

The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

March
2016

MIFDI
PO BOX 507
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

57th Year

(1959-2016)

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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 - 2016

President: Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department
 1st Vice President: Deputy Chief Brian F. Belliveau, Fitchburg Fire Department (retired)
 2nd Vice President: Chief Frank W. Fitzgerald, Jr., Malden Fire Department (retired)
 Secretary: Captain Edward (Ted) D. Quinn, Jr., Peabody Fire Department
 Treasurer: Firefighter / Instructor Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department

THE MIFDI BOARD of DIRECTORS

Terms Expire 2016

Chief Thomas Conway, III, Billerica Fire Department
 Assistant Chief Robert MacKendrick, Lynnfield Fire Department (Retired)
 Chief Richard Gomes, Norton Fire Department (Retired)

Terms Expire 2017

Lieutenant George Churchill, Brockton Fire Department (retired)
 Firefighter / Instructor Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department (Past President)
 Chief 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- michael.mcleieer@merrimacfire.com

**Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors - Tax ID: 04-2307216
 2016 Membership Application & Invoice
 Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2016**

**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) _____

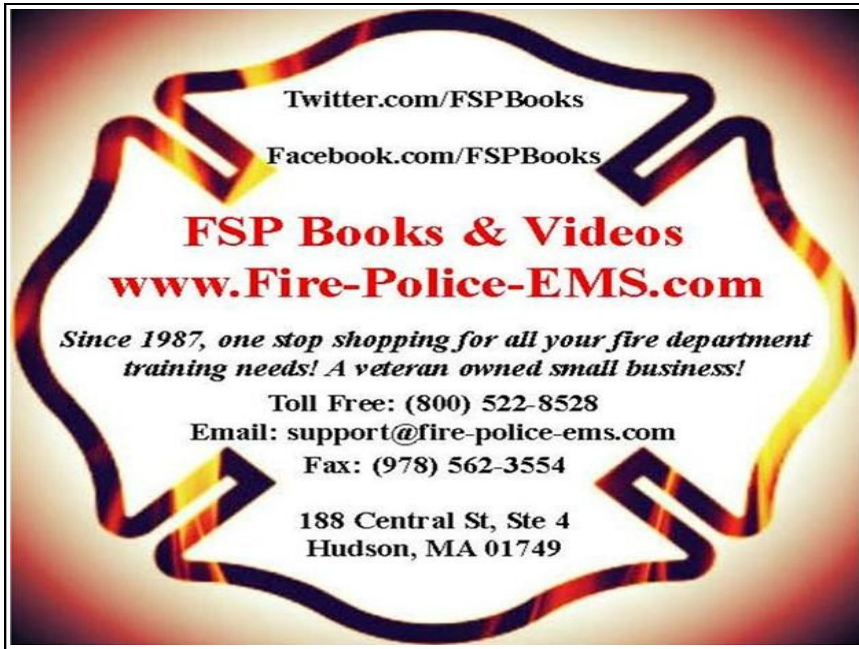
City & State (work) _____

Zip Code _____

<u>Membership Type:</u>	<u>Send Bulletin To:</u>	<u>Membership Dues:</u>
<u>circle one</u>	<u>circle one</u>	<u>Active</u> \$ 30.00
<u>Active</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Retired</u> \$ 15.00
<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) 346-4731
 E-mail: michael.mcleieer@merrimacfire.com



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MARCH MEETING:

The next meeting of MIFDI will be held on **Wednesday, March 23, 2016** hosted by the Norwood Fire Department courtesy of Chief Anthony Greeley. We will meet in the first floor training room of Norwood's Public Safety Building, 135 Nahatan St between Rt. 1 and Rt. 1A. We last met in Norwood for our October 2012 meeting.

