

The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

September
2025

MIFDI
PO BOX 507
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

67th Year

(1959-2026)

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	EMS Run
6	Upcoming Events
7	From The Desk Of The President
8	Instructors Corner
9	Congratulations, Good & Welfare / Advertisement
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 - 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
2026 Membership Application & Invoice
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2026

**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



FSP Books

Visit our new location for all of your study material

433 MAIN ST. HUDSON, MA 01749

(3-Miles north of the Mass Fire Academy)

***800-522-8528* www.Fire-Police-EMS.com**



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

MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of MIFDI will be held on **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2025** hosted by the Sherborn Fire Department courtesy of Chief Zack Ward. We will meet in the Training Room of Sherborn Fire Rescue HQ located at 22 North Main St (Rt.27). We last met in Sherborn for our January 2003 meeting.

The training program will be provided by a representative of Morning Pride Protective Clothing with an overview of the new NFPA Standard on PPE. Firefighter PPE is one of the most important items that we provide to ensure the safety of our firefighters. There has been a lot of controversy over the past few years regarding the amount of PFAS within the moisture barrier so it will be important to learn about the changes in the Standard to address this issue.

SCHEDULE: 0930-Coffee, 1000-Presentation, 1130-Discussions, 1200-Lunch (off site)

DIRECTIONS: From Rt.128/I 95, take Rt.9 West in Wellesley to Rt.27 South in Natick. Continue south on Rt.27 directly into Sherborn Center (aprox 4.5 miles) and the fire station is on the left just after where Rt.16 merges onto Rt.27.

From the Mass Pike (I 90), take Exit 117 to Rt.30 East. Follow Rt.30 to Rt.27 (3-lights). Turn right on Rt.27 South and continue directly into Sherborn Center (aprox 5.5 miles) and the fire station is on the left just after where Rt.16 merges onto Rt.27.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balances for 01/02/2025

Preferred C.U. Checking \$ 115.06
 Preferred C.U. Savings \$ 950.97
 CapitalOneSav. Balance \$2,374.79
 Grand Total \$3,440.82

50/50 Raffle = \$37.00

Winner = \$20.00 - Michael Gerry

Net Proceeds from 50/50 Raffle = \$17.00

Total active members = 85

Dues paid thru 2031 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2030 = 2
 Dues paid thru 2027 = 2
 Dues paid thru 2026 = 4
 Dues paid thru 2025 = 52
 Dues paid thru 2024 = 14
 Dues paid thru 2023 = 10

Balances as of 09/16/2025

Preferred C.U. Checking: \$ 209.29
 Less uncleared checks: \$ (0.00)
 PCU Cking. Balance: \$ 209.29
 PCU Savings Balance: \$ 639.98
 Capital One Sav. Balance: \$ 2,376.37
 Grand Total \$ 3,225.64

There are no new members joined MIFDI this period.

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 2025 dues were due in January, 2025.**
Please add \$10.00 for late renewals paid after April 1, 2025 for your 2025 dues.
Invoices have already been sent to those members who have their department pay their dues. Please watch your mail!
- (b) You may now use the 2026 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).
- (d) **Some members have had their dues returned or have not received their monthly Bulletin.**
Please let me know if you are experiencing issues receiving the MIFDI Bulletin.— Michael

Respectfully submitted 09/16/2025

by Michael McLeieer, Treasurer - 978-346-4731

Email: mifditreasurer@escapeinc.org

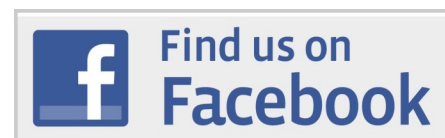
Thank you for your continued support and for the prompt payment of your dues!

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!

Please remember to still add a \$10 late fee for renewal dues paid after April 1st, 2025. This fee does not apply to new members or for those who renew before April 1, 2025.

