

The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

October
2008

MIFDI
PO BOX 507
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

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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!

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) _____

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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**
PO Box 507
Merrimac, MA 01860-0510
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OCTOBER MEETING:

The 519th meeting of MIFDI will be held on **Wednesday, October 22, 2008** hosted by the Natick Fire Department, 22 East Central St. (Rt.135) courtesy of Chief James Sheridan. We last met in Natick in June 2005 when Chief Sheridan was Captain of the Training Division.

The training presentation will be provided by Chief Peter Ostroskey of the Uxbridge Fire Department. Peter last presented to MIFDI in December 2005 as Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board. His presentation this time will be as Chief of Department for the Town of Uxbridge with a Power-Point program on a devastating mill building fire on July 21, 2007 that quickly overtaxed this part paid/part call department. His presentation will show that with proper planning, a mutual aid system in place, and a little luck, a department can meet the challenges of any incident that overwhelms your community.

SCHEDULE: 0900 Coffee, **1000** Presentation, **1130** Business Meeting, **1200** Lunch

DIRECTIONS: From Rt. 128/I 95 take Rt.9 WEST in Wellesley to Rt.27 SOUTH in Natick. Continue SOUTH on Rt.27 for 3-traffic lights, that will be Rt.135. Turn left on Rt.135 to the second left, that is Clarendon St which brings you to the parking lot in the rear of the Public Safety Bldg.

From the Mass Pike (I 90), Take EXIT 13 to Rt. 30 EAST. Follow Rt.30 to Rt. 27 (3-lights). Turn right on Rt.27 SOUTH to Rt. 135. Turn left on Rt.135 EAST to the second left which is Clarendon St. which brings you to the parking lot in the rear of the Public Safety Bldg.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balances for 1/1/2008
 Eastern Cking. 57.39
 ING Savings 618.57
 12 Mo. CD 1,027.37
 Total \$1,703.33

50/50 Raffle = N/A
 Winner = N/A
 Deposit from 50/50 Raffle = None

Total active members = 123

Dues paid thru 2009 = 10
 Dues paid thru 2008 = 97
 Dues paid thru 2007 = 16

Bills Paid September (Checking):

Oct 08 Newsletter \$120.00 Michael - 09/30
 TOTAL: \$120.00

Account Transfers:

None

Mailings

E-Mail - 49 Home - 58
Work - 16
 123

Balances as of 10/03/2008

Bank Statement Checking: \$ 155.98
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 120.00)
 Eastern Checking Balance: \$ 35.98
 ING Savings Balance: \$ 1,695.55

Economy Co-Op 12.mo CD - CLOSED - CD Matured 05/14/2008 - 12 mo. Interest earned \$49.37

Total \$ 1,731.53

Membership Totals: 123

84 Active - 33 Retired - 6 Associate

Welcome to our Newest Member for September:

- Steve Mahoney - Deputy Chief - Waltham Fire Department

Treasurer Notes:

- 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 2008 dues were due in January.**
- 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.
- 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.
- Several members have contacted me about the security of our deposited funds due to recent bank failures. I am pleased to report that our funds are secure and in accordance with our bylaws are deposited with institutions insured by the F.D.I.C. Both Eastern Bank & ING Direct have strong financial statements, balance sheets and assets and were not a part of the subprime mortgages which were issued by some financial institutions that have now failed or have been taken over by the F.D.I.C.

Respectfully submitted 10/03/2008

Michael McLeicer

Treasurer

978-864-2015 (Direct Line) or
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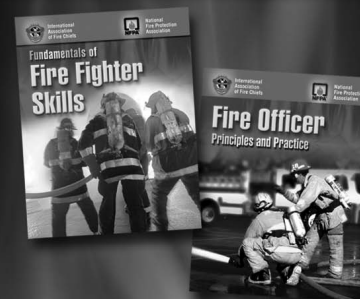
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RENEWAL of DUES or NEW MEMBERSHIPS

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 #517

The 518th meeting of MIFDI was held on September 24, 2008 hosted by the Canton Fire Department in the Training Room at Canton Fire Department Headquarters, 99 Revere St. courtesy of Chief Thomas J. Ronayne III.

