

The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

October
2025

MIFDI
PO BOX 507
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

67th Year

(1959-2026)

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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 - 2025

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>Retired</u>	<u>Retired</u> \$ 15.00
<u>Retired</u>	<u>Associate</u>	<u>Associate</u> \$100.00
<u>Associate</u>	<u>Home</u>	
<u>Home</u>	<u>Work</u>	
<u>Work</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 October meeting of MIFDI will be held on **Wednesday, October 22, 2025** hosted by the Cambridge Fire Department courtesy of A/Chief Thomas Cahill. MIFDI last met in Cambridge for our April 2014 meeting. The meeting will be held at the Cambridge Fire Training Division located at the quarters of Engine 3 & Ladder 2 located at 173 Cambridge St, East Cambridge opposite the Middlesex County Registry of Deeds.

The training presentation will be provided by Assistant Chief John Cotter with an overview on the new training prop constructed on the site at the rear of the firehouse. The new facility offers: Rappelling, Upper-level rescues, Forcible entry, Ventilation on an angled roof, Confined space rescues, Visibility challenges, and Standpipe operations. Cambridge was the first department in Massachusetts to achieve Class 1 status but would lose credit due to lack of a training facility. This new training structure now satisfies that needed requirement.

SCHEDULE:

0900 Coffee, 1000 Presentation, 1030 Tour of the Training Building, 1130 Business meeting, 1200 Lunch (Off site)

DIRECTIONS:

From the Mass Pike (I-90), take Exit 131 towards Cambridge. Follow River St straight onto Prospect St all the way to Cambridge St. Turn right on Cambridge St and follow 4-traffic lights, turn left on Third St and then first right on Gore St to the rear of the firehouse.

There is parking on Gore St, Second St, & Cambridge St but many of those spots are residential parking. It is suggested that we use the CambridgeSide Galleria parking garage at 88 First St. and walk a few blocks to the firehouse at Cambridge St & Second St. The CFD will offer parking vouchers. There is HP parking at the firehouse for those that need it.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balances for 01/02/2025
 Preferred C.U. Checking \$ 115.06
 Preferred C.U. Savings \$ 950.97
 CapitalOne Sav. Balance \$2,374.79
 Grand Total \$3,440.82

Bills September 2025 - Checking:
 October Bulletin - Michael \$ 120.00 - 09/30
TOTAL: \$ 120.00

50/50 Raffle = \$55.00

Winner = \$30.00 - Capt. Mark Wolfgang - Revere
 Net Proceeds from 50/50 Raffle = \$25.00

Account Transfers:
 PCU Savings to Cking - \$120.00 - 10/11/2025

Total active members = 79

Dues paid thru 2031 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2030 = 2
 Dues paid thru 2027 = 2
 Dues paid thru 2026 = 4
 Dues paid thru 2025 = 53
 Dues paid thru 2024 = 13
 Dues paid thru 2023 = 4

Mailings

E-Mail - 52 Home - 17
 Work - 10
 Total: 79

Balances as of 10/11/2025

Preferred C.U. Checking: \$ 269.29
 Less uncleared checks: \$ (0.00)
 PCU Cking. Balance: \$ 269.29
 PCU Savings Balance: \$ 520.24
 Capital One Sav. Balance: \$ 2,376.57
 Grand Total \$ 3,225.64

Membership Totals: 79
 42 Active - 33 Retired - 4 Associate

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 10/11/2025

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!

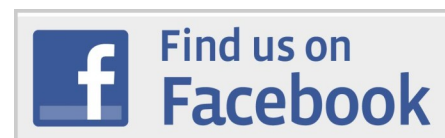
MIFDI will also accept credit card payments. Contact Michael McLeieer for details.

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



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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, 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 #2025-09

The September meeting of MIFDI was held on Wednesday September 24, 2025 hosted by the Sherborn Fire Department courtesy of Chief Zack Ward.

