

The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

September
2010

MIFDI
PO BOX 507
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

51st Anniversary
(1959-2010)

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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 - 2010

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

THE MIFDI BOARD of DIRECTORS

Terms Expire 2010

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

Terms Expire 2011

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
 2010 Membership Application & Invoice
 Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2010**

**Your MIFDI Dues
 are due Jan. 1st**



**or Join MIFDI for
 the first time.**

Membership Information

Name _____

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circle one

Send Bulletin To:

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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
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 E-mail: michael.mcleieer@merrimacfire.com

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SEPTEMBER MEETING:

The September meeting of MIFDI will be held on **Wednesday, September 22, 2010** hosted by the Brookline Fire Department courtesy of Chief Peter Skerry. We will meet in the Training Division classroom in the basement level of Fire Station 6, 962 Hammond St. We last met in Brookline in November, 2007.

The training portion will be provided by NSTAR with a presentation on safety procedures when dealing with fires in manhole electrical vaults. This has been a controversial subject among the fire service with regards to the proper way to handle these incidents and hopefully we can clear up many of the questions that we have regarding manhole fires.

SCHEDULE:

0930: Coffee, **1000:** Presentation, **1130:** Business Meeting, **1200:** Lunch (Off site).

DIRECTIONS:

From Rt.128, take Exit 20A (Rt.9 EAST). Follow Rt.9 FIVE traffic lights (3.4 miles). Turn right at the 5th light onto Hammond St. (Exxon gas station on corner). Follow Hammond St .08 miles and the firehouse will be on the left. Turn into the driveway on the D-Side of the station to the rear drill yard where there is plenty of parking.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balances for 01/01/2010

Economy Bank Cking. \$100.02
 Economy Bnk. Savings \$168.63
 Consumers Checking \$158.00
 Consumers Savings \$145.36
 ING Savings \$685.01
Total \$1,257.02

50/50 Raffle = \$ 0.00

Winner = - N/A

Proceeds from 50/50 Raffle = N/A

Total active members = 116

Dues paid thru 2019 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2013 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2012 = 2
 Dues paid thru 2011 = 10
 Dues paid thru 2010 = 86
 Dues paid thru 2009 = 16

Balances as of 09/05/2010

Bank Statement Checking: \$ 100.29
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 0.00)
 Economy Cking. Balance: \$ 100.29
 Economy Savings Balance: \$ 147.79
 ING Savings Balance: \$ 1,493.06
 CD/None
 Consumers Stmtnt. Cking.: \$ 62.50
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 0.00)
 Consumers C.U. Checking \$ 62.50
 Consumers C.U. Savings: \$ 147.60
Total \$ 1,951.24

NEW MEMBER:

- Mark S. Pare - Deputy Director - Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

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 2011 dues will be due in January, 2011.**
- (b) You should now be able to use the 2010 membership application as your invoice. It has MIFDI's tax ID number listed, for your accounts payable department to process the dues payment.

Respectfully submitted

09/05/2010

by Michael McLeicer, Treasurer

978-346-4731

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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 \$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 #537

The 537th meeting of MIFDI was held on June 23, 2010 hosted by the Ashland Fire Department courtesy of Chief William Kee.

The training portion was provided by Mr. Thomas Gavin (*no, not the RescueMe Tommy Gavin*). Tom is a representative from **Paratech Rescue Equipment** www.paratech.com and gave us a power-point presentation on their support struts followed by an actual outdoor demonstration of the struts on a training vehicle in the drill yard. This was an extremely informative demonstration and I thank our Associate Member Pat O'Connor of **NorthEast Rescue Systems** www.northeastrescue.com for arranging this presenter for MIFDI.

A business meeting conducted by President Roche followed the training presentation. Steve Persson gave his final report from the Massachusetts Fire Training Council meeting. Following Steve's report, President Roche presented Steve with a "*Certificate of Appreciation*" for serving as the MIFDI representative to the MFTC for the past 9 years.

Bob MacKendrick reported that MIFDI Past President Thomas Bogart has been selected as the new Chief of the Lynnfield Fire Department effective July 1. Member James Vouna was in attendance and congratulated by the membership upon his recent appointment to Chief of Department in Shrewsbury.

