

The MIFDI BULLETIN

MIFDI
PO BOX 507
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

64th Year
(1959-2023)

Massachusetts Institute
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

December
2022

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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 - 2022

President: Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department (Retired)
 Vice President: Deputy Chief Christopher Kelley, Concord Fire Department (Retired)
 Secretary: Vacant
 Treasurer: Firefighter / Instructor Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department (Retired)

THE MIFDI BOARD of DIRECTORS

Terms Expire 2022

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

Terms Expire 2021

Firefighter / Instructor Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department (Retired) (Past President)
 Chief James M. Vuona, Shrewsbury Fire Department

EDITOR

Firefighter / Instructor Scott D. Maker, Merrimac Fire Department (Retired)

VISIT US ON THE WEB!
www.mifdi.org
E-MAIL- mifditreasurer@escapeinc.org

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors - Tax ID: 04-2307216
2023 Membership Application & Invoice
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2023

**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 _____

<u>Membership Type:</u>	<u>Send Bulletin To:</u>	<u>Membership Dues:</u>
<u>circle one</u>	<u>circle one</u>	<u>Active</u> \$ 35.00
<u>Active</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Retired</u> \$ 15.00
<u>Retired</u>	<u>Work</u>	<u>Associate</u> \$100.00
<u>Associate</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	

There is also a \$10 late fee if dues are paid after April 1st
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: mifditreasurer@escapeinc.org



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MEETING NOTICE

The December meeting of MIFDI will be our Annual Holiday Luncheon for members to get together during the holiday season. This "Social Luncheon" during the past few years has been very well received as we break bread and break some chops!

The lunch will take place on **Wednesday, December 21, 2022** @ 11:45 am at the CAFÉ ESCADRILLE, 26 Cambridge St, Burlington. We will have a table reserved from 11:45-1:30. They have a nice variety of lunch menu items reasonably priced.

We hope to see many old faces attend as well as those members planning to retire in 2023 and moving to a new chapter in their life. For those who wish to attend, shoot me an email at captroche@aol.com or leave me a message at [617-418-0895](tel:617-418-0895) to ensure that we have adequate seating for our group.

DIRECTIONS:

From Rt.128/I-95, take Exit 51A onto Rt.3 South towards Winchester. The restaurant is located a short distance on the left. There is plenty of free parking available.



COASTAL SELECT
PROPERTIES

Glen Rogers

Your Fire Chief Realtor
Friend in North Carolina

Chief.g.a.rogers@gmail.com 508-654-2625

Thinking of
moving south?
Florida a bit
too far from
family and
friends?



Give me a call or
text and let's
talk about
finding you a
place in North
Carolina!

NC #336267
REALTOR

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balances for 01/03/2022
 Preferred C.U. Checking \$ 154.67
 Preferred C.U. Savings \$1,097.27
 CapitalOneSav. Balance \$2,318.72
 Total: \$3,570.66

Bills Paid November 2022:

Dec MIFDI Bulletin - Michael \$120.00 - 11/26
 Roche Bros - Pastry - Mark - Meeting \$ 11.97 - 11/16
 Dunkin - Coffee - Mark - Meeting \$ 45.99 - 11/16
 \$177.96

50/50 Raffle = None

Winner = N/A

Net Proceeds from 50/50 Raffle = N/A

Account Transfers:

PCU Savings to Cking - \$220.00 - 11/26

Total active members = 92

Dues paid thru 2031 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2030 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2027 = 2
 Dues paid thru 2024 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2023 = 8
 Dues paid thru 2022 = 69
 Dues paid thru 2021 = 3
 Dues paid thru 2020 = 7

Mailings

E-Mail - 63 Home - 20
Work - 9
 Total: 92

Balances as of 11/26/2022

Preferred C.U. Checking: \$ 193.47
 Less uncleared checks: \$ (0.00)
 PCU Cking. Balance: \$ 193.47
 PCU Savings Balance: \$ 1,418.46
 Capital One Sav. Balance: \$ 2,370.67
 Total \$ 3,982.60

Membership Totals: 92

53 Active - 35 Retired - 4 Associate

There are no new members who recently joined 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 2023 will be due in January, 2023.**
Please add \$10.00 for late renewals paid after April 1, 2022 for your 2022 dues
- (b) You may now use the 2022 membership application as your invoice. It has MIFDI's tax ID number listed, for your accounts payable department to process the dues payment. Simply use the dues year or payment date as your invoice number.
- (c) All 2022 dues payments mailed in Dec., Jan., Feb. & March have been deposited..

