

# The MIFDI BULLETIN

MASSACHUSETTS

OF



FIRE DEPARTMENT  
INSTRUCTORS

MIFDI  
PO BOX 507  
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

April  
2005

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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 - 2005**

President: Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department  
 1st Vice President: Captain Brian F. Belliveau, Fitchburg Fire Department  
 2nd Vice President: Vacant  
 Secretary: Lieutenant Thomas Bogart, Lynn Fire Department  
 Treasurer: Chief David M. Jardin, Stoughton Fire Department

**THE MIFDI BOARD of DIRECTORS**

**Terms Expire 2006**

Deputy Chief John Sullivan, Billerica Fire Department  
 Assistant Chief Robert MacKendrick, Lynnfield Fire Department (Retired)  
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**Terms Expire 2005**

Lieutenant George Churchill, Brockton Fire Department (retired)  
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 Firefighter Barry Aptt, Gloucester Fire Department

**EDITOR**

Firefighter / Instructor Scott D. Maker, Merrimac Fire Department

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T-Shirt	S - M - L - XL - XXL	\$10.00	_____	_____
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				<b>Total</b> _____

**Product Descriptions**

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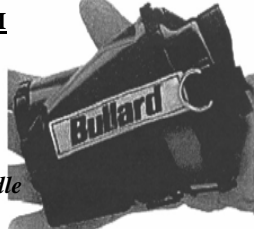
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**APRIL MEETING SCHEDULE:**

The 485th MIFDI Meeting will be held at Billerica Fire Department. The topic of the presentation will be 'retirement'. Lunch will follow at 'Rick's Cafe'.

*NOTE: No information has been received regarding the April MIFDI meeting for inclusion in this month's 'MIFDI Bulletin' other than what is noted below in the 'MIFDI DRILL SCHEDULE'.*

**MIFDI DRILL SCHEDULE:**

#	DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC
485	April 27, 2005	Billerica	"Retirement"
486	May 25, 2005	Hudson	"FDIC 2005"
487	June 22, 2005	Natick	"Tragedy-Lessons Learned"
488	September 28, 2005	DFS/MFA	"Oil Burners"
489	October 26, 2005	Walpole	"Extrication"
490	November 16, 2005	Malden	TBA
491	December 14, 2005	Newton	TBA

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**TREASURER'S REPORT**

<b>Beginning Balances for 1/2005</b>		<u><b>Bills paid March 2005</b></u>	
Checking	172.36	April 05 Newsletter	\$105.00 Mike
<u>Savings</u>	<u>1327.88</u>	March 05 Coffee	\$ 40.00 Mark
Total	\$1500.24		

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

Owed to treasurer for Mailings \$ 29.00- thru April 2, 2005  
 Labels \$ 10.00  
 \$ 39.00

Total members = 109  
 Dues paid thru 2006 = 3  
 Dues paid thru 2005 = 64  
 Dues paid thru 2004 = 42

Mailings  
 E-Mail - 24 Home - 74  
Work - 11  
 85

Balances as of 4/2/05  
 Checking 729.86  
Savings 1329.52  
 Total \$2059.38

Membership Totals  
 76Active - 29 Retired - 4 Associate

Respectfully submitted 4/2/2005  
 David M. Jardin  
 MIFDI Treasurer  
 Fire Chief - Stoughton

**WELCOME NEW MIFDI MEMBERS:**

Chief Allan McEwen - Arlington Fire Department  
 Captain Jim Carritte - Lynn Fire Department  
 Lieutenant Kevin Kelley - Arlington Fire Department

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**RENEWAL of DUES or NEW MEMBERSHIPS**

may be addressed to:

MIFDI - Attn: David Jardin, Treasurer  
52 Willow Street, Stoughton, MA 02072-1027

**\*Dues are 25.00 per year for Active 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).

**\*Retired members dues are 12.50 for one calendar year (January 1 through December 31).**

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*Continued from Page 4*

He has tried to get legislation passed that would amend retirement laws to allow fire service personnel to keep their Group 4 pension status that want to work for DFS. He said the “talent should come from the cities and towns.”

After the Marshal and the Director spoke, members heard from Dana Haagensen, FPE for DFS on Residential Sprinklers. He gave MIFDI members information on the guidelines for NFPA 13, 13R, and 13D- Residential Sprinklers. Haagensen explained “the most likely chance to die in a fire is in your own home.” He gave a brief history of residential sprinklers starting with America’s Burning, through all the NFPA standards on residential sprinklers.

**RECALL OF MEETING #484**

The 484<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors (MIFDI) was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2005 at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow. State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan introduced new MFA Director John Nadeau. Director Nadeau gave our members a brief statement about his background. He started his fire service career in Sanford, ME thirty years ago as a firefighter. He advanced to the rank of Lieutenant and then shift commander. He became involved in fire training as a state fire instructor for the Maine Fire Academy and eventually the Supervisor of the Maine academy. He also became involved with Maine Technical College at around the same time. Nadeau was appointed Sanford, ME Fire Chief and after that, Cohasset, MA Fire Chief. Later, he became fire chief in Salem, NH and East Derry, NH. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer program as well as a NFA adjunct instructor.

