

The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

November
2011

MIFDI
PO BOX 507
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

52nd Year
(1959-2011)

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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 - 2011

President: Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department
 1st Vice President: Deputy Chief 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 2012

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

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
 2012 Membership Application & Invoice
 Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2012**

**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
 PO Box 507
 Merrimac, MA 01860-0510
 Phone: (978) 346-4731
 E-mail: michael.mcleieer@merrimacfire.com

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NOVEMBER MEETING:

The next meeting of MIFDI will be held **Wednesday, November 16, 2011 (NOTE: THIS IS THE THIRD WEDNESDAY)**. We will be hosted by the Shrewsbury Fire Department, 11 Church Rd. courtesy of MIFDI member Chief of Dept. James Vuona. We last met in Shrewsbury for our meeting in November 2008.

Our training program will be provided by MIFDI member Chief James Vuona. Through a great deal of research, Jim has formulated an informative program on the new multi-unit apartment complexes built with lightweight construction. Along with a large number of occupants living throughout these maze-like corridors, a fast moving fire poses a huge challenge for the fire service due to the potential for early collapse.

SCHEDULE:

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

DIRECTIONS: From Rt. 495, take Exit 23B to Rt. 9 West. Continue Rt. 9 West approx 7-miles to Rt. 140 North toward Shrewsbury (Staples on corner). Continue North on Rt. 140, which is Grafton St., for approx 1-mile. When you cross the lights at Main St., take the very first left on Church Rd. at the white wooden church and you will see the station in front of you. There is plenty of parking to the right of the station. We will meet in the first floor training room.



TREASURER'S REPORT**Beginning Balances for 01/03/2011**

Economy Bank Cking. \$326.62
 Economy Bnk. Savings \$147.94
 Consumers Checking \$572.50
 Consumers Savings \$147.70
 ING Savings \$1,207.91
 Total \$2,402.64

Bills Paid October, 2011 (Checking):

Nov. Newsletter - Michael \$120.00 - 10/31
 Refreshments - M. Roche - Oct. \$ 44.35 - 10/31
 TOTAL: \$164.35

Account Transfers:

ING Savings to CCU Checking - \$226.35 - 11/3/2011

50/50 Raffle = NONE

Winner = NONE

Proceeds from 50/50 Raffle = \$0.00

Total active members = 115

Dues paid thru 2019 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2015 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2012 = 16
 Dues paid thru 2011 = 89
 Dues paid thru 2010 = 8

Mailings

E-Mail - 74 Home - 34
Work - 7
 115

Balances as of 11/03/2011

Bank Statement Checking: \$ 112.94
 Less uncleared checks: (\$.00)
 Economy Cking. Balance: \$ 112.94
 Economy Savings Balance: \$ 200.56
 ING Savings Balance: \$ 1,626.90
 CD/None
 Consumers Stmt. Cking.: \$ 226.35
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 226.35)
 Consumers C.U. Checking (\$ 0.00)
 Consumers C.U. Savings: \$ 77.69
 Total \$ 2,018.09

Membership Totals: 115

76 Active - 33 Retired - 6 Associate

THERE ARE NO NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH TO JOIN MIFDI:***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 2012 dues will be due in January, 2012. Please add \$10.00 for late renewals after April 1, 2012.**
- (b) You should now be able to use the 2012 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

11/03/2011

by Michael McLeieer, Treasurer
 978-346-4731

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

MIFDI is now on Facebook. Login to your facebook account and search for **Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors** or visit **www.facebook.com/mifdi**. Become a facebook friend to MIFDI and receive up to date announcements right to your PDA, Blackberry or computer. You may also select the MIFDI Facebook link on the MIFDI website home page at www.mifdi.org



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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. **Add a \$10.00 Late Fee after April 1, 2011.**

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RECALL OF MEETING #549

The 549th meeting of MIFDI was held on October 26, 2011 hosted by the Town of Watertown at the new Police Headquarters/9-1-1 Center located at 552 Main St. courtesy of Chief Mario Orangio of the Watertown Fire Department and Chief Edward Deveau of the Watertown Police Department.

The training was provided by Deputy Chief Gerard Mahoney of the Cambridge Fire Department. Deputy Mahoney gave a fascinating presentation on his informational trip to Israel in 2010 for a counter-terrorism seminar funded by the Anti-Defamation League. According to the ADL, Israeli authorities are uniquely equipped to discuss and share counter-terrorism strategies given the security situation in Israel and their experience in dealing with terrorist attacks against civilians.

Following the presentation, a brief business meeting was conducted by President Roche. Vice President Brian Belliveau spoke on the new radio system for the Fitchburg Fire Department, a project that Brian has been spearheading for the past few years. New member Captain Andy Connerty from Burlington was introduced. Guests included Operations Chief Jack Gelinis of the Cambridge Fire Department and Captain John Russo from the Watertown Fire Department. Chief Jim Vuona from Shrewsbury gave a briefing on the November meeting that he will host. President Roche spoke on a tragic incident in Newton where a worker was killed from a fall from a 1200' TV tower.

Members adjourned for lunch at John Brewer's Tavern & Restaurant in Waltham.



