

# The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute  
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
INSTRUCTORS**

MIFDI  
PO BOX 507  
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

November  
2007

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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 - 2007**

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  
 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 2007**

Lieutenant George Churchill, Brockton Fire Department (retired)  
 Captain Kevin Breen, Swampscott Fire Department  
 Captain Barry Aptt, Gloucester 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, 2008**

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



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

**Membership Information**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City & State** \_\_\_\_\_

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**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:**

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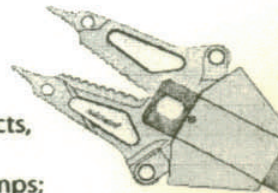
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### NOVEMBER MEETING:

The 510th meeting of MIFDI will be held on **Wednesday, November 28, 2007** hosted by the Brookline Fire Department courtesy of Chief Peter Skerry. The meeting will be held at the Training Division located on the bottom level of Fire Station #6, 962 Hammond Street.

Due to a commitment conflict, our originally scheduled October speaker has been re-scheduled as our November presenter. The program will be provided by **Deputy Chief David Mager** of the Boston Fire Department. Chief Mager has an excellent power-point presentation on a fast moving fire that occurred at the East Boston Yacht Club in April 2000. The presentation shows the challenges of fighting a fire in this type of occupancy with limited access, strong ocean wind, and large fuel load from boat storage. The presentation also focuses on "lessons learned" as well as the importance of pre-fire planning. As always, guests are welcome to attend.

### SCHEDULE:

**0900:** 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, that is Hammond St. (Exxon gas station on corner). Follow Hammond St. .08 miles and the fire house is on the left. Follow the driveway to the rear drill yard, there is plenty of parking.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balances for 1/1/2007  
 Checking 138.26  
 Savings 887.66  
 9 Mo. CD 515.44  
 Total \$1,541.36

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

Total active members = 118

Dues paid thru 2009 = 1  
 Dues paid thru 2008 = 12  
 Dues paid thru 2007 = 86  
 Dues paid thru 2006 = 19

Balances as of 11/06/2007

Bank Statement Checking: \$ 58.25  
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 120.00)  
 Eastern Checking Balance: \$ (61.75)  
 ING Savings Balance: \$ 713.53

Economy Co-Op. 12 Mo. CD \$ 1,015.35 (matures 05/10/2008 @ 4.75% APY)

Total \$ 1,667.13

We welcome these New Members:

- None

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 2008 dues are due in January.**
- (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 11/06/2007

Michael McLeier

Treasurer

978-864-2015 (Direct Line) or

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

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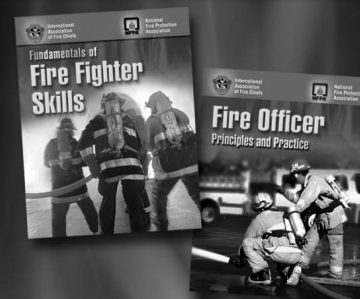
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**RENEWAL of DUES or NEW MEMBERSHIPS**  
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PO Box 507  
Merrimac, MA 01860-0510  
Phone: (978) 864-2015 or (978) 346-4731, ext. 1

**\*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 #509

The 509th. meeting of **MIFDI** was held on October 24, 2007 hosted by the Department of Fire Services/Massachusetts Firefighting Academy courtesy of Fire Marshal Stephen Coan and MFA Director Edmund Walker.

The training session was provided by **Dr. Abdel-Rahman Mohamed** of AIM International. Dr. Mohamed explained an innovative new product in firefighting technology called **COLD FIRE** that uses natural plant extracts as a firefighting additive. Following the classroom portion, members went outdoors to the drill yard for some convincing live firefighting effects of the Cold Fire product. Those in attendance were impressed with the extinguishment abilities of this product as well as its ability to prevent re-ignition.

Special thanks to Captain Bill Brathwaite of the Cambridge Fire Department for arranging this meeting for MIFDI on short notice.

President Roche conducted a brief business meeting following the training portion. New member, Captain Richard Francis from Brockton was introduced. Members voted to have Treasurer/Webmaster Michael McLeieer represent MIFDI again as our delegate to the 2008 FDIC. Member Steve Persson gave an update on the MFTC and other proposed items..

Members adjourned for lunch at the Stow Airport.

## EMS RUN

### **Project Lifesaver:**

#### ***Electronic Technology to Locate Missing Persons***

Project Lifesaver was established in 1999 as an initiative of the Search & Rescue Unit of the Chesapeake Sheriff's Office. Project Lifesaver's mission is to use state-of-the-art technology in assisting those who care for victims of Alzheimer's and other Related Mental Dysfunction disorders (ARMD) and victims who become lost. These victims include the elderly as well as the youngest in our community who are afflicted with Down syndrome and Autism.

