

# The **MIFDI** **BULLETIN**

Massachusetts Institute  
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
INSTRUCTORS**

January/February  
2026

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>Associate</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Associate</u> \$100.00
	<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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**COASTAL SELECT  
PROPERTIES**

## Glen Rogers

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



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talk about  
finding you a  
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NC #336267  
REALTOR

### **MEETING NOTICE(S)**

Our January meeting will actually be held on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026** hosted once again by the National Fire Protection Association located at One Batterymarch Park, Quincy courtesy of NFPA President Jim Pauley. MIFDI was last hosted at NFPA in January 2024.

**(Note the change of date to accommodate our presenter)** MIFDI will be welcomed by Barbara Dunn who helped to arrange this meeting for MIFDI. We will meet in one of the classrooms which will be posted at the front reception desk. Our training presentation will be on the increase of fires involving EV bikes.

#### **SCHEDULE:**

**0930:** Coffee, **1000:** Program, **1130:** Business meeting, **1200:** Lunch (off site)

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

From Rt. 128 (I-93), take Exit 6 which is Rt. 37. At the end of the exit head EAST toward Quincy. Travel 3 traffic lights (approx 1-mile). At the third light, turn right on Batterymarch Park. The NFPA is in Building 1.

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Our February meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 25, 2026** hosted by Boston MedFlight located at 150 Hanscom Drive, Bedford at Hanscom Air Field courtesy of Training Coordinator Mary Arrendondo. MIFDI last met at MedFlight for our November 2012 meeting which was one of our more popular training meetings. The presentation will include safety procedures when operating around the aircraft either at a designated LZ or on a major highway as well as what the pilots expect from us to ensure a safe landing.

#### **SCHEDULE:**

**0930:** Coffee, **1000:** Presentation, **1130:** Tour of aircraft & facility, **1200:** Lunch (off site)

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

From I-95, take Rt.2A (Exit 46B). Follow Rt.2A to Hanscom Dr. When you get to the round-about, Head 12:00 towards Hanscom Field, DO NOT take the road to the military base. Medflight is in the first building on the right. There is plenty of parking across the road.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Beginning Balances for 01/02/2026  
 Preferred C.U. Checking \$ 259.13  
 Preferred C.U. Savings \$ 870.37  
 CapitalOneSav. Balance \$2,377.17  
 Grand Total \$3,506.67

50/50 Raffle = None  
 Winner = N/A  
 Net Proceeds from 50/50 Raffle = N/A

Total active members = 69

Dues paid thru 2031 =	1
Dues paid thru 2030 =	2
Dues paid thru 2027 =	2
Dues paid thru 2026 =	48
Dues paid thru 2025 =	14
Dues paid thru 2024 =	2

Balances as of 01/24/2026  
 Preferred C.U. Checking: \$ 477.96  
 Less uncleared checks: \$ ( 0.00 )  
 PCU Cking. Balance: \$ 477.96  
 PCU Savings Balance: \$ 870.37  
 Capital One Sav. Balance: \$ 2,377.17  
 Grand Total \$ 3,514.63

**New Members -****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, 2026 for your 2026 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 01/24/2026

by Michael McLeier, Treasurer - 978-346-4731  
 Email: [mifditreasurer@escapeinc.org](mailto: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 McLeier 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, 2026.**

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](http://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](http://www.mifdi.org)



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**RENEWAL of DUES or NEW MEMBERSHIPS may be addressed to:**

MIFDI - Attn: Michael McLeerer, Treasurer  
PO Box 507, Merrimac, MA 01860-0510  
Phone: (978) 346-4731

**PLEASE NOTE NEW Email:** [mifditreasurer@escapeinc.org](mailto: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, 2026.**

**New members,** please email your completed membership application to [MifdiTreasurer@escapeinc.org](mailto: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.

**Northeast Rescue Systems**

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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- Paul Conway Shields
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- Stearns
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- BW Technologies
- Genesis Rescue System
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RESCUE EQUIPMENT

**Mercedes Textiles**

## **RECALL OF MEETING #2025-12**

The December meeting of MIFDI was held on Wednesday December 17, 2025 held at the Café Escadrille in Burlington. This was our Annual Holiday Luncheon to close out the year 2025 with an enjoyable event of good food and stories shared with our members.



***A moment of silence was held in Honor of  
Late MIFDI Member Ed Williamson***

## **EMS RUN A Surging Flu Season Underway**

As the New Year began, the CDC is reporting very high levels of flu in many areas of the country. The latest strain of influenza, "Subclade K" is a mutation of Influenza A with an increase of severity.

According to the CDC, the most common flu symptoms include;

- Fever
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Some may experience vomiting and diarrhea (More common in children)

If symptoms worsen, they could develop into the following;

- Shortness in breath, trouble breathing or rapid breathing
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Bluish lips or face (in children)
- Dizziness, confusion, difficulty arousing
- Dehydration
- Worsening fever or cough
- Seizures
- Fever as high as 104 degrees
- Any fever in children younger than 12-weeks
- Worsening of chronic health conditions

According to the CDC, the flu and common cold are both respiratory illness. The flu is caused by the influenza virus while the common cold can be caused by viruses including; rhinoviruses, parainfluenza and seasonal Covid-19.