Respectfully submitted

11/26/2022

by Michael McLeieer, Treasurer - 978-346-4731

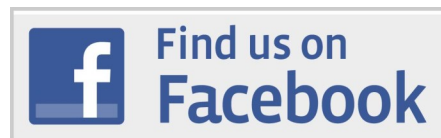
Email: mifditreasurer@escapeinc.org

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

MIFDI will also accept credit card payments. Contact Michael McLeieer for details.**Active Member dues is \$35 / Retired Member dues is \$15 / Associate Member dues is \$100****Please remember to still add a \$10 late fee for renewal dues paid after April 1st, 2022. This fee does not apply to new members or for those who renewed before April 1, 2022.**

**** If you are a Comcast internet subscriber, you may NOT be receiving the MIFDI monthly emails. Please contact me if you are not receiving your digital Bulletin and email notifications. Thanks.**

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 tablet, phone 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

PLEASE NOTE NEW Email: mifditreasurer@escapeinc.org

***Dues are \$35.00 per year for Active members *(\$45 after April 1st)
\$15.00 for Retired members *(\$25 after April 1st)
*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, 2022.**

RECALL OF MEETING #2022-11

The November meeting of MIFDI was held on Wednesday November 16, 2022 hosted by the Natick Fire Department courtesy of Chief Jason Ferschke and Training Captain Justin Mellor.

The training program was provided by Steve Janzen from PV-STOP. This very informative presentation began with a basic overview of the solar power system operation followed by an introduction and operation of the PV-STOP product designed to spray on the panels to isolate the system from continuing to generate power. PV-STOP is applied thorough a 2.5 gallon pressurized extinguisher from the safety of an aerial ladder or platform. This product will address the safety concerns of the rapidly growing solar-power industry and I expect to see this as part of the inventory of every fire department over the next few years.



Northeast Rescue Systems, a name you can trust for top-line products, personal service and customer support. We carry high quality, trusted names in equipment and gear. You can find product lines such as:

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Our New Location
280 Milton St
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EMS Run**RSV in Infants and Young Children**

Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is a common virus that affects the lungs and breathing passages

Each year in the United States, an estimated 58,000–80,000 children younger than 5 years old are hospitalized due to RSV infection. Those at greatest risk for severe illness from RSV include:

- Premature infants
- Infants, especially those 6 months and younger
- Children younger than 2 years old with chronic lung disease or congenital (present from birth) heart disease
- Children with weakened immune systems
- Children who have neuromuscular disorders, including those who have difficulty swallowing or clearing mucus secretions

Early Symptoms of RSV

RSV may not be severe when it first starts. However, it can become more severe a few days into the illness. Early symptoms of RSV may include:

- Runny nose
- Decrease in appetite
- Cough, which may progress to wheezing or difficulty breathing

Call your healthcare provider if your child is having difficulty breathing, not drinking enough fluids, or experiencing worsening symptoms.

Severe RSV Infection

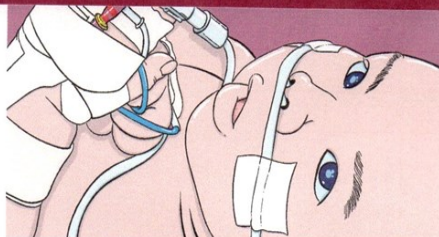
Virtually all children get an RSV infection by the time they are 2 years old. Most of the time RSV will cause a mild, cold-like illness, but it can also cause severe illness such as:

- Bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small airways in the lung)
- Pneumonia (infection of the lungs)

One to two out of every 100 children younger than 6 months of age with RSV infection may need to be hospitalized. Those who are hospitalized may require oxygen, IV fluids (if they aren't eating and drinking), and/or mechanical ventilation (a machine to help with breathing). Most improve with this type of supportive care and are discharged in a few days.

Medication for Babies at High Risk

There is a medicine that can help protect some babies at high risk for severe RSV disease. Healthcare providers usually give this medicine (called palivizumab) to very



premature infants and young children with certain heart and lung conditions as a series of monthly shots during RSV season. If you are concerned about your child's risk for severe RSV infection, talk to your child's healthcare provider.

RSV in Very Young Infants

Infants who get an RSV infection almost always show symptoms. This is different from adults who can have few or no symptoms with RSV infection. In very young infants (less than 6 months old), the only symptoms of RSV infection may be:

- Irritability
- Decreased activity
- Decreased appetite
- Apnea (pauses in breathing more than 10 seconds)

What you should do if your child is at high risk for severe RSV infection

RSV season in most regions of the U.S. starts in the fall and peaks in the winter. If you have contact with an infant or young child, especially those who were born prematurely, have chronic lung or heart disease or a weakened immune system, you should take extra care to keep the infant healthy by doing the following:

- Wash your hands often
- Keep your hands off your face
- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect surfaces
- Stay home when you are sick



Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
National Center for Immunization
and Respiratory Diseases

CS335622-C
November 2022

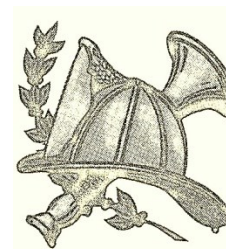
LAST ALARM

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our condolences to the family and friends of the following firefighter who died in November;

Lieutenant Leroy Hamilton of the Boston Fire Department died on November 22, 2022 at age 63 due to occupational cancer.



