it off to send in your dues to avoid a lapse in the bulletin mailing.

Our next meeting will once again be hosted by the Hudson Fire Department as we hear from a well known and highly skilled investigator from the Fire Investigation Unit of the State Fire Marshal's Office.

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. Hopefully, winter is at a close.

See you on the 25th. Until then, stay safe!

Mark

INSTRUCTORS CORNER:

"I Smell Gas"

Captain Mark Roche, Newton Fire Department

Those dreaded gas odor calls. It seems that since the infiltration of cell phones in the last several years, the fire service has experienced an increasing number of anonymous "Gas Odor" calls at various intersections throughout our communities. Our dispatchers then follow procedures and send out a company or two to investigate (as they should). The arriving company arrives at a deserted location and asks dispatch "*Where did the call originate from?*" Dispatch then gives the standard answer "*A passer-by called it in on a cell phone, unable to check it further*". After a brief exercise in "sniffing" by the crew, the company reports "*Good Intent, unable to find anything*".

As this scenario plays out every day in our communities, it appears that we may begin to become complacent to the outdoor gas odor calls on the streets of our communities. However, after THREE house explosions from natural gas leaks in Massachusetts since December, it's time to take a serious look at this problem. There are 1.3 million Massachusetts households served by natural gas comprising of approximately 20,000 miles of pipeline. The infrastructure of the gas grid is rapidly ageing and many of the service pipes are decades old and in need of replacement. Add to the mix are ground shifts by winter frost and roads that are being used by many more vehicles (much heavier vehicles), as well as contractors constantly digging up streets and yards causing damage to pipelines. All of these factors are contributing to the recipe for a future of cracked pipes supplying our homes and businesses. Where does this gas end up? As we all know, it follows the easiest path usually that being utility lines into the basements of buildings.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, 323 people died and 1341 were injured from gas leaks and explosions nationally in the past 10 years. Six of those deaths and 12 injuries were in Massachusetts.

Three important rules when dealing with a gas-filled structure;

- Shut off the flow of gas,
- Eliminate sources of ignition,
- Ventilate.

It should be noted that the state requires utility companies to respond to gas odor incidents within one hour. Your Dispatcher must notify the Gas Company immediately after dispatching a fire company to gas odor calls and not wait until the fire company arrives on scene to request the gas company. This will reduce the crucial response time of the gas crew to arrive on scene.

One final mention, although a building may not be connected to a natural gas line, it must also be checked for gas due to the fore-mentioned fact that gas will follow any utility opening through a foundation.