The training presentation was provided by Mr. Donald Chambers of TargetSafety. Mr. Chambers provided an interesting and informative program covering "Online Fire & EMS Training". The goal of the concept of on-line training is to provide fire departments with a complete solution to *maintain compliance, promote safety, reduce costs, provide EMS continuous education hours, and assist with managing and documentation of firefighter training*. To find out more about this unique program, go to www.targetsafety.com/fire.

Prior to our presentation, Director Edmund Walker of the Massachusetts Fire Fighting Academy was introduced and addressed the membership. Director Walker expressed a desire to establish an improved support network for fire department training officers as well as focusing on a training consistency for all. Director Walker also gave an update on the current DFS/MFA expansion.

President Roche conducted a business meeting following the training presentation. A brief debate about CDL licenses for fire apparatus drivers was discussed and will be addressed as a future MIFDI presentation in 2009. New member Lt. Dan LaVache from Watertown was introduced. Member Steve Persson gave an update on the Massachusetts Fire Training Council and reported that the new MFTC Chairman is Chief Charles Foley of Randolph due to former Chief David Parr stepping down. Member John O'Donoghue gave a report on elevator code changes including an increased elevator car size in January 2010 to accommodate the new 84" EMS stretcher.

Following the meeting, members adjourned for lunch at Boston's Restaurant in Canton.

EMS RUN:

Vent-Dependent Children

According to a study in the Journal of Pediatrics, over 200 children in Massachusetts were dependent on ventilators in 2005. This issue became tragically publicized in July when a 15-year old from East Boston died when his ventilator failed during a power outage and the battery back-up malfunctioned. A sad ending for a life so fragile.

Due to technological advances, a large number of children are now able to live on portable ventilators at home instead of specialized care facilities. These children are now offered a life with quality at home with families, however, they are vulnerable to equipment failures, power outages, or tubes dislodging.

One of the first manufacturers of the take-home ventilators is Pulmonetics Systems of Minnesota. Infants born prematurely with undeveloped lungs as well as children born with lung defects or other degenerative issues often require a ventilator to breathe for them. Some children require the ventilators 24/7 while some only at night or part time.

We as first responders should be made aware of vent-dependent patients in our communities. Do we have portable generators on responding units and do our cord adapters accept their plugs? If not, do we have the correct adapters to connect their ventilator units? Do we carry portable suction units to suction secretions that develop in the airways that these patients are not able to cough up and spit out as we can.

Finally, as a last resort we can breathe for our patients with a bag-valve mask by removing the mask and connecting it to the trache tube. Remember to inflate the bag ONLY enough to see the chest rise. Ventilations should be provided at a rate of 20-per-minute (1 every 3-seconds) for an infant or child under 8 years old., and at 12-per minute (1 every 5-seconds) for a child over 8 years of age.

We must be prepared to assist those in our communities that live on such a fragile existence.

LAST ALARM:



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CONGRATULATIONS:

Nothing Reported

GOOD & WELFARE:

Nothing Reported

LOOKING BACK ON MIFDI



MIFDI MEETING IN CONCORD 1989. L.to R. Keith Flaherty - Brookline, Mark Roche - Newton, Peter Skerry - Brookline, Randy Sherman - Yarmouth
(Photo by late member Dick Hay)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Oct. 22, 2008: **MIFDI** – NATICK

Oct.24-26, 2008: 2nd. Annual “Hands-On-Training” Weekend
Old Wood School, Plainville, MA Contact: www.snefools.org

Oct.30-Nov.2: Volunteer & Combination Fire Dept. Symposium
Clearwater Beach, FL Contact: www.IAFC.org

Nov. 2, 2008: End Daylight Savings, Change your clocks, change your batteries”

Nov. 12-14: DFS Conference, “Meeting the Challenges of Tomorrow’s Fire Service”
Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center Contact:
www.mass.gov/dfs

Nov.19, 2008: **MIFDI** - SHREWSBURY

Nov. 22, 2008: Statewide Exam- Fire Lieutenant & Fire Captain
GOOD LUCK!

