

# The MIFDI BULLETIN

MIFDI  
PO BOX 507  
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510



December  
2007

**CONTENTS:**

<i>Page</i>	<i>Subject</i>
1	Index
2	Next Meeting, Directions to Meeting, Drill Schedule
3	Treasurer's Report, New Members
4	Recall of Previous Meeting, Secretary's Report
5	Special Feature Article
6	Upcoming Events
7	From The Desk Of The President
8	Instructors Corner
9	Congratulations
10	Last Alarm, Line of Duty Deaths / Advertisement
11	Dues Information & Advertisers Page
12	Advertisers Page
13	Advertisers Page
14	Membership Application or Renewal Form

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

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**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** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone (Home)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Fax (Home)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Information**

**Department** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rank** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone (work)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Fax (work)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address (work)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City & State (work)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>Membership Type:</u></b>	<b><u>Send Bulletin To:</u></b>	<b><u>Membership Dues:</u></b>
<b><u>circle one</u></b>	<b><u>circle one</u></b>	<b><u>Active</u> \$ 25.00</b>
<b><u>Active</u></b>	<b><u>Home</u></b>	<b><u>Retired</u> \$ 12.50</b>
<b><u>Retired</u></b>	<b><u>Work</u></b>	<b><u>Associate</u> \$100.00</b>
<b><u>Associate</u></b>	<b><u>E-mail</u></b>	

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) 864-2015 or (978) 346-4731, ext. 1  
 E-mail: michael.mcLeieer@merrimacfire.com

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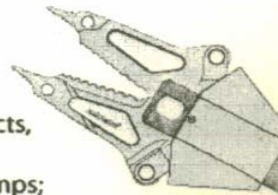
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### DECEMBER MEETING:

The 511th meeting of MIFDI will be hosted by **FIRE TECH & SAFETY** of New England courtesy of Mr. Larry Guerette. The meeting will be held in their new facility located at 27 Industrial Ave. in the Scienta Industrial Park (off Rt.129), Chelmsford on **Wednesday, December 19, 2007**

(NOTE: This is the 3rd Wednesday to avoid Christmas week).

The training program will be provided by a representative of SCOTT with a demonstration of the *Tracker FRT* as well as other new firefighter safety products recently introduced.

Following the presentation, a tour will be provided of Fire Tech's new Showroom and on-site Service Facility. Lunch will be provided as well, courtesy of Fire Tech.

### DIRECTIONS:

The Town of Chelmsford is located in Middlesex County, 25 miles north of Boston.

**From Rt.128 (I 95) or Rt. 495,** Take Rt.3 to Rt. 129. Follow Rt. 129 (which is Billerica Road) towards Chelmsford approx 1-mile. Turn left on Scienta Dr. in Scienta Park. Turn left on Industrial Ave and Fire Tech is located in the building on the left. For those who have been to Fire Tech in the past, the new location is in the same complex, only now in a different building in the rear of their former location.

### SCHEDULE:

**0900** Coffee & Pastry

**1000** Program presentation

**1130** Brief Business Meeting

**1200** Lunch. (On site)

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

Bills Paid November (Checking):  
 Dec., 07 Newsletter \$120.00 Michael - 11/30  
 Handout copies-Meeting \$ 18.90 Mark - 12/03  
 Coffee/Muffins/Postage \$ 55.00 Mark - 12/03  
 TOTAL: \$193.90

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

Account Transfers:  
 None

Total active members = 120  
 Dues paid thru 2009 = 1  
 Dues paid thru 2008 = 20  
 Dues paid thru 2007 = 82  
 Dues paid thru 2006 = 17

Mailings  
 E-Mail - 43 Home - 62  
Work - 15  
 120

Balances as of 12/03/2007  
 Bank Statement Checking: \$ 213.25  
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 193.90)  
 Eastern Checking Balance: \$ 19.35  
 ING Savings Balance: \$ 716.20  
Economy Co-Op. 12 Mo. CD \$ 1,027.37 (matures 05/10/2008 @ 4.75% APY)  
 Total \$ 1,762.92

Membership Totals  
 80 Active - 34 Retired - 6 Associate

We welcome these New Members:

- Todd P. Munson - Captain - Weston
- Robert M. Washburn - Firefighter - Lexington (Retired)


*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 are 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.

Respectfully submitted 12/03/2007  
 Michael McLeier  
 Treasurer  
 978-864-2015 (Direct Line) or  
 978-346-4731, ext. 1

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

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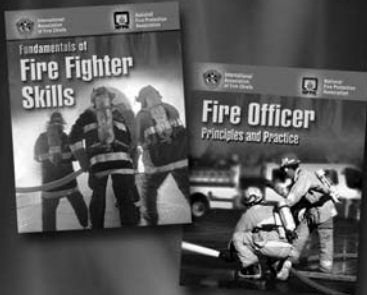
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**RENEWAL of DUES or NEW MEMBERSHIPS**

may be addressed to:

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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 #510**

The 510th. meeting of **MIFDI** was held on November 28, 2007 hosted by the Brookline Fire Department courtesy of Chief Peter Skerry. Chief Skerry opened the meeting and spoke about his past membership with MIFDI during his assignment in the Training Division and the great respect he has for the organization.