The training presentation will be provided by Steve Pugsley, Training & Safety Coordinator for Amtrak. Mr. Pugsley will provide an overview of firefighter safety and awareness during incidents involving Amtrak trains as well as operating safely along the Amtrak railway. Each year we hear of accidents involving fatalities along the Amtrak corridor from South Station to Providence. It is important that we operate safely when called upon for accidents on the rails.

SCHEDULE:

0930 Coffee, **1000** Presentation, **1130** Business Meeting, **1200** Lunch (off site)

DIRECTIONS:

From Rt.128 take Exit 15B (Rt.1 South). Follow Rt.1 and look for the sign "Norwood Center". Turn right on Nahatan St. towards Norwood Center and the station will be on the right.

From I95 take Exit 11B (Neponset St). Follow Neponset St. to rotary and 12-o'clock onto Neponset St. The station will be on the right.

NOTE: Members are asked to park in the shopping center across the street due to limited parking at the Public Safety Building.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balances for 01/04/2016

Preferred C.U. Checking \$556.47

Preferred C.U. Savings \$428.23

Total: \$2,741.93

Bills Paid February 2016 (Checking):

March 2016 Bulletin - Michael \$120.00 - 02/29

FDIC 2016 - Michael w/ISFSI Disc. \$490.00 - 02/17

Constant Contact email list renewal \$126.00 - 02/17

TOTAL: \$736.00

Account Transfers:

50/50 Raffle = \$70.00

Winner = \$35.00 - Bill Larkin - Jones & Bartlett Preferred CU Savings to Cking - \$187.75

Net Proceeds from 50/50 Raffle = \$70.00 - donated back to MIFDI. Thank you Bill!

Total active members = 128

Dues paid thru 2020 = 1

Dues paid thru 2019 = 1

Dues paid thru 2017 = 7

Dues paid thru 2016 = 49

Dues paid thru 2015 = 51

Dues paid thru 2014 = 19

Mailings

E-Mail - 85 Home - 35

Work - 8

128

Balances as of 03/14/2016

Preferred C.U. Checking: \$ 353.00

Less uncleared checks: (\$ 0.00)

PCU Cking. Balance: \$ 353.00

PCU Savings Balance: \$ 514.48

CapitalOne Sav. Balance: \$ 1,758.38

Total \$ 2,625.86

Membership Totals: 128

80 Active - 44 Retired - 4 Associate

We welcome these new members who joined MIFDI this month:

- Louis Lachance - Deputy Chief - Hingham
- John Spillane - Chief (Retired) - Brookline

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 2016 dues are due in January, 2016.**

Please add \$10.00 for late renewals paid after April 1, 2016 for your 2016 dues.

(b) You may now use the 2016 membership application as your invoice. It has MIFDI's tax ID number listed, for your accounts payable department to process the dues payment. Simply use the dues year or payment date as your invoice number.

Respectfully submitted

03/14/2016

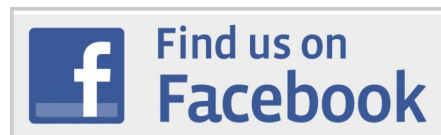
by Michael McLeicer, Treasurer

978-346-4731

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

Please remember to add a \$10 late fee for renewal dues paid after April 1st, 2016. This fee does not apply to new members or for those who renew before April 1st, 2016.

MIFDI is now on Facebook. Login to your Facebook account and search for **Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors** or visit **www.facebook.com/mifdi**. Become a Facebook friend to MIFDI and receive up to date announcements right to your PDA, Blackberry or computer. You may also select the MIFDI Facebook link on the MIFDI website home page at www.mifdi.org



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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) 346-4731

***Dues are \$30.00 per year for Active members *(\$40 after April 1st)**

\$15.00 for Retired members *(\$25 after April 1st)

***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. Add a \$10.00 Late Fee after April 1, 2016.

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RECALL OF MEETING #2016-02

The February meeting of MIFDI was held on February 24, 2016 hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services/Massachusetts Firefighting Academy - Stow Campus courtesy of Acting State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey and MFA Director George Kramlinger.

