

The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

June
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 - 2009

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

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Deputy Chief John Sullivan, Billerica Fire Department (Retired)
 Assistant Chief Robert MacKendrick, Lynnfield Fire Department (Retired)
 Chief Richard Gomes, Norton Fire Department
 Firefighter / Instructor Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department (Past President)

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!

www.mifdi.org

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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JUNE MEETING:

The June meeting of MIFDI will be held **Wednesday, June 24, 2009** hosted by the Brockton Fire Department courtesy of long-time MIFDI member Chief of Department Kenneth Galligan. The meeting will be held in the first floor training room of Fire Station 1 located at 42 Pleasant St. (Rt.27).

The presentation will be provided by our host Chief Galligan with a look back on his long career focusing on the importance of effective fire streams. As an added feature, we will be given a brief presentation of the "Personal Retriever" water and ice rescue device designed by Randolph Firefighter Joseph Dupras. Also on display before and after the meeting will be the "Pac-Trac" mobile unit. This unit displays a safe and effective technique to properly mount all of your firefighting equipment safely on your apparatus.

DIRECTIONS:

Brockton is located in Plymouth County 20-miles south of Boston. From I 95 or I 495 take Rt. 24 to EXIT 18A (Rt. 27). Continue South on Rt. 27 approx 2-miles. Just after the 5th traffic light the fire station will be on the right.

(As a footnote, this 1884 firehouse is one of a handful of fire stations in Massachusetts from that era still in operation. It is also reported to be the FIRST firehouse in the country to have electric lights!)

SCHEDULE:

0900 Coffee, **1000** Presentations, **1130** Business Meeting, **1200** Lunch (Christos Restaurant)

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

Bills Paid May 2009 (Checking):

June 09 Newsletter \$120.00 Michael - 05/31
 FDIC 09 Lodging & DVD's \$732.04 Michael - 05/29
 Pan-Mass Challenge Donation \$50.00 D. Jardin-05/29
 TOTAL: \$902.04

Account Transfers:

50/50 Raffle = \$50.00
 Winner = Bob MacKendrick
 Deposit from 50/50 Raffle = \$57.00
 (for FDIC) ING Savings to Eastern Cking. - \$670.00 - 06/04/2009

CCU Checking to Savings - \$29.06 - 06/03/2009

CCU Checking to ING Savings - \$300.00 - 06/03/2009

Total active members = 117

Dues paid thru 2012 = 2

Dues paid thru 2011 = 1

Dues paid thru 2010 = 7

Dues paid thru 2009 = 90

Dues paid thru 2008 = 17

Mailings

E-Mail - 53 Home - 50

Work - 14

117

Balances as of 06/07/2009

Bank Statement Checking: \$ 736.98
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 732.04)
 Eastern Checking Balance: \$ 4.94
 ING Savings Balance: \$ 977.73
 Consumers C.U. 18Mo.CD: \$ 1,025.00 - Matures 05/02/2010 - 4.22% APY
 Consumers C.U. Checking: \$ 300.00
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 300.00)
 Consumers C.U. Savings: \$ 200.80
 Total \$ 2,208.47

Membership Totals: 117

82 Active - 27 Retired - 8 Associate

We Welcome this New Member in May:

- Paul Ciccone - Captain - Waltham 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 06/07/2009

Michael McLeier

Treasurer

978-346-4731 or

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

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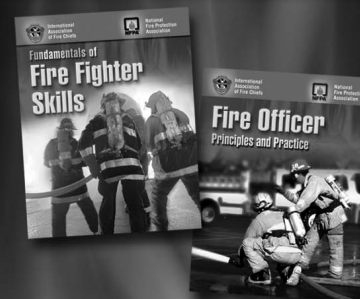
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RENEWAL of DUES or NEW MEMBERSHIPS

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 #526

The 526th meeting of MIFDI was held on May 27, 2009 hosted by the Merrimac Fire Department courtesy of Chief Ralph Spencer.

Our training portion was provided by MIFDI Treasurer, Webmaster and Past President Michael McLeieer with a presentation from the 2009 F.D.I.C. Some of the topics that Michael focused on included; *Company Quick Drills, Rail Road Emergencies, Training Officer Liability, and LODD*. This presentation was very informative and well received by those in attendance.