Victims of ARMD tend to wander from their homes. Project Lifesaver International places personalized radio transmitters on identified persons with ARMD. These transmitters assist caregivers and local emergency agencies in locating those who cannot help themselves.

A large number of transmitters have been placed on those with Alzheimer's, Dementia, and children with Autism or Down syndrome. Local emergency crews responded to calls resulting in an average rescue time of less than 30-minutes.

To find out more about Project Lifesaver for your community, check out;  
[www.projectlifesaver.org](http://www.projectlifesaver.org)

## LAST ALARM:

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Firefighter John Curcio**, active member of the Peabody Fire Department. Firefighter Curcio died on October 28, 2007 at age 48.

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to member Chief Richard Gomes of Norton on the loss of his mother **Mrs. Lillian Gomes** on October 10, 2007.

Condolences are also offered to member Deputy Chief Thomas Conway III of Billerica on the loss of his father **Mr. Thomas Conway, Jr.** on October 18, 2007.

***May they rest in peace***



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**CONGRATULATIONS:**

Congratulations to FF/Instructor & MIFDI Treasurer Michael O. McLeieer for being selected to instruct a National Fire Academy Juvenile Firesetter II class at the New Jersey Fire Academy on November 29th and 30th.

**GOOD & WELFARE:**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

November 17, 2007: Statewide Exam; Fire Lieutenant & Fire Captain  
*GOOD LUCK!*

November 28, 2007: **MIFDI** - Brookline

December 19, 2007: **MIFDI** - Chelmsford



MIFDI members congratulate John Sullivan at a recent retirement party in his honor. (L to R) D.C. Mike Curran - Chelmsford, D.C. John O'Donoghue - Cambridge, D.C. John Sullivan - Billerica, Capt. Mark Roche - Newton  
(Photo by Joe Bradley)

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

Due to a schedule conflict, the October speaker had to be re-scheduled to November. We were fortunate that the scheduled November speaker was able to step into the October slot on short notice and provide an excellent presentation on an impressive new product called Cold Fire. From what we witnessed regarding this product, I suspect that it will be incorporated in every department in one form or another in the future. I thank Dr. Abdel-Rahman Mohamed for this presentation and Captain Bill Brathwaite and Deputy Chief Frank Murphy of the Cambridge Fire Department for their assistance.

At the end of October, I was fortunate to be selected for a trip to Appleton Wisconsin along with my chief and department mechanic to purchase a new pumper for my department. It was a fascinating experience to tour a fire apparatus manufacturing plant and follow the process from raw product to a finished piece of apparatus. As we boarded our flight at Logan, sitting in the plane for the same flight was MIFDI member, Chief Randell Sherman who was also making the trip to Appleton for final review of a new pumper for Yarmouth. I highly recommend to everyone involved with the specification of a new piece of apparatus for your department to include a contingency for both "pre-engineering" and/or "final inspection" of your new rig before it is delivered to ensure that the specific needs of your department are incorporated. It also provides great insight to the latest technological advances in apparatus improvements.

Our November meeting will highlight a difficult fire at the East Boston Yacht Club a few years ago. This excellent presentation is one that you won't want to miss.

I hope to see you all in Brookline on the **28th**. Until then, stay safe.

*Mark*

**INSTRUCTORS CORNER**  
**FF / Instructor Michael O. McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department**

While I was attending a new National Fire Academy Public Education Course this past September titled *Changing the American Family At Risk*, at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland, I learned of a couple of resources which are not widely known to much of the Fire Service.

Since many of our departments are already asked to do more, while working with less each year due to level funded or declining department budgets, many of us are turning to grants like the Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program to help replace worn and outdated equipment or acquire new equipment which will benefit the safety of our firefighters.

Each year, I have seen the number of questions increase with the Assistance to Firefighter Grant program as well as other Department of Homeland Security grants.

Many times, we are being asked to provide specific information about our community that we many not already have at hand.

While MFIRS data will help to determine trends in the types of fires, EMS calls, Hazardous Materials calls, as well as locations of these events, frequently we lack specific current demographics about the communities we serve to adequately justify our needs.

The following two websites will help provide specific information about each of our Towns and Cities:

[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

and

[www.city-data.com](http://www.city-data.com)

The second website takes the census information and other information about the City or Town, including its population, median household income, residents with income below the poverty level, types of housing units, and breaks the data down in easy to view graphs, so you may easily use the information for justifying your grant and/or presenting a program about the Fire Department's needs at a Town Meeting.

Please take the time to visit both of these free websites. The information provided in each of these websites will help us to better understand the needs of the community including at risk populations and continue to justify our needs and continue to place safety first for the Fire Service.