

The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

December
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
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DECEMBER MEETING:

The December meeting of MIFDI will be hosted once again by FIRE TECH & SAFETY on **Wednesday, December 21, 2011** 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 2010 and Larry once again promises an informative presentation related to the latest updates and 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 (on site)

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.



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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	<u>\$1,207.91</u>
Total	\$2,402.64

Bills Paid November, 2011 (Checking):

Dec. Newsletter - Michael	\$120.00	11/30
Refreshments - M. Roche - Nov.	<u>\$ 49.10</u>	11/16
TOTAL:	\$169.10	

Account Transfers:

From Economy Savings to Checking - \$44.00 - 12/03

50/50 Raffle = \$67.00

Winner = Donated back to MIFDI for lunch

Proceeds from 50/50 Raffle = \$67.00

Total active members = 116

Dues paid thru 2019 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2015 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2013 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2012 = 19
 Dues paid thru 2011 = 86
 Dues paid thru 2010 = 8

Mailings

E-Mail - 75	Home - 35
	<u>Work - 6</u>
	116

Balances as of 12/05/2011

Bank Statement Checking:	\$ 220.35
Less uncleared checks:	<u>(\$ 120.00)</u>
Economy Cking. Balance:	\$ 100.35
Economy Savings Balance:	\$ 156.60
ING Savings Balance:	\$ 1,627.86
CD/None	
Consumers Stmt. Cking.:	\$ 50.00
Less uncleared checks:	<u>(\$ 0.00)</u>
Consumers C.U. Checking	\$ 50.00
Consumers C.U. Savings:	<u>\$ 77.71</u>
Total	\$ 2,012.52

Membership Totals: 116

75 Active - 35 Retired - 6 Associate

WELCOME TO THIS NEW MEMBER WHO JOINED MIFDI:

- **Matthew Wood - Lieutenant - Cambridge 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 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

12/05/2011

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
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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 #550

The 550th meeting of MIFDI was held on November 16, 2011 hosted by the Shrewsbury Fire Department courtesy of Chief of Department and MIFDI member James Vuona.

The training was provided by Chief Vuona with a presentation on lightweight construction in multi-unit apartment complexes and the associated hazards for firefighters. These developments are expected to be one of our firefighting challenges of the future as these large-scale lightweight constructed buildings crop up in our communities.

Following the presentation, a brief business meeting was conducted by President Roche.

Treasurer Michael McLeieer provided a report on the organizations finances.

Member Steve Peresson read the notes of the Mass Fire Training Council meeting provided by MFTC representative Glen Rogers.

Members adjourned for lunch at Bauhinia Restaurant in Shrewsbury.



Chief Jim Vuona speaking to MIFDI members

EMS RUN

Drug May Reduce Cardiac Risks

A new finding could alter the treatment for heart patients. The anti-clotting drug “Rivaroxaban” was found to lower the risk of dying or suffering another heart attack with patients who have had a heart attack or suffering chest pain.

If approved by the FDA, Rivaroxaban could be added as a standard preventative treatment for patients who have had a heart attack or suffer from angina.

The drug (trade name Xarelto) was previously approved to treat blood clots in the legs as well as abnormal heart rhythm, atrial fibrillation. During a heart attack or episodes of angina, blood flow to the heart is sharply reduced. Rivaroxaban is designed to reduce the production of an enzyme that causes clots.

The blood thinner “Coumadin” which is often used for patients following a heart attack is difficult to balance to avoid the risk of an internal bleed. Rivaroxaban has far more dose precision over time. The results are encouraging, however, the FDA will need to consider the risks as well as the benefits before approving it for routine use with heart patients.

LAST ALARM:

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our condolences to the family and friends of **Lieutenant James A. Zahn**, of the Lawrence Fire Department. Lieutenant Zahn, age 47, died on October 29, 2011 from occupational cancer. May he Rest in Peace.