President Roche conducted a business meeting following the presentations. New members Captain Paul Ciccone from Waltham and Rick Clark from the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association were introduced.

Member Deputy Chief Steve Mahoney of Waltham was congratulated on his upcoming retirement after 32 years of service.

Member Steve Persson provided a report of the MFTC meeting.

Member Bob MacKendrick spoke on an opening for fire chief in the Town of Lynnfield due to the upcoming retirement of Chief Paul Romano on July 31, 2009.

Member Ed Williamson mentioned an interesting training video produced by the FDNY on some "*Lessons Learned*". Senior man Bob MacKendrick won the 50/50 raffle.

Members adjourned for lunch at the Sylvan Street Grill.

EMS RUN:

"Medic's face discipline for NOT performing CPR"

Two paramedics from New Bedford are facing disciplinary action by both the city and state for not performing CPR on an unresponsive infant last December.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health concluded that the two paramedics violated protocols when they did not perform CPR on the infant which was reported to be a 1-month-old boy. According to the report, the medics were dispatched to a home around 0314 hours on December 4, 2008 for "a baby not breathing". A family member started CPR and an officer from the NBDP took over CPR upon his arrival. The infant was handed over to the arriving paramedics but neither continued CPR according to the report.

One of the medics stated that he thought the child was deceased and transported the infant to the hospital so the parents would not have to deal with the baby home while the death was investigated. The report by the Health Department stated that neither paramedic performed the required medical assessment on the child such as; checking for rigor mortis, body temperature, lung sounds, and pupil reaction. "There was no evidence that this patient met the criteria for paramedics to withhold or cease CPR efforts". "There was no trauma inconsistent with survival and no condition to clearly indicate death". The paramedics were also cited for filing an Inaccurate report. The Health Department report did not conclude whether CPR would have saved the child and no one indicated that the outcome would have changed in any way.

(PRESIDENTS NOTE)

The lesson here with this unfortunate incident is a reminder of what we have all learned in basic EMS training, that is unless there is "obvious death" or a "valid DNR order", begin CPR and continue all life-saving measures during transport. Sometimes it is apparent that our efforts are not going to help our patient, however, we must give them their one last chance and operate within the scope and guidelines of our training and skills.

LAST ALARM:

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Firefighter Paul J. Roberts** ACTIVE MEMBER of the Beverly Fire Department, Engine Co. 5. Firefighter Roberts died from an apparent heart attack while on duty May 22, 2009, he was 54 years old. May he rest in Peace.

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Firefighter Kevin P. Kelly**, ACTIVE MEMBER of the Newton fire Department, Tower Ladder 2. Firefighter Kelly died from respiratory failure on May 30, 2009, he was 54 years old. May he rest in Peace.

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Chief Edward A. Cloonan** of the Waltham Fire Department. Chief Cloonan died on May 19, 2009 at age 90. He served as Chief of Department from 1964 to 1984. Chief Cloonan was one of the founding members of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.



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CONGRATULATIONS:

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors of our best wishes to MIFDI member **Deputy Chief Stephen Mahoney** of the Waltham Fire Department upon his retirement on May 29, 2009 after 32 years of service.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Nothing to Report



Massachusetts Firefighting Academy recently took delivery of a new tower.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 13, 2009: MAFFA Parade, Muster & Firematic Flea Market
Edgewater Office park, Wakefield, MA

June 14, 2009: Firefighters Memorial Sunday

June 24, 2009: **MIFDI** – Brockton

June 26-28, 2009: FIRE/RESCUE/EMS 09
West Springfield, MA newenglandfirechiefs.org

July 21-26, 2009: Firehouse EXPO
Baltimore, MD firehouseexpo.com

August 1 & 2, 2009: Pan-Mass Challenge

August 12-15, 2009: IFBA Convention
Washington, DC ifba.com

September 23rd & 24th, 2009: 15th Annual Public Fire & Life Safety Education Conference - Devens Conference Center. For more information contact Jennifer Mieth at DFS - 978-567-3381.