John O'Donoghue gave an elevator update,

Bob MacKendrick spoke on new requirements for temporary shelters in church's.

Members adjourned for lunch at John Stone Tavern in Ashland Center.

EMS RUN: New Law Reduces Paramedics

Massachusetts lawmakers recently passed a new law allowing municipalities and private ambulances to reduce the manning in paramedic units from two to one. The new P/B units would allow only one paramedic and one basic EMT to man a "Medic Bus". This law is similar to most states which allow a single medic per unit.

The positive side allows more flexibility to communities with a minimum amount of paramedics to continue Advanced Life Support (ALS) units. It will also, allegedly, double the amount of paramedics on the street available for calls. The bill was lobbied hard for by profit making private ambulance services and municipal bean counters.

According to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 146 of the 180 ambulance services in the state already operate under a waiver allowing them to run a paramedic unit with only one paramedic and one EMT. It also noted that only 10% of the ambulance calls in the state are Priority 1 calls requiring paramedics. Municipalities with contracted EMS service can continue to require a two-medic paramedic unit.

The negative side is the fear of reduced patient care and patient care is the number one priority of EMS service.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health will need to update regulations before the law becomes effective. It will also specify that the EMT-Basic to be trained to an EMT-Intermediate level to man a paramedic unit.

PRESIDENTS NOTE: It is obvious to everyone that the state and the country continue in difficult economic times and we must all find ways to think outside the box, however, this new bill appears to be a big step backwards for emergency medical services in the Commonwealth. As an EMT working the streets, I have witnessed a two-medic unit splitting up to treat more than one patient during a multiple patient accident. I have also seen one medic performing intubation to a patient while the other was starting and IV-line and both concurring on the type and proper dose of a medication. To me it does not matter if ALS runs are only 10%, it is quality patient care that is important to those 10% that need our help on their worst day. EMS in Massachusetts has come a long way, let's not move it backwards. This bill is bad for Emergency Medical Services.

LAST ALARM:

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our condolences to the family and friends of **Firefighter Kevin Turner** ACTIVE member of the Worcester Fire Department, Engine Co. 5, on July 19, 2010. Kevin was appointed to the W.F.D. on September 11, 2000. May he Rest in Peace.

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our condolences to the family and friends of **Call-Firefighter David A. Sullivan** of the Otis Fire Department. David died of a heart attack on July 25, 2010 after fighting a fire in the nearby Town of Tolland. May he Rest in Peace.

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our condolences to the family and friends of **Firefighter/Paramedic David Bennett** ACTIVE member of the Amherst Fire Department. David died from cancer on August 13, 2010 at age 41. May he Rest in Peace.



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PARATECH

CONGRATULATIONS:

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our congratulations to MIFDI Past President (1999-2001) **Thomas Bogart** on his appointment as Chief of the Lynnfield Fire Department effective July 1, 2010. Tom served as a member of the Lynn Fire Department for 27 years retiring as a Lieutenant prior to his appointment. He was also a Call Firefighter in Lynnfield for the past 12 years serving as the department Training Officer. We wish Tom well and great success in his new position.

The Massachusetts institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our congratulations to the following recently retired MIFDI members; **Captain Stephen G. Persson** of the Cambridge Fire Department retired on June 30, 2010 after 39 years of service. Steve was a MIFDI Past President (1996) served as our representative to the Massachusetts Fire Training Council for the past 9 years.

Captain Kenneth H. Burnham of the Lynnfield fire Department retired effective July 1, 2010.

Captain John E. Farrington, Jr. of the Canton Fire Department retired after 42 years of service.

Congratulations and good health to them all!