Deputy Chief Gerard Mahoney speaking to MIFDI members

EMS RUN

Beat the clock when treating Heart Attacks

According to a recent study, hospitals are treating almost all heart attack victims within the recommended arrival time of 90 minutes or less.

Heart attacks are caused by clogged arteries that prevent enough oxygenated blood from reaching the heart. Each year, approximately 250,000 people in the United States suffer a major heart attack where a main artery is completely blocked.

The best remedy is “angioplasty” in which doctors push a tube through an artery to the blockage, inflate a tiny balloon to open it and then insert a mesh called a “stent” to keep the artery open.

Remember, reducing time to the O.R. is the key for patients to survive a heart attack with minimal heart muscle damage.

LAST ALARM:

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our condolences to the family and friends of **Lieutenant Mark A. Young**, of the Haverhill Fire Department. Lieutenant Young, age 51, died on October 4, 2011 from occupational cancer. May he Rest in Peace.



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PARATECH

CONGRATULATIONS:

Instructors Corner, continued from page 8

I know, you're thinking this is expensive and time consuming. After all, you need a PhD to do this stuff don't you? On the contrary. With today's technology, the advent of advanced gas detectors, and the low cost of standard calibration gases, you can have the user doing the "bump" testing on a regular basis and keeping a log of the testing. When the "bump" test indicates a response of less than 90% of the target gas in the bottle, you simply proceed with calibration using the same bottle.

With the newer technology available today, all of this takes about 3-5 minutes. No kidding, it's that easy and you have given the user a lever of confidence which is not conveyed when you hand them a detector that already has a calibration sticker on it from a calibration they didn't perform.

So how critical is your air?

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 6, 2011: Daylight Saving Time ends
"Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery"

November 6, 2011: FIREFIGHTER/EMT DISTRICT 14 EXAM
Deadline to file is 10/29 www.jacquesper.com

November 16, 2011: **MIFDI** - Shrewsbury

November 17, 2011: "Thermal Imaging in Structural Firefighting"
Boylston, MA www.midstateseminar.org

November 19, 2011: Statewide Exam – Fire Captain & Lieutenant
"GOOD LUCK"

November 30, 2011: Massachusetts Firefighter of the Year Awards
Hanover Theatre, Worcester

December 21, 2011: **MIFDI** -

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REPORT of the PRESIDENT:

Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department

Our October meeting gave us a rare glimpse at what life is like living under the constant threat of attacks. I thank Deputy Chief Gerry Mahoney of the Cambridge Fire Department for providing the presentation to MIFDI on his informational visit to Israel as part of a group of public safety professionals attending a Northeast Counter-Terrorism Seminar in 2010.

I also thank MIFDI members Captain Dave Melanson and Lieutenant Ryan Nicholson of the Watertown Fire Department for their help with arranging this meeting in the spacious training room at Watertown's new Police/911 Center complex.

On October 27, 2011, I was truly honored to receive the 2011 "EMS First Responder Award" at the Eleventh Annual Region IV EMS Awards Ceremony and Banquet. I accept this award on behalf of all the firefighters, EMT's and Paramedics who work the streets of our communities 24/7. As you all know, it matters not what patch that you wear, it's all about the professional care and compassion that we provide to the people we serve when they need it the most.

Stay Safe and I hope to see you in Shrewsbury on the 16th
Mark



Captain Mark Roche receiving the EMS First Responder Award

INSTRUCTORS CORNER:

***How critical is your air?* (John V. Carvalho III, Apollo Safety, Inc.)**

Testing and calibrating your gas detectors before every use could mean the difference between life and death. Regular calibration schedules not only keep your sensors healthy and verified, it's the law.

Many gas detector users only want to hear what they want to hear, but those serious about the health and safety of themselves and those they are responsible for want the facts. The facts are that you don't know that your air is safe by simply turning the gas detector on and going straight to work. The sensors **must be tested**. Is this news to anyone? No it's not ... or at least it shouldn't be. All gas detector manufacturers clearly state in their operational and maintenance manuals that you must test the detector prior to each critical use.

How critical is your air?

Some manufacturers state that the period between calibrations can be as long as 6 months (not U.S. mfgs) in an effort to gain market share because they think it's what we want to hear, right? The standard questions go like this:

How often do I have to calibrate?

Answer: When "field" or "bump" testing indicates the sensors do not reach a high percentage of the "bump" gas value on the can, assuming the gas is within manufacturers "good by" date, then proceed with a full calibration.

How often must I "bump" test then?

Answer: before each critical use! If you do not use the meter for at least 4-weeks, you are best served by, at the very least, "bump" testing to verify that the sensors have not croaked, as oxygen sensors can do. You also need to make sure that some eager previous user looking to see if the combustible sensor respond, has not applied his disposable lighter to the LEL sensor and voila ... the LEL is either dead from over-ranging or has been poisoned. Poisoned by butane gas? That's correct. The LEL sensor is looking for the Lower explosive Levels which are approximately in the 0-5% range, not 100% which is what comes out of that disposable lighter.

So how critical is your air and more importantly, how can you verify the safety and accuracy of your air? It's simple, make sure you "bump" test before each use and calibrate regularly, which by the way, will assist in keeping the sensors "healthy". Some sensors have a tendency to "go to sleep". Regular calibration schedules not only keep your sensors healthy and verified, it's the law.

Continued on page 9