The training session was provided by **Deputy Chief David Mager** of the Boston Fire Department. Chief Mager's excellent presentation on "Fire Department Operations at a Rapidly Expanding Incident" highlighted some of the challenges faced when dealing with the "big one" and having a plan in place to provide the resources that will be needed before the incident happens.

Special thanks to MIFDI members Deputy Chief Colin O'Connell and Captain Mark Jefferson of the Brookline Fire Department Training Division for their help with this meeting

President Roche conducted a brief business meeting following the training portion. New member, Don Gazerro from Brockton was introduced. Member John O'Donoghue made mention of a fire in Orlando that involved a coating on certain elevator belts and will provide a more detailed report as it becomes available. President Roche asked members to consider running for a MIFDI Officers position for 2008 to help support and keep the organization moving forward for the future. Member Steve Persson gave an abbreviated update on the MFTC with a more in-depth report planned at the December meeting.

Members adjourned for lunch at a nearby Bertucci's Restaurant.

**EMS RUN**

**DFS MEMORANDUM (Courtesy of DFS & FCAM)**

***Information on "STAPH" Type Infections***

M.R.S.A. (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) has become a topic of discussion with the Department of Public Health and the CDC as a result of its becoming more resistant to antibiotics. MRSA is a skin infection which may present with pimples, rashes, or pus filled boils which can be warm, painful or swollen. Occasionally, MRSA can cause more serious problems such as wound infections, bloodstream infections, and pneumonia. MRSA has been typically confined to hospitals and nursing homes, however, is now being identified among patients with no direct connection to hospitals or long term healthcare. The infection is now making its way into the school systems. Students who have direct contact with an infected student, share equipment, or share towels are more likely to contact the disease.

The best way to prevent MRSA is through education. We encourage your EMS Officer, Infection Control Officer, or Training Officer to review your department's B.S.I. (Body Substance Isolation) protocol with your staff. To reduce the spread of MRSA, we encourage:

- Mandatory use of gloves on all EMS calls and patient interactions,
- The use of hand washing or the use of an alcohol base substance after each EMS call,
- Keeping all wounds covered with bandages until completely healed.

For more information on MRSA, visit the following sites;

[www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/antibiotic\\_resistance\\_healthcare](http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/antibiotic_resistance_healthcare)

[www.cdc.gov/features/mrsainschools](http://www.cdc.gov/features/mrsainschools)

**LAST ALARM:**

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Call Captain/EMT George P. Sturgis II** of the Sherborn Fire & Rescue who died unexpectedly on November 4, 2007 at age 44.

*May he rest in peace*



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**CONGRATULATIONS:**

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our congratulations to member **Battalion Chief G. Edward Bradley** of the Plymouth Fire Department upon his promotion to Chief of Department on December 1, 2007.

The Officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our congratulations to MIFDI member **Lieutenant Kevin Galligan** of the Brockton Fire Department for receiving the *Metal of Honor* at the 2007 Massachusetts Firefighter of the Year Award Ceremony held on November 7, 2007 at Faneuil Hall, Boston.



MIFDI member (P.P. 1986) Chief Kenneth Galligan of the Brockton Fire Department congratulates his son MIFDI member Lieutenant Kevin Galligan, recipient of the 2007 Massachusetts Firefighter of the Year "Medal of Honor". (Photo by Jim Flaherty)

Also receiving a *Meritorious Group Award* at the Ceremony was MIFDI Vice President **Captain Brian Belliveau** of the Fitchburg Fire Department along with members from his shift.

**Congratulations to all of the 2007 Award Recipients for going above and beyond during the past year!**

**GOOD & WELFARE:**

Get well wishes are offered to member **Peter Cutrone** as he recovers from a recent illness.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

January 5, 2008: 2008 Public Safety Physical Fitness Symposium  
U.N.H. Fieldhouse, Durham, NH Contact: [safetyfitnesseducation.com](http://safetyfitnesseducation.com)

January 20-23, 2008: IAFF Human Relations Conference  
New Orleans, LA Contact: [iaff.org](http://iaff.org)

January 20-23, 2008: Apparatus Spec & Vehicle Maint. Symposium  
Orlando, FL Contact: [fdsoa.org](http://fdsoa.org)

January 23, 2008: **MIFDI**

January 24-25, 2008: IAFF Affiliate Leadership Training Summit  
New Orleans, LA Contact: [iaff.org](http://iaff.org)

February 27, 2008: **MIFDI**

March 26, 2008: **MIFDI**

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

The training program at the November meeting by Deputy Chief David Mager of the Boston Fire Department was a very professional and educational presentation. For those unable to attend, you missed a valuable and informative program. I thank Chief Mager for sharing this presentation with MIFDI. I also thank Chief Peter Skerry of the Brookline Fire Department for hosting MIFDI as well as Deputy Chief Colon O'Connell and Captain Mark Jefferson of the Brookline Training Division for their assistance with this meeting.