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PARATECH

CONGRATULATIONS:

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our belated congratulations to MIFDI Past President (1994) **Captain Stephen Markarian** of the Peabody Fire Department on his retirement this past year after 32 years of service. We wish him good health and happiness in his retirement.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

PLAN AHEAD FOR 2012>>>>

January 22-25, 2012: FDSOA 2012 Apparatus Symposium
Orlando, FL www.fdsoa.org

January 25, 2012: **MIFDI** – NFPA, Quincy

February 19-23, 2012: FireHouse World 2012
San Diego, CA www.firehouseworld.com

February 22, 2012: **MIFDI** – Billerica

March 28, 2012: **MIFDI** – DFS/MFA, Stow

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**Call Scott Maker, MFA Instructor,
Firefighter/Merrimack Fire Department, with any questions you may
have.**

269-492-3341

REPORT of the PRESIDENT:

Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department

Our November meeting was another informative presentation with a focus on lightweight construction in large-scale apartment complexes. I thank member Chief James Vuona for creating this important program for MIFDI. I also thank Chief Vuona and the members of the Shrewsbury Fire Department for again hosting MIFDI in their impressive new facility.

On November 30, I was once again proud to attend the 2011 Massachusetts Firefighter of the Year Award held this year at the Hanover Theater in Worcester. This is the day that we honor our firefighters from across the Commonwealth for extraordinary acts of bravery during events of the past year. In addition to those being recognized, three members posthumously received the Medal of Honor for making the supreme sacrifice in the line-of-duty during the past year; Rehoboth Firefighter Kenneth Marshall, Pittsfield Firefighter Thomas Lange, & Salisbury Lieutenant Timothy Oliveria. May they rest in Peace and may God watch over their families.

It is that time again when we ask members to support MIFDI by paying their 2012 dues. The cost of MIFDI membership (\$12.50 for retired members and \$25.00 for active members) is worth the monthly bulletin alone. The ten presentations and information received during the year are invaluable. You can never have enough knowledge! Send dues checks to MIFDI, PO Box 507, Merrimac, MA 01860.

On behalf of the MIFDI Officers and Board of Directors, I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Stay Safe and I hope to see you in Chelmsford on the 21st.
Mark

INSTRUCTORS CORNER:

Today's Homes Burn faster Than Ever!

Although residential smoke detectors now provide early warning, a house fire today can become uncontrollable in less than three minutes. According to a report by the National Institute of Standards & Technology it isn't just the type of construction of the house; it's what you put inside. The worst culprit in home fires is the upholstered furniture because it often contains highly flammable polyurethane foam according to a spokesperson for the NASFM. These all too common furnishings provide the fuel for the dreaded flashover. It doesn't help matters that many of today's homes are built with more open floor plans and building materials such as wallboard which can contribute to faster fires.

According to the NFPA, there were 750,000 residential fires in 1977. In 2010 there were roughly half that amount thanks in a large part to the use of residential smoke detectors. There is however, an incredible speed with which home fires can spread in today's homes representing a backwards step in fire safety.

The next big push in home fire safety, as we all know, is the requirement for residential sprinklers in all new construction. The added cost, approximately \$1.60 per sq foot, has contractors and homebuyers reluctant. When given the choice between granite countertops and fire sprinklers, the homebuyers overwhelming choose the countertops!

(Presidents Note)

Those of us in the fire service have our work cut out for us with "selling" the safety of residential fire sprinklers as a life-saving investment for the future. We must also ensure that home furnishings receive higher flammability regulations similar to the standards set for assembly occupancies. As we approach the holiday season, there are still many homes which use "real" Christmas trees. Some of the trees remain in use for 3-4 weeks. Combined with the heating season it doesn't take long for the trees to dry out and burn intensely if ignited. Finally, we must continue to educate homeowners about the importance of testing and maintaining residential smoke detectors 52 weeks a year.

As for our fighters, full PPE when entering, do not get too deep before calling for water, always provide a back-up line for interior crews, and proper ventilation. These are some of the basics for a safe interior offensive operation in these fast burning residential fires.