

The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

September
2024

MIFDI
PO BOX 507
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

66th Year

(1959-2025)

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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 - 2024

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 2026

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 2025

Firefighter / Instructor Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department (Retired) (Past President)
 Chief James M. Vuona, (Retired) 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
2025 Membership Application & Invoice
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2025

**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

Also email application to Michael McLeieer at
E-mail: mifditreasurer@escapeinc.org



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REALTOR

MEETING NOTICE

The September meeting of MIFDI will be held on **Wednesday, September 25, 2024** hosted by the Needham Fire Department courtesy of Chief Thomas Conroy and Assistant Chief Donald Anastasi. We will meet in the training room at the new Public Safety Building, 88 Chestnut St. (Enter from the A/D-side of the building) MIFDI last met in Needham 10-years ago for our September 2014 meeting.

Our training will be a presentation on the Turtle Fire System nozzle designed for fires involving electric vehicles. This system with a low-profile design is deployed under the vehicle to deliver a large amount of water to the undercarriage directly onto the EV battery storage case. The second session of our training will be on "Traffic Management" for safe operations when dealing with incidents on highways. Special thanks to Pat O'Conner of Northeast Rescue Systems for arranging these presentations.

SCHEDULE:

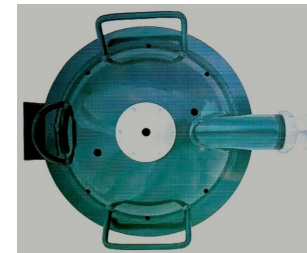
0930: Coffee, 1000: Presentations, 1130: Business Meeting, 1200: Lunch (Off site)

DIRECTIONS:

From the North, take Rt.128/I-95 south to Exit 35C (Highland Ave). Follow Highland Ave 5-traffic lights. At the 5th light, bear right onto Chapel St. When you cross Great Plain Ave. you are on Chestnut St and the fire station is on the left.

From the South, take Rt.128/I-95 north to Exit 32 (Rt.135). Follow Dedham Ave towards Needham. Turn left on School St when you see the "Blue H" hospital sign, after the 2nd stop sign the parking lot is on the right at Lincoln St.

NOTE: There is a parking lot in the rear of the Public Safety complex located at School & Lincoln Sts. Try to avoid the parking close to the station unless you have mobility issues to ensure that there is parking for those conducting fire department business.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balances for 01/02/2024
 Preferred C.U. Checking \$ 170.96
 Preferred C.U. Savings \$1,209.77
 CapitalOneSav. Balance \$2,373.44
 Total: \$3,754.17

50/50 Raffle = \$55.00

Winner = Steve Persson - \$28.00

Net Proceeds from 50/50 Raffle = \$27.00

Total active members = 98

Dues paid thru 2031 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2030 = 2
 Dues paid thru 2027 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2025 = 2
 Dues paid thru 2024 = 59
 Dues paid thru 2023 = 17
 Dues paid thru 2022 = 16

Balances as of 09/08/2024

Preferred C.U. Checking: \$ 141.38
 Less uncleared checks: \$ (0.00)
 PCU Cking. Balance: \$ 141.38
 PCU Savings Balance: \$ 1,573.53
 Capital One Sav. Balance: \$ 2,374.01
 Total \$ 4,088.92

Bills June - August, 2024 - Checking:

Sept. Bulletin - Michael \$120.00 - 08/31
 Tampa FF Charity Fund - PP Rinaldo \$ 50.00 - 08/05
 Constant Contact - Renew email Listsv \$177.10 - 08/04
 Starbucks - Mark - Meeting Coffee \$ 43.80 - 06/26
 Market Basket - Pastry/meeting - Mark \$ 9.09 - 06/25
 TOTAL: \$399.99

Account Transfers:

\$120.00 - PCU Savings to Cking - 09/08/2024
 \$ 1.00 - Capital One Sav to PCU Ck - 07/22

Mailings

E-Mail - 72 Home - 16
 Work - 10
 Total: 98

Membership Totals: 98

52 Active - 42 Retired - 4 Associate

Please welcome this new member who recently joined MIFDI.

- Edward J. Power - Captain - Lynn - 06/26/2024

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 2024 were due in January, 2024.**
Please add \$10.00 for late renewals paid after April 1, 2024 for your 2024 dues.
- (b) You may now use the 2025 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) **New members**, email your application to **MifdiTreasurer@escapeinc.org** (so we can promptly set you up to receive The Bulletin, due to mail and payment processing delays).

Respectfully submitted

09/08/2024

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!

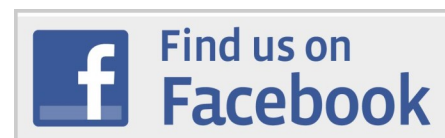
MIFDI will also accept credit card payments. Contact Michael McLeieer for details.

Active Member dues is \$35 / Retired Member dues is \$15 / Associate Member dues is \$100

**** 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. Michael**

Please remember to still add a \$10 late fee for renewal dues paid after April 1st, 2024. This fee does not apply to new members or for those who renew before April 1, 2024.

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). Late fee does not apply to new members.

* 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, 2024.

New members, please email your completed membership application to MifdiTreasurer@escapeinc.org so we can promptly set you up to receive The MIFDI Bulletin (due to delays in mail processing and delay in payments received from cities and towns). Also, include your completed membership application with your payment.

RECALL OF MEETING #2024-06

The June meeting of MIFDI was held on Wednesday June 26, 2024 hosted by the Lexington Fire Department in their Training Room courtesy of Chief Derek Secabaugh.

