MIFDI
PO BOX 507
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

67th Year
(1959-2026)

The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute OF



FIRE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTORS

December
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 - 2026

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 2027
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 2026
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

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Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors - Tax ID: 04-2307216
2027 Membership Application & Invoice
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2027

Your MIFDI Dues are due Jan. 1st

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF FIRE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTORS

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 _____

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

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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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 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 16, 2026** at the CAFÉ ESCADRILLE, 26 Cambridge St, Burlington. We will have a table reserved from 11:45-1:30 **(NOTE the later time).** 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 2026 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 or text at 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.

NOTE: AS WE ARE AGAIN IN THE WINTER SEASON, MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO CHECK THE MIFDI WEBSITE AT WWW.MIFDI.ORG FOR MEETING CANCELLATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS.



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

Bills November 2026 - Checking:

Dec Bulletin - McLeieer	$120.00 - 11/28
Market Basket - Roche (meeting)	$ 15.16 - 11/18
Dunkin - Roche - Coffee (meeting)	$ 54.59 - 11/18
TOTAL:	$189.75

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

Account Transfers:
PCU Savings to Cking $220.00 **11/28**

Total active members = 72

Dues paid thru 2031 =	1
Dues paid thru 2030 =	1
Dues paid thru 2028 =	2
Dues paid thru 2027 =	7
Dues paid thru 2026 =	54
Dues paid thru 2025 =	7

Mailings

E-Mail - 46 Home - 17
Work - 9
Total: 72

Balances as of 11/28/2026

Preferred C.U. Checking:	$ 204.97
Less uncleared checks:	$ (0.00)
PCU Cking. Balance:	$ 204.97
PCU Savings Balance:	$ 203.39
Capital One Sav. Balance:	$ 2,378.15
Grand Total	$ 2,786.51

Membership Totals: 72
36 Active - 32 Retired - 4 Associate

There are no new members who 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 2027 dues are due in January, 2027.*** ***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 2027 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 11/28/2026
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, 2027. This fee does not apply to new members or for those who renew before April 1, 2027.

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

Find us on Facebook

Like MIFDI on Twitter @MIFDIFIRE or @MIFDI



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, 2027.**
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.

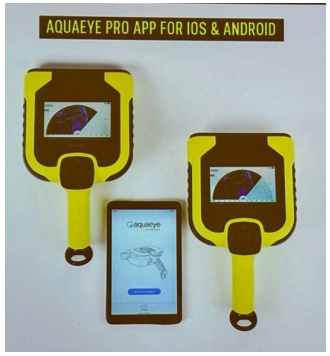


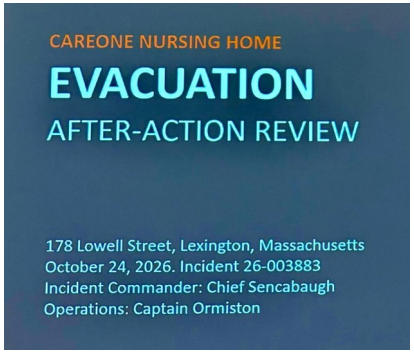
RECALL OF MEETING # 2026-11

The November meeting of MIFDI was held on Wednesday November 18, 2026 hosted by the Lexington Fire Department at their HQ station courtesy of Derek Sencabaugh.

Our training program was offered by Doug Peyser from AquaEye. Doug provided a Zoom presentation on the capabilities and advantages of using AquaEye, a hand-held sonar system deployed to assist with locating drowning victims underwater.

Following the AquaEye program, Lexington Assistant Chief Chris Ford provided members with a fascinating power-point overview of the incident at the CareOne Health Care facility in Lexington on October 25. 2026. The After Action Review focused on the challenges and resources required during the evacuation of over 130 patients and staff.



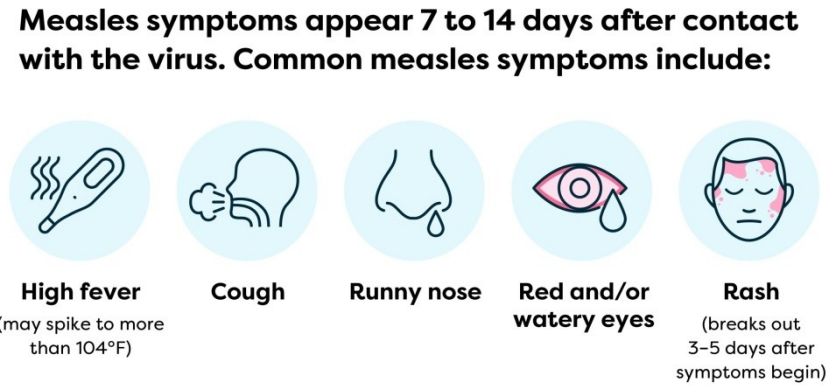


EMS RUN

Measles Outbreaks

According to the CDC, there have been over 5800 confirmed cases of measles in the United States as of November 2026, including Massachusetts. Measles can be severe, in 2025 12% of measles cases in the U.S. were hospitalized and there were 3 confirmed deaths from measles. While the risk of measles remains low in the United States due to high immunization coverage, anyone who is not protected against measles is at high risk if exposed.

Measles is extremely contagious and begins with; fever, cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis, followed a rash that starts on the face and spreads downward on the body. Infected people are contagious from 4 days before the rash starts through 4 days afterward. The virus is transmitted by direct contact with infectious droplets or by airborne spread when an infected person breaths, coughs, or sneezes and can remain in the air and on surfaces for up to 2 hours after an infected person leaves the area. Measles can cause severe health complications, including pneumonia, encephalitis, and death.