Director Kramlinger provided members with an enlightening update on the academy programs being developed, the recruit training schedules, and new equipment including mobile training props. Following Director Kramlinger was Impact Program Coordinator John Spillane with an informative update on the MFA Impact Program and the courses being offered to departments throughout the Commonwealth. To inquire about arranging an Impact Program for your department, email John at:

john.spillane@state.ma.us



Following the presentations, President Roche conducted a brief business meeting. Our friends at Jones & Bartlett Publications were introduced and spoke about new fire service publications currently being developed. Member John O'Donaghue spoke about dedicated elevators for the fire service. Member Andy Connerty offered an update from the Mass Fire Training Council. Member Jim Belliveau spoke about some recent fires in Fitchburg. Members adjourned for lunch at the Bolton Street Tavern in Marlborough.

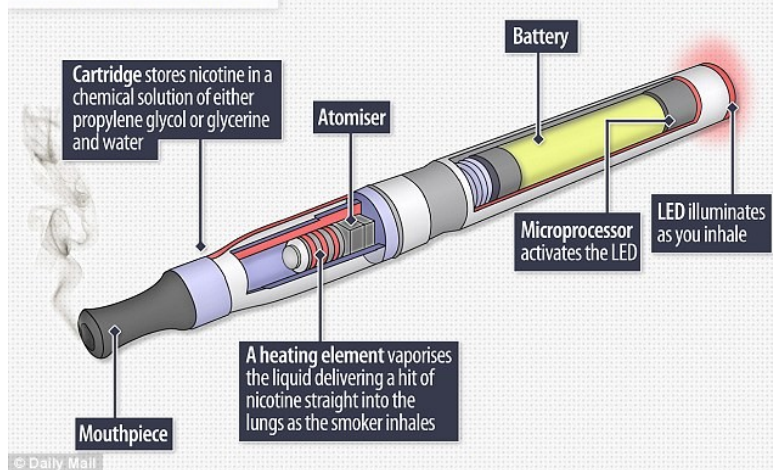
EMS Run

Electronic Cigarette Fires & Explosions

The e-cigarette, also called a personal vaporizer, or electronic nicotine delivery system, is a battery powered device that simulates tobacco smoking by producing a heated vapor resembling smoke. These devices have become very popular as an alternative to smoking with over 2.5 million Americans now using electronic cigarettes.

The devices have a heating element to vaporize solution which usually contains a mixture of propylene glycol (for flavor), vegetable glycerin (for vapor), nicotine and other flavorings. Automatic e-cigarettes activate the heating coil when the user takes a drag. Manual e-cigarettes have a switch that the user depresses to energize the heating element to make the heated vapor. Most manufactured devices have a built-in timeout feature to prevent overheating. Many have a locking feature to prevent the switch from being activated in a pocket or purse.

INSIDE THE E-CIGARETTE



E-cigarettes are sometimes used to smoke hash oil or “honey oil” derived by separating the resins from marijuana. Separating this hash oil from marijuana is a hazardous process often done illegally in hotel rooms and homes. First responders should be aware of this practice and the associated hazards.

The health effects of the vapor and the danger of nicotine overdose by ingestion or contact with the “juice” are the subject of ongoing reviews by various agencies. The FDA recently proposed regulations for e-cigarettes which only address the health effects of inhaling the vapors and do not address consideration of the battery or electronics used in the devices. Underwriters Laboratories has developed standards that relate to lithium battery safety applied to products required for testing by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as UL.

Continued on page 8

LAST ALARM:

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to the family and friends of the following recently departed members of the Boston Fire Department;

Firefighter Patrick J. Flaherty, ACTIVE 14-year member (Engine Co.2). Firefighter Flaherty (Age 61) died unexpectedly on January 26, 2016.