Dec. 3, 2008: Massachusetts Firefighter of the Year Awards
Fanuel Hall, Boston

Dec.7-9, 2008: IAFF Affiliate Training Summit
Phoenix, AZ Contact: www.IAFF.org

Dec. 17, 2008: **MIFDI** - CHELMSFORD

REPORT of the PRESIDENT:

Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department

Our September meeting provided us with an interesting look at the option of bringing our department training a step towards the future with On-Line Training. I thank Donald Chambers of TargetSafety for offering this informative presentation to MIFDI. I also thank Chief Thomas Ronayne and the members of the Canton fire Department for again hosting MIFDI at their facility and I thank Deputy Chief Mark Doloff from Stoughton for arranging this meeting as well as Stoughton Chief David Jardin for providing the coffee and pastry.

A reminder once again to mark your calendar for November 12-14 for the “1st. Annual Fall Conference of the Department of Fire Services” to be held at the Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center, 219 Littleton Rd., Westford, MA. The theme of this 3-day conference is “Meeting the Challenges of Tomorrow’s Fire Service”. For more information, check the DFS website at www.mass.gov/dfs

Our October meeting will provide us with a look at how a department with little resources contended with major fire that severely impacted this small community in July 2007.

As we plan ahead, just a reminder that both the November and December meetings will be moved to the THIRD Wednesday to avoid the holiday weeks.

See you on the 22nd. Until then, stay safe!

Mark

INSTRUCTORS CORNER

How Secure Are Your Hose-Loads?

Captain Mark Roche, Newton Fire Department

Many apparatus manufacturers are delivering new apparatus with netting over hose cross-lays as well as the rear hose storage area. The nettings are similar to those used in the back of SUV’s and pick-up truck beds. New safety standards recommend these nettings to ensure the hose remains in place, however, it’s the first thing to come off upon delivery, after all who needs another obstacle to encounter in our quest to battle the beast?

Every department at one time or another has experienced the embarrassment of accidentally “dropping-a-line” down the street. The slippery surface of new hose combined with the smooth surface of the aluminum hose bed is a recipe for the unexpected “laying a line”. These unfortunate incidents can be more than just an embarrassment. Hose lines flying off a rig with heavy nozzles and couplings can be very damaging and even worse, deadly!

A settlement was recently awarded in Pennsylvania from an incident in which a hose-line dislodged from a moving fire truck and became caught under a parked vehicle. The hose-line with nozzle then whipped through the air and struck two 10-year-old girls standing nearby on a lawn. The line killed one of the girls after striking her in the head and seriously injured the other girl after striking her face. Prior to striking the girls, the hose-line with a 6-pound nozzle whipped through yards and bounced off vehicles during its chaotic journey. The jury awarded the families \$4.5 million.

Not only can this be a financial disaster for our communities, this preventable accident is something that we would have to live with forever. In the future, I suspect that manufacturers will build apparatus to include shoulder-height compartmentalized hose-beds with sliding trays and roll-up doors. Another option would be to place a pressure switch on the hose-bed tray that would trigger a light and buzzer in the cab similar to when a compartment door is open. All of this would of course increase the price of an already expensive piece of apparatus.

As far as our current fleet, retrofitting with spring-type netting is an option. Nozzles are often found too close to the edge for easier reach, however, they should be placed an arms reach inside the bed to prevent them from falling out. Another problem is the “loops” or “ears” which are often created to provide a grab for an extra length or two when stretching a line. These folds are sometimes found sticking out from the sides, some even hanging down to the running boards creating a hazard of being hung-up on the mirror of another vehicle during a tight squeeze on the street.

All drivers and officers must be vigilant of this potential hazard and look for signs of the hose sliding in the bed, and nozzles or coupling too close to the edge. Remember, gravity is trying to pull that hose out each time we turn a corner or encounter a street with a steep hill. The tragedy in that Pennsylvania community could have happened to any one of our departments. Let us be mindful of this hazard to avoid it from happening anywhere again.