The training program began with the introduction of Mark Foster, former Director of Massachusetts FEMA Task Force 1. Director Foster retired last November after serving for the past 31-years. He spoke briefly about his fascinating career and signed copies of his book titled "THE FIRST EIGHT DAYS AT GROUND ZERO".

The training continued with MIFDI Treasurer/ PP Michael McLeieer providing the annual recap of some of the highlights from the 2024 FDIC in Indianapolis. As always, Michael gave a great presentation and those in attendance were provided a zip-drive with some of the important topics covered for members to share the information with their respective departments.





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- ☐ Mustang Survival
- ☐ Stearns
- ☐ Mercedes Textiles Hose
- ☐ BW Technologies
- ☐ Genesis Rescue System
- ☐ Koehler-Bright Star
- ☐ Paratech

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PARATECH

EMS RUN

Suicide Prevention Month

September is “National Suicide Prevention Month”, also known as “Suicide Awareness Month”. We all know someone with a family member of this cruel mental health illness. Suicide affects everyone not just the victim, it impacts family and friends long after the loss of a loved one. There is an average of 123 suicide’s each day in this country, the largest age group being 25-34. The majority of suicides are, not surprisingly, people suffering from depression.

Those of us as EMS first responders can remember every call for a suicide in our career, especially if it is a young person. They can also be very gruesome if the person has been hanging for a while or have used a shotgun to end their suffering. We take these calls home with us and try to bury the flashbacks of these incidents and the agony of seeing their loved ones hysterical upon finding the victim. We too are affected by these tragedies.

There appears to be an increase in EMS runs for mental health issues in the past few years. The financial strains due to the economy can push people beyond their coping levels. Those diagnosed with terminal illness can be suicidal to end their suffering and to not burden family with long-term care for them. The bullying of children at school and on social media sites can create depression and thoughts of suicide with young people. Lost love or a person jilted by a lover has always been a trigger for suicide.

The focus of Suicide Awareness Month is to understand behavioral signs of those with suicidal thoughts. Identifying depression can be difficult, not all with depression show signs. People that do talk about killing themselves are a red flag to have them seek treatment before they act upon it.

Families can seek access to resources on suicide prevention through the “National Alliance on Mental Health Illness” website at www.nami.org. The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is 800-273-TALK (8255). There is also a newly created “SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE”; those in need of help can now call “9-8-8”



LAST ALARM

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our condolences to the friends and family of the following:

Former MIFDI member and Past President **DEPUTY CHIEF THOMAS H. RINALDO**, Framingham Fire Department (Retired). Tom died on July 31, 2024 at age 83 in Florida. Tom served as MIFDI Vice President in 1984 and was elected to President in 1985. He was also an Instructor at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy for many years.

Firefighter **MATTHEW M. TROY**, ACTIVE member of the Boston Fire Department. Matt died June 12, 2024 at age 30 as a result of occupational cancer.

Firefighter **MATTHEW E. FORAND**, ACTIVE member of the New Bedford Fire Department. Matt died unexpectedly ON DUTY August 15, 2024 at age 45.

Firefighter **TIMOTHY R. SHIELDS**, ACTIVE member of the Boston Fire Department. Tim died unexpectedly on August 17, 2024 at age 54.



Tom Rinaldo



Matt Troy



Matt Forand



Tim Shields

May They Rest In Peace

CONGRATULATIONS

The Officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our Congratulations to MIFDI member **Chief James M. Vuona** of the Shrewsbury Fire Department upon his retirement on July 31. We wish Jim good health and happiness for the future.



UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

September 21, 2024: National Firefighter Memorial Ceremony
Colorado Springs, CO www.iaff.org

September 25, 2024: MIFDI - NEEDHAM

October 6-12, 2024: NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
"SMOKE ALARMS: Make Them Work for You"

October 16-18, 2024: Fire/Rescue/EMS Expo 2024
Mohegan Sun, CT www.newenglandfirechiefs.org

October 23, 2024: MIFDI

December 7, 2024: Statewide Exam: Fire Alarm Operator
(Application Period from September 9 thru November 5)



REPORT of the PRESIDENT:

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

Well the summer went by too quick as it always does. And speaking of time moving fast, MIFDI is now in its 65th year since our beginning on September 30, 1959. MIFDI at 65 has reached the mandatory retirement age for the fire service, but thankfully the organization remains strong and will continue to offer many more training presentations and provide fire service information for our members. Our mission statement remains the same after 65 years; *"To Promote Fire Department Training and Education by the Mutual Sharing of Knowledge"*. Thank you to everyone who support MIFDI and continue to spread the word about this important training organization.

Stay safe and I hope to see you in Needham on the 25th.



"To Promote Fire Department Training & Education by the Mutual Sharing of Knowledge"

INSTRUCTORS CORNER

School Bus Safety Reminder

Officers and apparatus drivers are again reminded to remain vigilant for school bus pick-up and discharge points in your districts when responding to incidents. Speed of apparatus must be reduced in designated areas along school bus routes and be aware of the last minute children running to catch the bus. Fire department drivers are reminded that they are subject to all Registry of Motor Vehicle Regulations.

CHAPTER 90 General Laws: When approaching a vehicle which displays a sign bearing the name SCHOOL BUS with front and rear signal lamps flashing and stopped to allow passengers to board or discharge, the apparatus driver shall bring the vehicle to a COMPLETE STOP (except on a divided highway), and shall not proceed until the warning lights are deactivated or directed to the contrary by the police or duly authorized traffic control officer.