When responding to a call where a patient presents with these symptoms, even though most of us thankfully have had the vaccination at a young age, be sure to deploy universal precautions including gloves and N95 mask including applying a mask on the patient.
You must notify the receiving hospital that you are on the way to their facility with a patient presenting with possible measles symptoms so they can prepare an isolation room for the patient. And finally be sure to decon your equipment and inside the ambulance to protect your next patient.

LAST ALARM

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

Firefighter/Paramedic Elizabeth Hunt, of the Walpole Fire Department. Liz died unexpectedly on November 3, 2026 at age 35.

Firefighter Jeremy G. Clark of the Hamilton Fire Department. Jeremy died unexpectedly on November 16, 2026 at age 52.

Firefighter Mason D. Freitas of the Wareham Fire Department. Mason died from injuries received off duty from a motorcycle accident on November 20, 2026 at age 23.



Liz Hunt



Jeremy Clark



Mason Freitas

May They Rest In Peace

CONGRATULATIONS

The Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offers our congratulations to the firefighters from the following communities who were recognized during the **2026 ANNUAL FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARDS CEREMONY** on November 23:

ASHLAND, BELLINGHAM, BOSTON, BROOKLINE, BOURNE, DANVERS, DUXBURY, EAST LONGMEADOW, EASTHAM, FALL RIVER, FRANKLIN, GRAFTON, IPSWICH, ROWLEY, LYNNFIELD, MEDWAY, NEW BEDFORD, NEWTON, ROCKLAND, SALEM, SOMERVILLE, SOUTHBOROUGH, SOUTHBRIDGE, STOW, SUDBURY, TOWNSEND, YARMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY, & "HOPE BEYOND THE BADGE"



Congratulations to all of the Award Recipients

UPCOMING EVENTS (2027):

January 25-28, 2027: FDSOA Health, Safety & Apparatus Conference
Scottsdale, AZ www.fdsoa.org

January 27, 2027: **MIFDI**

January 31, 2027: B-FIT Challenge 2027
TD Garden, Boston www.bfit@bostonbruins.com

February 5, 2027: Statewide Exam for Fire Alarm Operator
(Deadline to file is January 5)



REPORT of the PRESIDENT:

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

Our November meeting was again hosted by the Lexington Fire Department at their HQ Station. Special thanks to Chief Derek Sencabaugh and Assistant Chief Chris Ford as well as the members of the Lexington FD for their accommodations. Thanks to the Doug Peyser from AquaEye for providing this important product information on the hand-held sonar device to assist with locating drowning victims under water. Thanks also to A.C. Ford for the fascinating overview on the challenges and large amount of resources required during the evacuation of over 130 residents and staff from a nursing facility in Lexington on October 25, 2026.

Stay safe and we hope to see you at our Annual Holiday Luncheon on the 16th. For those unable to attend, I wish you a Happy Holiday and a safe and healthy New Year.

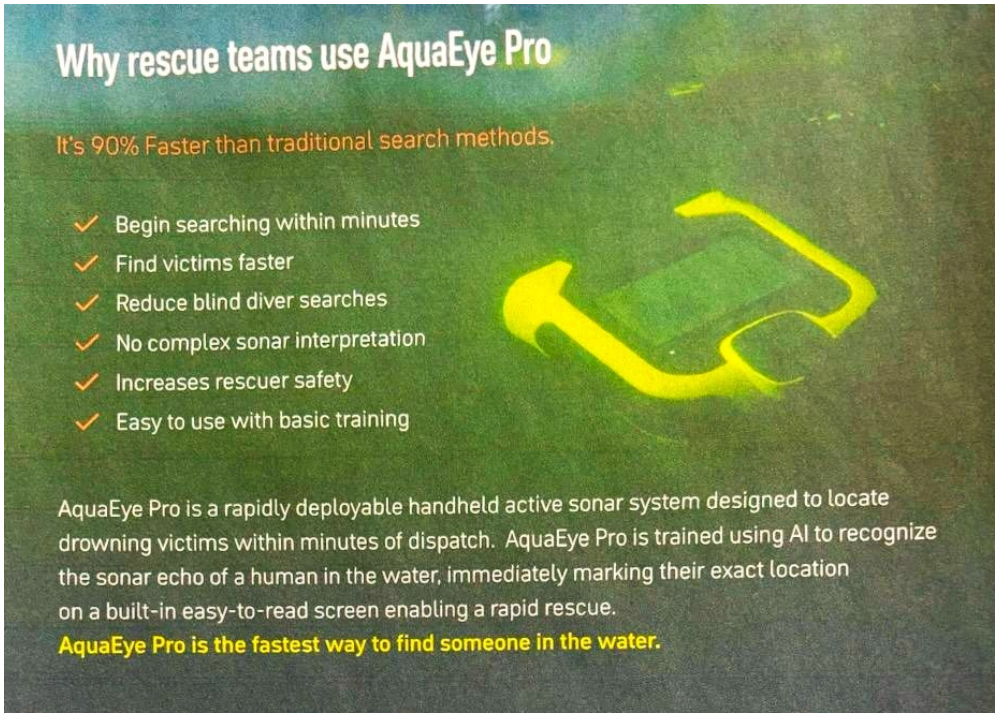


"To Promote Fire Department Training & Education by the Mutual Sharing of Knowledge"

INSTRUCTORS CORNER

AquaEye Fast Water Rescue Device

When arriving at a drowning incident and waiting for the arrival of a boat and/or divers, where every second counts we can begin the search by deploying this hand-held sonar device to help locate victims under water.



ARRIVE – SCAN WATER - IDENTIFY TARGETS – DEPLOY RESCUER

For more information contact www.aquaeye.com