The training was provided by Paul Jacobs, representative of Morning Pride Protective Clothing. Paul gave an informative power-point update of the new NFPA 1970 Standard on Firefighting PPE which includes upgrades of material testing, cleaning and maintenance. The new standard also addresses the issues with concerns over the acceptable amount of PFAS in the moisture barrier.

KEY CHANGES IN TURNOUT GEAR CLOTHING

- MANDATORY PARTICULATE-BLOCKING HOODS.
- PFAS (TOTAL FLUORINE) CONCENTRATION LABELING AND RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES.
- ENSURING GEAR MAINTAINS PERFORMANCE OVER SERVICE LIFE.
- ADJUSTED MOISTURE BARRIER REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-PFAS OPTIONS.
- NEW BREATHABILITY TEST METHODS.
- IMPROVED GLOVE SIZING AND PRODUCT LABELING.
- CLEANING EFFECTIVENESS STANDARDS.
- OPTIONAL SYSTEM-WIDE ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA.



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- ☐ 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

Our New Location
280 Milton St
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617-325-3993












EMS RUN

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH, an annual campaign to raise awareness of this illness. Breast cancer not only affects women, men can also develop breast cancer as well.

In 2025, it is estimated that 316,950 cases of breast cancer will be detected in the US including both women and men. An estimated 42,880 people will lose their lives to metastatic breast cancer in 2025. Again, the importance of early detection is the key for survival of this dreaded disease.



LAST ALARM

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

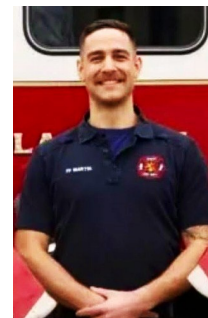
Call-Firefighter/EMT Jack H. Bonazzoli (ACTIVE) of the Sterling Fire Department. Jack died on August 31, 2025 at age 23 due to injuries received from a motorcycle accident while off duty.

Firefighter Jacob Martin (ACTIVE) of the Dracut Fire Department. Jake died unexpectedly on September 18, 2025 at age 32.

Firefighter Wayne Conlon of the Dennis Fire Department died from occupational cancer less than 5-years of his retirement on September 21, 2025 at age 68.



Jack Bonazzoli



Jake Martin



Wayne Conlon

May They Rest In Peace

CONGRATULATIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

October 20-21, 2025: Mastering Fireground Command
Reading, MA www.trainfirefighters.com

October 22, 2025: **MIFDI – CAMBRIDGE**

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

November 2, 2025: End Daylight Saving Time

November 15, 2025: Statewide Exam; District & Deputy Chief

November 19, 2025: **MIFDI**

**MASTERING FIREGROUND COMMAND
CALM THE CHAOS!
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**October 20-21, 2025
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Reading, MA – 0830-1700**

Registration \$250, at Trainfirefighters.com or click QR Code

REPORT of the PRESIDENT:

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

Our September meeting was a very important update on the new NFPA Standard on PPE for Firefighters. I thank Paul Jacobs, Representative from Morning Pride Protective Clothing for his presentation. I also thank Pat O'Conner from Northeast Rescue Systems for arranging this program. Finally, special thanks to Chief Zack Ward and the members of the Sherborn Fire Department for allowing MIFDI the use of their training room for our meeting.

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 Cambridge on October 22.



This one is for you Steve!

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

INSTRUCTORS CORNER



On September 25, 2025, the DFS/MFA Bridgewater Campus formerly dedicated a new Burn Building/Training prop. This training structure is an important milestone for the long term build-out of this campus. Features include: 11 burn rooms throughout 3 floors. Scenarios offer fires involving 3-decker porches, interior fire extension, garage fires, attacking basement fires through a bulkhead, standpipe ops, and roof ventilation.

The next project for the Bridgewater campus plan will be construction of a fire station for storage of fire apparatus and support vehicles as well as a "Tool Crib". This is another great advancement for the future of firefighter training in the Commonwealth.