**Members are reminded to use universal precautions including N95 mask and gloves when responding to EMS runs in nursing homes, assisted living facilities or with persons presenting with any of these symptoms. Be sure to clean your equipment well after these calls, and always use your hand sanitizer before getting back in the rig and touching door handles, steering-wheels and radio microphone. And don't leave your used gloves on the floor of the apparatus for someone else to dispose of!**

## **LAST ALARM**

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

**Firefighter Edward C. Williamson** (Retired) of the Norwood Fire Department. Ed died on December 1, 2025 at age 85 after a period of declining health. He was appointed to the Norwood Fire Department on June 1, 1964 and retired June 30, 2005 after 41 years. Eddy was a longtime loyal member of MIFDI and rarely missed a meeting. We will miss his input at meetings and his friendship.

**Fire Lt. Paul R. Finn** (Retired) of the Boston Fire Department. Paul died on January 5, 2026 at age 80 from the effects of cancer. He was appointed to the Boston Fire Department on February 19, 1969 and retired on March 31, 2010 after 41 years. Paul was a friend to many within the fire service, will miss his great sense of humor.



*May They Rest in Peace*

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our congratulations and best wishes to **LT. TOM RINOLDO** upon his retirement from the Framingham Fire Department on January 15, 2026 after 32-years.

Tom also served as an Instructor at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy for many years. He was the son of late MIFDI Past President (1985) Tom Rinoldo.

We wish Lt. Rinoldo good health and happiness in his retirement!



## **UPCOMING EVENTS 2026**

February 2, 2026: [BFIT Challenge 2026](#)  
TD Garden, Boston [www.homebase.org](http://www.homebase.org)

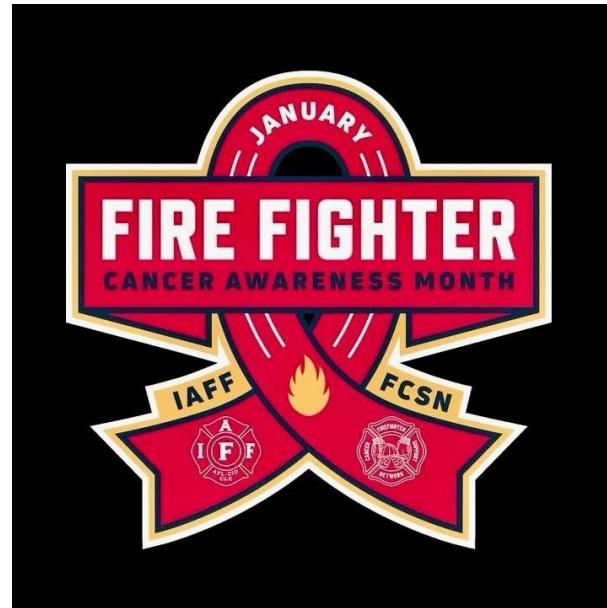
February 11, 2026: [MIFDI- NFPA](#)

February 24-26, 2026: [FCAM Professional Development Conference](#)  
DCU Center, Worcester [www.facm.org](http://www.facm.org)

February 25, 2026: [MIFDI – Medflight](#)

March 13-15, 2026: [N.E. Fools 2026 Fire Summit](#)  
Wells, ME [www.nefools.org](http://www.nefools.org)

March 25, 2026: [MIFDI – DFS/MFA](#)



## **REPORT of the PRESIDENT:**

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

As we begin a new year of MIFDI, I want to again thank those loyal longtime members for supporting this important training organization throughout the years. I also want to thank those who work behind the scene to keep MIFDI operating each and every month.

Apologies to those who plan their schedules around the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday to attend meetings, sometime we need to make adjustments with days and or times to accommodate our presenters and training locations.

A reminder to members to not delay sending in dues for 2026, dues remain at \$35 for Active Members, \$15 for Retired Members, and \$100 for Associate Members. Mail to: MIFDI, P.O. Box 507, Merrimac, MA 01860-0510. Thank you for your continued support.

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 at NFPA on February 11 & at Medflight on February 25.

### **REMEMBER TO CHECK THE MIFDI WEBSITE FOR MEETING CANCELLATIONS DUE TO WINTER STORMS**



Wishing

Safe & Healthy 2026

everyone

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

## **INSTRUCTORS CORNER**

### ***Important Reminder on Carbon Monoxide***

# **Carbon Monoxide Safety**

Hundreds of people die accidentally each year from CO poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances (EPA data). According to the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, CO is the number one cause of poisoning deaths in the U.S.

Carbon monoxide gas is produced whenever any fuel, such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal is burned.

### **Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning**

CO enters the lungs and blood where it competes with oxygen normally carried by red blood cells. CO attaches to the cells 200 times easier than oxygen. Without oxygen, cells begin to die.

Exposure to carbon monoxide can produce flu-like symptoms such as:

- Headache
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Confusion
- Fainting

At higher levels, CO exposure can cause:

- Unconsciousness
- Death

### **What to Do If You Suspect CO Exposure**

- Get out of the house or car and get fresh air.
- Call the fire department from a neighbor's house.
- If you have symptoms, seek medical help immediately.

### **Carbon Monoxide is:**

- *Poisonous*
- *Odorless*
- *Colorless*
- *Tasteless*