Director Nadeau gave a brief overview of the Mass Fire Academy. He told our members of the grant they received through the Department of Public Health. There are 2 sets of DPH/DFS training programs offered to the EMS community: the 12-hour EMS PPE and Decon course and the 6-hour EMS/ICS and HazMat Awareness courses. He said there is a new grant for DPS in 2 phases to roll out NIMS training. Also, he told us of the training through the new Chapter 304, Nightclub fire safety legislation that is now being offered. Director Nadeau is undertaking an “organizational assessment” of MFA. He wants to “look at the structure” of the staff and he will complete a report to Marshal Coan to review at a later date.

Our members heard many positive comments from Director Nadeau regarding our organization. Nadeau said “MIFDI is wonderful organization” and he is looking forward to working with us to develop an instructor force. He said MIFDI “has a great deal of energy” and he sees a “real good opportunity for collaboration.” He sees a possibility of “personal development for an instructor base” among MIFDI members.”

Marshal Coan gave a legislative update on Chapter 304 of the Acts of 2004 signed into law by Governor Romney. He and Chief Deputy General Counsel to DFS Peter Senopoulos have been traveling around the Commonwealth to promote the new legislation to key fire service organizations. They have done ten seminars with fire inspectors and building inspectors on the implementation of Chapter 304. Marshal Coan is working on other legislation including a bill, which will require carbon monoxide detectors in residences, after a deadly incident in Plymouth that claimed the life of seven-year old girl. At the same incident, the mother survived, but was pregnant and lost a six-month old fetus. Coan said that bill would require CO detectors similar to the law that requires smoke detectors. It has been submitted to key legislators and passage is expected. An amendment to MGL Ch. 148, 26F to include CO detectors will be enforced by the local fire inspectors on all sales and transfers. Coan called a “good bill, a comprehensive bill.” Marshal Coan also spoke about the problem in Massachusetts of the “long-term difficulty of attracting DFS staff, especially on the ‘code’ side.”

*Continued on Page 11*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**OLD BUSINESS:-** nothing to report

**MFTC UPDATE:** – nothing to report

**LAST ALARM:**

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors regrets to report the death of the following;

**NATIONAL L.O.D.D.**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Age</u>
Investigator James E. Mero	Elizabethtown, NY	(C)	03-09-05	Heart	51
Chief Jerry Buemne	Afton, MO	(C)	03-10-05	Accident	64
F.M.O. John Greeno	U.S. Forest Serv.	(C)	03-10-05	Chopper crash	51
F.M.O. Charles L. Edgar	U.S. Forest Serv.	(C)	03-10-05	Chopper crash	54
Pilot Jose V. Gonzales	U.S. Forest Serv.	(C)	03-10-05	Chopper crash	45
F.F. Daniel J. O'Keefe	Metro Dade, FL	(C)	03-11-05	Heart	55
F.F. Andre Ellis	Dixie Suburban, KY	(V)	03-16-05	Heart	39
Chief Al Wright	Hollywood, AL	(V)	03-21-05	Heart	54
Capt. Greg M. Otto	San Luis Obispo, CA	(C)	03-26-05	Cancer	45
F.F.O.P. Robert Brooks	Montgomery, NY	(C)	03-28-05	Anuerism	42
F.F. Brandon S. Philips	Keller, TX	(C)	03-30-05	Heart	26

***MAY THEY ALL REST IN PEACE***

## **CONGRATULATIONS:**

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our congratulations to **Chief Michael Smith** upon his recent retirement from the Framingham Fire Department. We congratulate his successor **Chief Ollie Gadson** on his appointment as the new leader of the F.F.D.

We also offer our best to MIFDI member **John Burke** who recently stepped down from his position as Assistant Chief of the Framingham Fire Department to concentrate on his law practice. Best of luck John with all future endeavors!

## **GOOD & WELFARE:**

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors hope for a speedy recovery to former MIFDI member, **Chief Joseph LaCroix** of the Newton Fire Department who underwent recent surgery at Beth Israel Hospital.

### Instructors Corner, continued:

#### **Fire departments should do the following:**

- Establish, implement, and enforce standard operating procedures (SOP's) regarding diver training.
- Ensure that divers maintain positive communication with each other and with personnel who remain on the surface.
- Develop a pre-dive checklist for all diving situations, including diver training, equipment function, and diver experience, which should match the difficulty of the intended dive.
- Ensure that backup divers are trained to perform rescue operations for other divers who may be in distress.
- Ensure that an experienced backup diver and a ninety-percent-ready diver are in position to help.
- Provide divers with refresher training on the hazards and prevention measures of lung overexpansion injuries, entanglement, decompression, and panic attacks.
- Practice the training exercise in a closed environment such as a swimming pool before attempting it in open water.
- Obtain and update appropriate medical fitness evaluations for SCUBA divers annually.
- Ensure that equipment checks are performed on a standard basis and defective equipment is repaired or replaced before a dive takes place.
- Supply divers with an alternative backup air source such as pony bottles.
- Ensure that instructors and divers are certified for SCUBA diving, dive training, and dive rescue operations by a nationally recognized organization.
- Ensure that a medical unit is on site with oxygen in case of an emergency.
- Ensure that dive coordinators stay informed about each divers rate of air consumption.