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 11, 2010: 9th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK OF AMERICA
Never Forget the FDNY 343

September 11, 2010: MASS FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL
State House, Boston Contact: mafirememorial.org

September 11, 2010: NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL
Colorado Springs, CO Contact: iaff.org

September 22, 2010: MIFDI

September 22-23, 2010: MASSACHUSETTS FIRE & LIFE SAFETY CONFERENCE
Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center
Contact: Jennifer Mieth at DFS 978-567-3381

September 22-25, 2010: IFBA CONVENTION
Nashville, TN Contact: ifba.org

October 3-9, 2010: NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
The 2010 theme- *"SMOKE ALARMS: A sound you can live with"*

October 27, 2010: MIFDI – NWS/NOAA

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REPORT of the PRESIDENT:

Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department

As we begin the 51st year of this important organization, I am happy to report that MIFDI continues to not only maintain our membership numbers, we are actually increasing our roster and that the organization is financially strong in spite of the economic downturn. As we look ahead at the 2010-2011 season, we have many informative and educational meetings already planned. As always, members are encouraged to recommend a presentation and/or offer to host a MIFDI meeting in 2011.

Our June meeting provided by Paratech was extremely informative as we witnessed the importance of vehicle stabilization at accident scenes. I thank Mr. Thomas Gavin from Paratech as well as Pat O'Conner from NorthEast Rescue for this presentation. I also thank Chief Bill Kee and the members of the Ashland Fire Department for hosting MIFDI.

Every July we see communities that are already struggling to maintain a safe and effective fire department reduced even more to unsafe levels of protection. The City of Lawrence is one of the worst affected communities in the Commonwealth with fire station closings, disbanded fire companies, and laid-off firefighters. This is extremely critical and dangerous for not only the community, but also for the remaining firefighters that are dedicated to protect the city. It's time for the state to step up and take control of the city before a major tragedy happens. It's only a matter of time.

Once again, member Davie Jardin completed the 2010 Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) bike-a-thon to support the Jimmy Fund cancer research and treatment at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. For those who would like to support Dave with this important fundraiser, you can still contribute on-line at www.pmc.org and enter Dave's gift ID# DJ0027, or you can send a check directly to Dave made out to "PMC" and mail it to Dave Jardin, 52 Willow St., Stoughton, MA 02072.

Our September meeting presentation will be provided by NSTAR. I hope that they can clear up the conflicting information that we receive regarding dealing with fires in manhole vaults.

Stay Safe and see you on the 22nd

Mark

INSTRUCTORS CORNER: NFPA Safety Alert

The National Fire Protection (NFPA) Standards Council has banned the use of anti-freeze solution in residential fire sprinkler systems for new construction until further action by NFPA consensus standards committee. The council action and updated alert follow new research that was conducted after a fire incident raised concerns about antifreeze solutions in residential sprinkler systems. The incident involved a grease fire in a kitchen where a sprinkler with a high concentration of antifreeze deployed. The fire resulted in a single fatality and serious injury to another.

According to the NFPA, the home is the place where the most fire fatalities occur, and when sprinklers are present, the risk of dying in a home fire decreases by 83%.

Some key findings from the report were:

Antifreeze solutions with concentrations of propylene glycol exceeding 40% and concentrations of glycerin exceeding 50% have the potential to ignite when discharged through automatic sprinklers.

Both the 40% propylene glycol and 50% glycerin solutions demonstrated similar performance to that of water alone for fire control throughout the test series.

Based on the results of the research, antifreeze solutions of propylene glycol exceeding 40% and glycerin exceeding 50% are not appropriate for use in residential fire sprinkler systems. Consideration should be given to reducing the acceptable concentrations of these antifreeze solutions to an appropriate safety factor.

The full NFPA Safety Alert Regarding Antifreeze in Residential Sprinkler Systems and more information on this topic can be found at www.nfpa.org/antifreeze

PRESIDENTS NOTE:

This surprising revelation regarding home sprinkler systems is a frightening discovery. Hopefully we won't find too many homes in our communities with over 50% solutions of antifreeze in their systems, but as always, it only takes one. Just the thought of a head opening above our crews during a search as it discharges a flammable concentration of antifreeze is incomprehensible. We must remain pro-active on this issue with the following initiatives;

Have your local Fire Prevention inspectors follow up on any new sub-division developments within your communities to determine if home sprinkler systems are installed and what percentage of antifreeze is used in the systems. Update your S.O.G.'s on "Fighting Fires in Residential Structures" where residential sprinkler systems are present, always have a charged hose-line when entering these buildings for a search and as always, full PPE including hoods. Extra caution should be placed when entering unheated areas such as garages and attic spaces where higher concentrations of antifreeze solutions may be present.