

The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

December
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
 2011 Membership Application & Invoice
 Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2011**

**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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DECEMBER MEETING:

The December meeting of MIFDI will be hosted once again by FIRE TECH & SAFETY on **Wednesday, December 15, 2010** courtesy of Mr. Larry Guerette (**NOTE: This is the THIRD Wednesday**). The meeting will be held at the Fire Tech & Safety facility located at 27 Industrial Ave., Chelmsford at the Scienta Industrial Park off Rt.129.

MIFDI last met at Fire Tech in December 2008 and Larry once again promises an informative presentation related to the latest products available for the fire service. Following the presentation, we will be given a tour of Fire Tech's service facility and equipment showroom.

SCHEDULE:

0900 Coffee, 1000 Presentation, 1100 Facility Tour, 1130 Business Meeting, 1200 Lunch.

DIRECTIONS:

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

FROM RT. 128 or RT. 495, take Rt. 3 to Rt. 129. Follow Rt.129 (Billerica Rd.) towards Chelmsford (aprox 1-mile). Turn left on Scienta Drive in Scienta Park. Turn left on Industrial Ave and Fire Tech is located in the building on the left. 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

Bills Paid November 2010 (Checking):

Dec. Newsletter - Michael \$120.00 - 11/29
 Nov. Coffee/Rolls- Mark Roche \$ 36.22— 11/22
TOTAL: \$156.22

Account Transfers:
None

50/50 Raffle = \$ 0.00

Winner = - N/A

Proceeds from 50/50 Raffle = N/A

Total active members = 118

Dues paid thru 2019 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2013 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2012 = 5
 Dues paid thru 2011 = 20
 Dues paid thru 2010 = 80
 Dues paid thru 2009 = 11

Mailings

E-Mail - 65 Home - 41
Work - 12
 118

Balances as of 11/29/2010

Bank Statement Checking: \$ 201.60
 Less uncleared checks: (\$.00)
 Economy Cking. Balance: \$ 201.60
 Economy Savings Balance: \$ 147.88
 ING Savings Balance: \$ 1,206.00
 CD/None
 Consumers Stmt. Cking.: \$ 105.00
 Less uncleared checks: (\$.00)
 Consumers C.U. Checking \$ 105.00
 Consumers C.U. Savings: \$ 147.65
Total \$ 1,808.13

Membership Totals: 118

77 Active - 34 Retired - 7 Associate

WE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS:

- William T. Johnston - Captain - Canton Fire Department
- David M. Santos - Captain - Taunton Fire Department

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 2011 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**11/29/2010**

by Michael McLeieer , Treasurer
 978-346-4731

Thank you for your continued support and for your prompt payment of your dues! I hope you & your family have a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

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 .

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RECALL OF MEETING #540

The 540th meeting of MIFDI was held on November 17, 2010 hosted by the National Weather Service in Taunton.

The training portion was provided by Mr. Hayden Frank of the NWS. Hayden gave members a walk-thru of the NWS website and the many resources available to the fire service when dealing with incidents compounded by weather conditions such as brush and forest fires, Haz-Mat incidents, high-rise fires, etc. (www.weather.gov/boston). Following the presentation, members were given a tour of the NWS Operations Center.

A brief business meeting was conducted by President Roche following the presentation and tour. Two new members were introduced, Captain Tadd Johnston from Canton and Captain David Santos from Taunton. Member Glen Rogers gave a report from the MFTC. Member Bob MacKendrick spoke about the recent propane odorant problem in the Commonwealth and mentioned that rust in older tanks and new metal in newer tanks can also be the cause of odorant absorption from propane, a condition known as “Odor Fade”.

Members adjourned for lunch at nearby Chateau Restaurant in Easton.



EMS RUN:

State bans sales of caffeine/alcohol beverage

The State Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission has banned alcohol drinks that contain caffeine. The ban was due to concerns over the powerful drink "Four Loko" dubbed by college students as "*blackout in a can*".

The ban issued was an emergency regulation requiring stores to remove the product from their shelves immediately. The concern over the ban was not due to the alcohol content, but the caffeine. Apparently the caffeine can mask some of the sensory cues that help determine a person's intoxication level causing users to drink well past the point of drunkenness.