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



Like MIFDI on Twitter @MIFDIFIRE or @MIFDI



JONES & BARTLETT LEARNING

is your solution for:

- Up-to-Date Certification Training Programs
- Best-Selling FESHE and Fire Science Resources
- Proven Reference and Exam Prep Manuals
- Innovative Student and Instructor Technology Tools

**YOUR
SOLUTION!**

978-443-5000 | www.jblearning.com

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, 2025.
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 #2025-06

The June meeting of MIFDI was held on Wednesday June 25, 2025 hosted by the Lexington Fire Department courtesy of Chief Derek Sencabaugh.

The training was provided by MIFDI Treasurer/Past President Michael McLeieer with another informative recap of the 2025 FDIC conference & Expo held in Indianapolis. Those in attendance were provided a zip-drive with some of the topics covered for members to share with their respective departments. For those who were unable to attend, we have additional zip-drives available by reaching out to Michael at mifditreasurer@escapeinc.org



Our New Location
280 Milton St
Dedham, MA 02026
617-325-3993

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:

- ☐ Morning Pride
- ☐ Warrington PRO
- ☐ Ranger Boots
- ☐ Ranger Combat Ready Gear
- ☐ Paul Conway Shields
- ☐ Sterling Rope
- ☐ CMC Rescue Equipment
- ☐ Mustang Survival
- ☐ Stearns
- ☐ Mercedes Textiles Hose
- ☐ BW Technologies
- ☐ Genesis Rescue System
- ☐ Koehler-Bright Star
- ☐ Paratech











EMS RUN

Suicide Prevention Month

WE PUBLISH THIS ARTICLE EVERY SEPTEMBER BECAUSE IT IS TOO IMPORTANT TO NOT SHARE THIS MESSAGE EACH YEAR

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 following Massachusetts firefighters that we lost over the summer:

Firefighter Paul Messina (ACTIVE) of the Everett Fire Department died on June 6, 2025 due to occupational cancer at age 62.

Firefighter George M. Zinkus (Retired) of the Worcester Fire Dept. died on June 6, 2025 at age 77. George was a 25-year member of the MFA Support Team working in the “Crib”.

Call-Firefighter Anthony E. Luoni (ACTIVE) of the Sherborn Fire & Rescue on June 25, 2025 due to cardiac arrest after a battle with cancer at age 48.

Firefighter Alan C. King (ACTIVE) of the Dartmouth Fire Dist. 3 died unexpectedly on June 25, 2025 at age 55.

Firefighter John JJ Evans (ACTIVE) of the Boston Fire Dept. died on July 30, 2025 from occupational cancer at age 64.

Firefighter Matthew Callahan (ACTIVE) of the Watertown Fire Department died on August 20, 2025 from occupational cancer at age 38.



Paul Messina



George Zinkus



Anthony Luoni



Alan King



John Evans



Mat Callahan

May They Rest In Peace

CONGRATULATIONS



As initially reported in the June MIFDI Bulletin, the officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our congratulations to **JONPAUL "JP" SEIVANE** upon being named as the new Director of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy effective on June 15, 2025.

We wish Director Seivane great success in this important position and we look forward to working with him regarding Firefighter Training & Safety in Massachusetts.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

September 17-18, 2025: DFS Fire & Life Safety Conference
Mansfield, MA www.mass.gov/DFS

September 19, 2025: Greenwood EV Open House
North Attleborough www.greenwoodev.com

September 20, 2025: National Firefighters Memorial
Colorado Springs, CO www.iaff.org

September 24, 2025: MIFDI –SHERBORN

October 5-11, 2025: National Fire Prevention Week

October 22, 2025: MIFDI – CAMBRIDGE

October 29-31, 2025: NEAFC 2025 Conference & Expo
Mohegan Sun, CT www.newenglandfirechiefs.org



REPORT of the PRESIDENT:

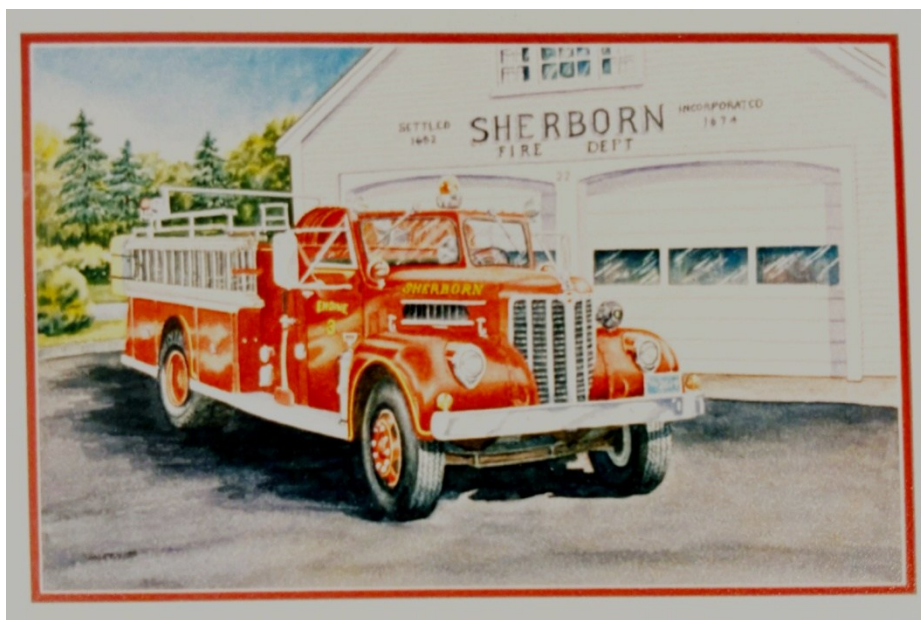
Captain Mark W. Roche (Ret), Newton Fire Department

As we begin the 67th year of this important training organization, I want to extend my thanks to our loyal members who have continued to remain part of MIFDI, some for close to 50-years! I also want to thank those who work behind the scenes for the successful operation MIFDI, I couldn't do this without their support.

We have many great training programs lined up for the upcoming year but as always, if you have any ideas for presentations or meeting locations, they are always important to add to the list.

Another reminder to members, if you know of any recent promotions occurring within your department, let them know about this organization to spread the word about MIFDI.

Stay safe and we hope to see you in Sherborn on September 24.



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

INSTRUCTORS CORNER

Metal Roof Coverings

Recently there have been advertisements promoting residential metal roof covering claiming "*It Looks Like A Shingle But Strong As Steel*". Some concerns for the fire service with these look-alike roofs are;

- When heading to the roof to provide vertical ventilation with your roof chain saw, you may unfortunately be surprised to find out you are on a metal roof and there will be a delay with ventilation for the interior crews while you retreat to the truck for the K12 with the metal cutting blade.
- Will an axe be able to break through these metal coverings or will it bounce off?
- When operating on a pitched roof, can we expect an increased slip hazard when exposed to rain or snow?
- If an electric power drops on the roof, can we expect an electric shock hazard on the entire roof?
- If the metal roof is covering a light-weight wood roof, will the wood support system burn away undetected under the metal covering similar to a terrazzo floor covering causing a catastrophic collapse dumping the roof crew into the burning structure below?

Be aware of these metal coverings in your district for both new construction and recovering existing structures. This is the important information that should be programmed in your MDT's under "Special Information" along with rooftop solar panels. Your local community building department should have a list of properties issued permits with metal roof coverings, solar arrays, and other potential hazards to program in our dispatch system to alert the Incident Commanders of these added challenges during structure fires.

Roof ventilation is a dangerous operation but very important for offensive firefighting. Try to work from an aerial ladder or tethered to a tower bucket whenever possible to help reduce the potential risks on the roof.



The Look of Shingles with the Strength of Steel!