September 30, 2009: **MIFDI 50th Anniversary** (SAVE THE DATE)

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REPORT of the PRESIDENT:

Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department

Our May meeting was our annual FDIC recap presented by Michael McLeieer and as always it is one of our more popular meetings. I thank Michael for his professional presentation high-lighting some of the more interesting and informative topics from the 2009 FDIC. I also thank Chief Ralph Spencer and the members of the Merrimac Fire Department for once again hosting MIFDI at their facility.

As previously mentioned, MIFDI is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the organization on September 30, 2009. Save this date and pass the word that all former members of MIFDI are invited and encouraged to attend to help commemorate this important milestone.

MIFDI member David Jardin is once again participating in the 2009 Pan-Mass Challenge which will be held on August 1st & 2nd 2009. The PMC is hosted annually to raise funds to support the Jimmy Fund cancer research and treatment at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. I encourage all members to support Dave with this important cause by making a donation at www.pmc.org and enter Dave's ID# DJ0027.

Our next meeting will be hosted by the Brockton Fire Department. It has been a number of years since MIFDI last met in Brockton and I look forward to our return visit to the "*City of Champions*".

See you on the 24th. Until then, stay safe!

Mark

INSTRUCTORS CORNER:

Who is Watching You Back Up?

Captain Mark Roche, Newton Fire Department

On the morning of Friday, May 22, 2009, a tragic event occurred in a Central Massachusetts community. I purposely did not name the town because it could have easily happened in any one of our communities. After a fire department brush truck backed into the station, a civilian was found severely injured under the vehicle. The 67-year-old male was later pronounced dead at an area hospital.

Many local and state agencies converged on scene at the fire station to conduct an investigation to determine the cause of this horrific accident. The bottom line is that the driver did not see the civilian walking behind the truck, and the civilian did not see the driver backing in, case closed.

The vehicle involved in this accident was a Ford F350 4x4 pick-up modified with what appears to be a skid-mounted brush fire unit. These pick-up trucks are very popular with many departments as multi-purpose vehicles used for a variety of functions including snow-plowing stations during winter months, and converted to "Forestry Units" by sliding in a skid-unit during brush fire season. Vehicles over 10,000 lbs are required to be equipped with a back-up alarm. Pick-up trucks are excluded due to their weight, however guess what happens to the GVW when a skid-unit is mounded with the added weight of pump, water tank, booster and forestry hose, pump-cans, and other equipment?

I would like to see the regulation modified to "*ANY vehicle with the rear window blocked due to equipment or cargo requiring the operator to rely solely on mirrors for backing up MUST be equipped with a back-up alarm*". I know of many ambulances in the Commonwealth that have on/off switches on the console for their back-up alarms and shut them off when backing in at night as a courtesy to those members upstairs. Am I missing something here? Try defending that in a court room. If your ambulances are equipped with these "back-up alarm cut off" switches, disconnect them!

Another issue is the policy of a "spotter" anytime a vehicle is backing up. Looking back on the days when firefighters stood in the streets wearing dark clothing to prevent an auto from hitting a truck with flashing lights was a bit barbaric. Fast-forward to the other extreme, I recall holding my breath one afternoon while watching an engine company backing in from a busy street while the entire crew sat in the air conditioned cab of the truck without anyone getting out!

With today's manpower, most companies are operating undermanned with only an officer and two. One member must now connect the exhaust recovery system to the truck which leaves the officer to act as a spotter for the driver. (The officer is ultimately responsible for the safety of the members and operation of the company). The back-up spotter, no matter who it is MUST stay within sight of the drivers mirror. If the driver does not see the spotter in the mirror, the rig should not move. The spotter must also be equipped with a portable radio and flashlight. One final requirement is that the apparatus floor lights should be on whenever a vehicle is backing in, not just at night, backing in a dark station on a sunny day can be impairing as well for the driver.

Sure accidents can and do happen, that is why we have a job. However we in the fire service are here to be the ones to help and save those in need, no be the victims. It's time to review and update our policy and procedure on Emergency Vehicle Operations with a focus on SAFETY WHEN BACKING UP.