On November 7, 2007, I was honored to represent MIFDI at the 2007 Massachusetts Firefighter of the Year Award Ceremony in Boston. Two of the many recipients receiving recognition this year were MIFDI members Kevin Galligan and Brian Belliveau (See Pg.9). On behalf of MIFDI, I proudly congratulate them for their extraordinary actions during the past year.

November 15, 2007 was the deadline for The Fire Safety Act 2004 requiring entertainment establishments with a capacity of 100 or more people to install a fire sprinkler system. This Law will save a countless number of lives and hopefully will prevent another tragedy similar to the Station Night Club fire in West Warwick. Special thanks to Fire Marshal Stephen Coan and the staff at the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services for their diligent efforts creating this important life-safety law.

Once again we must ask our members to pay their dues for 2008 to keep this great organization going. The good news is that dues will remain at \$25.00 for active members, \$12.50 for retired members, and \$100.00 for associate members. It is thanks to our associate members that help keep our organization financially stable and I ask everyone to patronize those companies and products advertised in our bulletin and on our website.

MIFDI is looking for a few good members willing to serve in various positions of this important organization. If anyone is interested in running for any MIFDI Officer or Board position, let it be known by the December meeting.

Our December meeting will be hosted by Fire Tech in Chelmsford. Fire Tech last hosted MIFDI in November 2003 and we look forward to their presentation which gives us a hands-on look at the latest products available for firefighter safety.

I hope to see you all in Chelmsford on the **19th**. If you are unable to attend the next meeting, on behalf of MIFDI, I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday, and safe New Year.

*Mark*

**INSTRUCTORS CORNER**

**Pre Season Check List**

*Courtesy of Dan Meloche, BPC Equipment, Inc.*

**ICE RESCUE SUITS:** Remove suits from storage bags, check for obvious cuts or abrasions. Water test for leaks and repair as needed. Aqua seal or marine goop works best. Wax zippers and check attachment points on harness. A cap full of simple green in a poly drum works well for cleaning. Rinse in clean water and hang with suit unzipped to dry completely for a few days. Do not store exposed to exhaust fumes or direct lighting.

**ROPES:** Remove water rescue ropes from bags and check for cuts and abrasions in the sheath of the rope. On "kern mantle" ropes, if the core of the rope is visible through the sheath, the rope should be removed from service. Life safety static line is not recommended. Ropes can be washed in simple green as well. A cap full of Woolite will help keep the rope supple. Lay out rope to dry completely before re-packing. Know how long your ropes are and mark each bag accordingly. If your rope has never been reversed, switch ends and re-pack the rope. This will place the used portion towards the bottom of the bag and help your rope wear evenly. When possible, color code your ropes, red for rescuer, blue for back-up. Make sure your throw bags are tangle-free, marked for length, inspected and re-packed.

**CARABINERS:** Inspect gates and screw locks, make sure they work freely and are not bent. Dog clips and Home Depot links are not acceptable. All rope and carabiners should meet or exceed NFPA Standards for water rescue use. Ropes should be pre-rigged with carabiners prior to the ice rescue season. Carabiners get used up quickly, be sure to have extras attached to your rope bags and suits. Inspect all associated equipment such as ring buoys, foam collars, dog snares ice awls, helmets, lighting, PFD's & gloves.

**PFD's:** Anyone operating within the Hot Zone (25-feet from shore) must be equipped with personal flotation. This would include Shore Crew, Safety Officer, and Incident commander. Rescuers and back-up rescuers will be equipped with ice rescue suits or suitable dry suit with PFD. Remember, no one leaves shore without a tether and flotation.

**ICE RESCUE DEVICES:** If your department utilizes an ice rescue device such as a "Rescue Alive" sled or board device, make sure attachment points are in good shape. Check for obvious cuts, cracks, or abrasions. Check nuts and bolts for tightness and wax surfaces that contact the ice and snow.

**LAST BUT NOT LEAST:** "Knowledge is the only piece of equipment that you can't leave behind", pre-plan and train to succeed. Train on early season poor ice conditions. Survey your response area for popular skating, ice fishing, and snow mobile activity locations. Will you have enough rope? Do you have enough suits? Is your team well trained and has your team written SOG's that everyone is familiar with? Who in you Mutual Aid system is equipped and trained to assist you? These are all questions that need to be answered now before the ice season begins and you are on your way to a call.

For additional information on Water & Ice Rescue, call Dan Meloche at BPC Rescue Equipment, Inc. 1-800-423-0686 or check their website [www.rescuealive.com](http://www.rescuealive.com). "We don't just sell it, we teach it".