May He Rest In Peace



CONGRATULATIONS

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our congratulations to the 110 firefighters from 17 departments honored during the 33rd Annual Massachusetts Firefighter of the Year Award Ceremony held on November 18, 2022 at Mechanics Hall in Worcester.

Firefighters from the following fire departments were recognized this year for their heroic actions performed during the past year;

ASHBY, BELLINGHAM, BERLIN, BOLTON, EASTHAM, FALL RIVER, FOXBOROUGH, HOPKINTON, LAWRENCE, LYNN, NAHANT, NATICK, NEW BEDFORD, NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, SPRINGFIELD, STOUGHTON, and TEWKSBURY.



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www.fire-exchange.org

Call Scott Maker,
Firefighter/Merrimac Fire Department, with any questions you may have.

269-492-3341

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8-12, 2023: 2023 Chief's Summit Leadership Conference
Islamorada, FL www.chiefssummit.com

January 14, 2023: Firefighter Safety & Survival Seminar
Plaistow, NH www.nefools.org


January 17-18, 2023: FDSOA 2023 Health & Safety Conference
St. Pete Beach, FL www.fdsoa.org

January 25, 2023: MIFDI

Presented by the New England FOOLS and sponsored by the Scott Weinhold Memorial Fund

THE BIG DEAL

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY & SURVIVAL SEMINAR



Saturday January 14th 2023 at the Plaistow Fish & Game Club, 18 Mayday Ave, Plaistow NH
\$65 donation, lunch included. Proceeds to benefit the Boston Firefighters Burn Foundation.

Visit www.NEFOOLS.org For More Info.



REPORT of the PRESIDENT:

Captain Mark W. Roche (Ret), Newton Fire Department

I thank our November presenter Steve Janzen from PV-STOP for his program on the amazing new product designed to increase fireground safety for firefighters when operating at structures with rooftop solar arrays. I have included Steve's contact information below for those interested in learning more about this product. Thanks also to Natick Chief Jason Ferschke and Training Captain Justin Mellor for hosting MIFDI at Natick's impressive new Station 4.

A reminder for members to not delay sending your annual dues payments for 2023. With increasing costs of printing, postage, website fees and other expenses, this organization relies on the support of our membership to allow MIFDI to continue our mission to provide presentations and information to educate and inform us as fire service professionals. Dues remain at: \$35 Active, \$15 Retired, \$100 ASSOCIATE. Checks can be mailed to: **MIFDI, P.O. Box 507, Merrimac, MA 01860-0510.**

Stay safe and I hope to see you in Burlington on December 21 for our Annual Holiday Luncheon. For those unable to attend, I wish you all Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a safe New Year and hope to see more of you in 2023.

NOTE: As we enter the winter season, be sure to check the MIFDI website for meeting cancellations due to inclement weather:
www.mifdi.org



Steve Janzen
Regional Manager - U.S.

35 Spanker St
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835
p 401-560-0254 m 617-803-3252
e steve@pv-stop.com www.pv-stop.com

INSTRUCTORS CORNER

Solar Panel Safety

The risk from electrocution should be assumed as "Ever Present" be that in direct initial firefighting attendance or through association with neighbouring properties. There is no way of assessing easily if the electric circuits are still live.

As long as solar PV panels are exposed to light they continue to produce potentially lethal amounts of DC electricity. The solar panels and associated wiring leading down to the isolation switch remain "live" presenting an ever present electrical hazard for both first responders and electrical contractors. The only "Safe Operating Procedure" is for attending Utilities to isolate the property from the grid and to coat the PV panels with **PVStop** to block the light from reaching the solar PV panels and isolate the electricity produced by the solar PV system.

Fire is not the only event that could render a PV Solar Panel system unsafe. Other reasons include:

- Physical Damage
- Vermin Attack
- Poor Workmanship/installation
- Component failure/degradation
- Lightning and weather events, hails, water ingress etc.

However, in all these cases solar panels will still produce power at a reduced rate, even if the solar panels are damaged.

Fire and Rescue Services recognise the danger of solar PV systems. With a modification to the Safe Operating Procedures undertaken at an incident, the inclusion of **PVStop** will provide the security and safety for emergency critical personnel, post incident attendances or anyone else required to access the incident perimeter.

Currently the tools available to try and isolate the PV panels from light have been the use of canvas sheets, tarpaulin sheets or thick blankets. All of these methods expose personnel to the risk of electrocution and physical harm and none provide a secure form of coverage.

The only way of rendering a Solar PV Panel System totally safe is to block the light source from reaching the Solar Panel Cells.