The move to restrict these types of products containing alcohol and caffeine was due to serious illnesses of college students requiring hospitalization after consuming these beverages. In August, an 18 year-old died after consuming the beverage with diet pills. A month later, a 20-year-old died after drinking the product and accidentally shot himself.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is expected soon to take a stand on these products as well. Up until now only four states have banned these beverages. Just be aware that this type of product may still be out there in the dorm rooms of our college campuses.

LAST ALARM:

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our condolences to the family and friends of **Firefighter Peter S. Regan**, ACTIVE member of the Wayland Fire Department. Pete died on November 3, 2010 from injuries suffered from an accident at his home in Natick on November 1. Pete was working on his car when the vehicle apparently slipped from its stand tragically crushing him. May he Rest in Peace.

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our condolences to the family and friends of Rehoboth **Call-Firefighter Kenneth Marshall, Jr.** in the line-of-duty on November 25, 2010 at age 33. Ken was responding to a fire in the kitchen on Thanksgiving evening when he suffered a fatal heart attack. May he Rest in Peace.



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PARATECH

CONGRATULATIONS:

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors congratulate the following Massachusetts Fire Departments for winning the Liberty Mutual Insurance Be Fire Smart grant of \$10,000 per department. There were ten winning fire departments from across the country who shared \$100,000; three from Massachusetts.

- **Merrimack Fire Department - \$10,000**
- **Whitman Fire Rescue - \$10,000**
- **Wilmington Fire Department - \$10,000**

GOOD & WELFARE:

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers get well wishes to our friend **Deputy Chief Mark Dolloff** of the Stoughton Fire Department. Mark is “out of service” due to a leg fracture from playing hockey. We hope to see him make a full recovery and be back in action soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 26, 2011: **MIFDI**

February 23, 2011: **MIFDI**

February 26 – March 2: Firehouse World
San Diego, CA Firehouseworld.com

March 23, 2011: **MIFDI**

March 19, 2011: Statewide Exam – Chief, Deputy, District
Good Luck!

March 21-March 26: F.D.I.C. 2011
Indianapolis, IN fdic.org

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REPORT of the PRESIDENT:

Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department

Our November meeting provided us with a rare opportunity to see and learn about the operations center of the Boston Office of the National Weather Service. I thank Mr. Hayden Frank for his presentation on the NWS. I also thank our host Chief Richard Gomes for arranging lunch for us following the meeting.

It's not too soon to pay your dues for 2011. Check the mailing label on your MIFDI Bulletin for your dues expiration date. Don't wait until January when everything comes in at once. Send your check to the P.O. Box or bring it to a meeting.

A reminder as we approach the winter months, be sure to check the MIFDI website at www.mifdi.org for last minute storm cancellations of meetings.

For those unable to attend the December meeting, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, or whatever faith holiday you celebrate, may it be joyous with family and friends.

Stay Safe and see you on the 15th

Mark

INSTRUCTORS CORNER:

Secure the rig!

Captain Mark Roche, Newton Fire Department

This past October, a rescue truck from a volunteer fire department in southern Vermont was stolen from the unmanned firehouse of this small community. The vehicle was discovered missing at 0530 in the morning and later found that evening in the parking lot of a bus station in Albany, NY. The keys were still in the ignition, fortunately none of the rescue or EMS equipment was missing.

Unmanned firehouses are a challenge to maintain security due to the corps of volunteers that must enter the building at all hours and have access to the apparatus 24/7. These buildings should be equipped with security codes, sign-in/sign-out logs, and even cameras tied to the dispatch center. A lock box with ignition keys, portable radios, building access cards and other keys should be kept secure in the station accessible to the members only.

The problem not only lies with the so called "vollies". In this post 9-1-1 world, all new fire apparatus is required to have door locks for the cabs. Although it may sound to some as overkill, the reality is that a stolen fire truck could have disastrous consequences.

Ambulances, rescues and paramedic engine companies now carry narcotics and other meds. Needless to say, the "med box" must be locked and accounted for at all times.

With reduced manning for most departments of only 1 & 2, it isn't always possible to leave a member with the rig. Whether at an EMS run, building inspection/pre-plan, or other incident, the rig is sitting vulnerable on the street.

During station visits, I have actually seen well intended members show children how the truck starts! Hello? Often times when stopping for coffee or lunch, the entire crew will leave the rig and enter the store instead of having one person to do the order and/or pick up.

The bottom line is that we must all take a vigilant stand to protect not only our apparatus, but also the equipment. There are people out there that may want to steal a fire truck as a prank, and others with the intent of doing more serious harm. Keep your equipment safe and secure.