Fire Lieutenant William R. Schomburg, ACTIVE 25-year member (Ladder Co.19). Lt. Schomburg died suddenly on February 8, 2016



Firefighter Francisco “Franco” Centeio, ACTIVE 20-year member (Ladder Co.11). Firefighter Centeio (Age 51) died at his home on February 24, 2016.



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PARATECH

CONGRATULATIONS:

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our congratulations and best wishes to MIFDI member **Captain Michael Feinberg** of the Lynnfield Fire Department upon his appointment to Chief of the Nahant Fire Department on February 22, 2016. Congratulations Mike!



The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our congratulations and best wishes to MIFDI member **District Chief Jack Barry** of the Lynn Fire Department upon his retirement on January 23, 2016 after 33-years of service. Congratulations Jack!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 23, 2016: **MIFDI - NORWOOD**

April 16, 2016: **Statewide Firefighter Exam**

April 18, 2016: **Boston Marathon**

April 18-23, 2016: **FDIC 2016 Conference & Expo**
Indianapolis, IN www.fdic.org

April 27, 2016: **MIFDI**

May 25, 2016: **MIFDI – MERRIMAC - FDIC Highlights**

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Call Scott Maker, MFA Instructor,
Firefighter/Merrimac Fire Department, with any questions you may
have.

269-492-3341

REPORT of the PRESIDENT:

Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department

Our February meeting was our annual visit to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy courtesy of Acting State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey and MFA Director George Kramlinger. I again thank Director Kramlinger for his informative update on happenings at the academy. I also thank Impact Program Coordinator John Spillane for his presentation on the Impact Program.

A final reminder for members to contribute to this great fire service organization by promptly paying the 2016 annual dues. Active Members: \$30, Retired Members: \$15, and Associate Members: \$100. Make check payable to MIFDI and mail to MIFDI, P.O. Box 507, Merrimac MA 01860. Or you may bring a check to the next meeting and I will forward it to the treasurer. Don't allow your membership to lapse and miss receiving the MIFDI bulletin.

Another reminder (hopefully the final reminder) for the winter months is to be sure to check the MIFDI website for snow cancellations at www.mifdi.org

Stay Safe and I hope to see you in Norwood on the 23rd



Massachusetts Firefighting Academy recruit training at the burn building

INSTRUCTORS CORNER: *Continued from page 5*

A number of recent fires have been attributed to e-cigarettes causing concern within the fire service. Media reports of 25 incidents in the US from 2009 to present were found during an internet search. This is not thought to be all-inclusive since it is likely that many incidents were not reported to the fire department and/or the media. Of the incidents reported, the findings were broken down to the following;

Twenty incidents occurred while the battery was being charged.

Two incidents occurred during use.

One incident occurred during transportation on a cargo aircraft.

Two were undetermined.

There were no deaths thus far but ten injuries reported.

Several burn injuries were reported.

Two serious injuries occurred when the devices exploded in users' mouths.



An event involving e-cigarettes occurs suddenly and accompanied by a loud noise, flash of light, smoke, flames, and often vigorous ejection of the battery and other parts. Most of the incidents resulted in ignition of nearby contents such as carpets, drapes bedding, couches, or vehicle seats.

The largest percent of incidents reported occurred during charging. Many e-cigarettes have a USB port for connecting the device to a power adapter provided by the manufacturer. Not all USB ports are created equal and the voltage and current provided by USB ports can vary significantly. The use of such non-approved power adapters appears to be responsible for most of the incidents involving e-cigarettes. Plugging an e-cigarette into a USB port not supplied by the manufacturer may subject the battery to a higher current than is safe causing thermal runaway that results in an explosion or fire.

The electrolytes used in lithium-ion batteries are either flammable or combustible liquids. During the typical failure mode for these batteries, the electrolyte is heated to its boiling point causing the internal pressure in the battery to build to the point where the seal at the end of the battery will rupture.

In conclusion, e-cigarettes are increasing in sales and popularity. Those of us in the fire service and EMS must be aware of this device and the potential hazards associated with them.