#### **Firefighters/Divers should do the following:**

- Follow all SOP's.
- Maintain continuous visual, verbal, or physical contact with their dive partner.
- Perform equipment checks with each dive. Equipment checks should be verified by the dive coordinator.
- Ensure that underwater search teams operate univocally to avoid rope entanglement.
- Regularly monitor their air consumption.
- Consider performing at least 12 dives per year to maintain skills.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

April 10, 2005: Spring Melt Fire Memorabilia Marketplace  
Allentown, PA Agricultural Hall Fairgrounds @ 17th St. & Chew St.

April 11-16, 2005: FDIC 2005, Fire Department Instructors Conference  
Indianapolis, IN Contact: [www.fdic.com](http://www.fdic.com)

April 16, 2005: Honor Guard Competition  
Indianapolis, IN. Contact: 508-881-3543

April 20-22, 2005: Fire-Rescue Med 2005  
Las Vegas, NV Contact: [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org)

May 1-May 7, 2005: Arson Awareness Week  
The 2005 theme is "Juvenile Firesetting Affects Us All"

May 15, 2005: Annual Tri-State Muster & Flea Market  
Webster Lake Memorial Beach, Webster MA

May 25, 2005: FDNY 9/11 Memorial Golf Outing  
Myrtle Beach, SC Contact: [www.fdnycgolf.com](http://www.fdnycgolf.com)

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

As I departed the MIFDI meeting at the MFA in Stow last month, I found that my hat no longer fit due to all the knowledge that was crammed into my squash is just two short hours! In all seriousness though, for those who missed the March meeting truly missed out on a very good presentation beginning with Director Nadeau's comments on his vision of the fire academy, to Fire Marshal Coan's updates regarding the new Sprinkler Law as well as a Bill on mandating carbon monoxide detectors in residential properties, followed by a presentation on residential sprinkler systems by Dana Haagensen of the Department of Fire Services, and finally an update on recent elevator regulation changes provided by John O'Donahue. I again want to thank the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy for hosting our group as well as Marshal Stephen Coan for his continued support and Director John Nadeau for his welcome. Special thanks to Dana Haagensen for stepping up to the plate on short notice with his program on sprinklers due to the original scheduled presenter being called to investigate an overnight explosion in Leominster.

The fire service is a never ending learning experience and those who choose this career as a profession must continue developing skills and knowledge related to training and safety. Shame on those who do not take advantage of organizations such as MIFDI which provide great opportunities for fire service professionals to become stronger and sharper to deal with the challenges of the future in this new and uncertain world which we now protect.

Finally, I congratulate those responsible in the communities that were awarded part of over \$11 million in recent grants by Governor Romney, including; Boston, Brockton, Cambridge, Fall River, Lowell, Springfield, and Worcester. In addition, \$1.08 million in grants was awarded for (S.A.F.E.), Student Awareness of Fire Education.

I hope to see you all in Billerica on the 27th. Until then, stay safe.

Mark

**INSTRUCTORS CORNER**

**"Divers Beware: Training Dives Present Serious Hazards to Firefighters"  
NIOSH Publication**

**Summary:** Firefighters who participate in dive training risk lung damage, illness, or drowning. NIOSH investigated fatalities that have occurred during these training exercises and developed recommendations to decrease these risks.

**Description of Exposure:** Firefighters may be called on to perform public safety actions, including search and rescue and recovery missions. Fire departments and firefighters preparing for underwater operations must be aware that dive training can be hazardous. Diving hazards include entanglement, running out of air, lung overexpansion injury, panic attacks, and decompression sickness.

Entanglement in rope or aquatic plants is an extremely serious hazard that can prevent divers from returning to the surface.

Lung overexpansion most commonly occurs when divers panic and make rapid ascent holding their breath. No sensation of discomfort provides a warning when overexpansion is about to occur. New divers may hold their breath when first learning to use SCUBA equipment. Lung overexpansion can result in pulmonary barotraumas causing serious damage to the lungs, including collapse, even when ascending from relatively shallow depths and on relatively short dives.

Panic attacks while diving may be provoked by situations such as entanglement, running out of air, or reasons unknown. Panic attacks occur among both veteran and novice divers. Adequate attention to panic and anxiety attacks should be given during diver training. More than half of experienced divers surveyed report having panic episodes while SCUBA diving. Decompression sickness ("the bends") occurs after periods of time at depth followed by ascending too quickly, thus preventing nitrogen gas accumulated in the divers tissues from dissipating properly. Symptoms of decompression sickness can range from skin rash, extreme fatigue, coughing, and painful joints to paralysis and unconsciousness.

**Controls:** To minimize the risk when participating in dive training, NIOSH recommends that fire departments and firefighters take the following precautions:

Continued on next page