

The **MIFDI** BULLETIN

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

MIFDI
PO BOX 507
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

January
2006

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	Special Feature Article
6	Upcoming Events
7	From The Desk Of The President
8	Instructors Corner
9	Congratulations
10	Last Alarm, Line of Duty Deaths
11	Dues Information
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 - 2006

President: Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department
 1st Vice President: Captain Brian F. Belliveau, Fitchburg Fire Department
 2nd Vice President: Vacant
 Secretary: Vacant
 Treasurer: Firefighter / Instructor Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department

THE MIFDI BOARD of DIRECTORS

Terms Expire 2006
 Deputy Chief John Sullivan, Billerica Fire Department
 Assistant Chief Robert MacKendrick, Lynnfield Fire Department (Retired)
 Chief Richard Gomes, Norton Fire Department
 Firefighter / Instructor Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department (Past President)

Terms Expire 2007

Lieutenant George Churchill, Brockton Fire Department (retired)
 Captain Kevin Breen, Swampscott Fire Department
 Captain Barry Aptt, Gloucester Fire Department

EDITOR

Firefighter / Instructor Scott D. Maker, Merrimac Fire Department

VISIT US ON THE WEB!
www.mifdi.org
E-MAIL- info@mifdi.org

**Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors
 Membership Application
 Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2006**

**It's Time to Renew
 your MIFDI Dues...**



**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:	Send Bulletin To:	Membership Dues:
<u>circle one</u>	<u>circle one</u>	<u>Active</u> \$ 25.00
<u>Active</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Retired</u> \$ 12.50
<u>Retired</u>	<u>Work</u>	<u>Associate</u> \$100.00
<u>Associate</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	

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) 834-2015 or (978) 346-4731, ext. 1
 E-mail: michael.mcLeieer@merrimacfire.com

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JANUARY MEETING

The 492nd meeting of MIFDI will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2006. We will be the guests of the Kidde-Fenwel Fire Systems facility located at 400 Main Street, Ashland (one block in from Rt. 135).

The training presentation will be provided by the staff of Kidde-Fenwel with a tour and explanation of their fire protection facility which specializes in various types of fire suppression systems. This should be a very informative meeting as we learn about the products and technology regarding these systems.

SCHEDULE:

- 0900** Coffee
- 1000** Presentation & Tour
- 1130** Business Meeting
- 1200** Lunch (Off Site)

DIRECTIONS:

Ashland is located in Middlesex County 26 miles west of Boston.

From Rt. 495; Take Exit 21A towards Hopkinton. Continue approx 5 miles (6 traffic lights) to Main St. Turn right onto Main St. and the Kidde-Fenwel Plant is located on the left.

From Mass Pike; Take Exit 13 towards Framingham approx 1 mile to Rt. 126. Follow Rt. 126 South approx 2 miles (6 traffic lights) to Rt. 135. Turn right onto Rt. 135 West approx 3 miles (6 traffic lights) to Main St. Turn Left onto Main St. and the Kidde-Fenwel plant is on the left.

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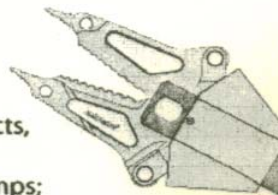
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TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balances for 1/2006

Checking 172.36
Savings 1,327.88
 Total \$1,500.24

50/50 Raffle = Collected
 Winner =
 Deposit from 50/50 Raffle =

Total active members = 95

Dues paid thru 2007 = 1
 Dues paid thru 2006 = 39
 Dues paid thru 2005 = 55
 Dues paid thru 2004 = 25 (deleted this month)

Balances as of 01/03/2006

Bank Statement Checking: \$ 671.59
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 216.95)
 Checking Balance: \$ 454.64
Savings Balance: \$1,134.88
 Total \$1,589.52

New Members:

Neal Doherty - (Retired) - November
 Jeffrey Maguire - Captain - Peabody Fire Department - December

Treasurer Notes:

- (a) *Reminder, your dues are DUE now for 2006. Please remember to look at your mailing label for the PAID THROUGH date.*
- (b) *If anyone needs an invoice for their city or town to pay their membership dues, or if you have any other questions about your membership, please feel free to contact me directly.*

Respectfully submitted 01/03/2006
 Michael McLeicer
 Treasurer

Thank you for your support!

Bills Paid December:

Jan 06 Newsletter \$105.00 Mike
 Annual Website Fee \$ 71.95 Mike
 Speaker's Lunch - \$ 40.00 Mark
 (Note: \$20.00 was for Speaker's
 lunch & \$20.00 was overpayment
 refund of Michael Patterson's
 dues - refund owed to Mark).

Mailings

E-Mail - 23 Home - 62
 Work - 10
 95

Membership Totals

64 Active - 28 Retired - 3 Associate

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 Teaticket, MA 02356

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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) 864-2015 or (978) 346-4731, ext. 1

***Dues are \$25.00 per year for Active members**

\$12.50 for Retired members

***100.00 per year for Associate members**

(which includes a 1/4 page of advertising in the MIFDI Bulletin and on the MIFDI website).

Membership dues are for one calendar year (January 1 through December 31).

Dues are DUE by January 1st .

RECALL OF MEETING #491

The 491st meeting of MIFDI was held on December 14, 2005 at Anthony's Restaurant located at 105 Canal St., Malden.

The training program was provided by Mr. Peter Ostroskey, Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board. Peter's presentation provided an overview of the upgrading a replacement of the existing Enhanced 9-1-1 system to incorporate wireless 9-1-1 call taking capabilities.

Currently The Massachusetts State Police serve as the primary **Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP)** for wireless 9-1-1 calls from three locations throughout the state; Framingham, Middleboro, and Northampton. MSP dispatchers then transfer the call to the appropriate community, provided the caller knows where they are!

There are currently 268 PSAP's throughout the Commonwealth. To date, 21 have been upgraded to accept wireless 9-1-1 calls. The expected statewide completion date is July 2007.

The "Implementation Strategies" not only includes the equipment replacement and upgrade, it also includes training the dispatchers. There are currently 4 regional training sites; Springfield, Westboro, Wareham, and Reading.

Finally, it must be noted that the wireless provider must upgrade all existing wireless phones to enable them to be "located" when a user calls 9-1-1 so once your Dispatch Office is upgraded does not mean your dispatcher will be overwhelmed with wireless 9-1-1 calls overnight.

Contact information for the Massachusetts Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board is;
508-828-2911.

After a brief business meeting, members adjourned to delicious buffet lunch.

SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE:
"HACKENSACK RIVER TRAGEDY"

Courtesy of Paul Schaetzle, Jersey City, NJ

Numerous units from a multitude of agencies responded to a report of a truck into the Hackensack River off the Communipaw Avenue Bridge, Jersey City on Christmas night. Police and fire units responded from both sides of the bridge, which is the heavily traveled U.S. Truck Route 1-9 connecting Jersey City and South Kearny.

F.D.J.C. Rescue Co.1, returning from another box alarm, responded immediately and launched their inflatable boat into the river from an old access road under the bridge. Engine Co. 17 and Ladder Co. 9 reported to the top of the draw bridge which was in the open position. The worst fears of the responders was not only confirmed but compounded into a tragedy of devastating proportions. The vehicle which had plunged into the Hackensack River off the bridge as it opened was a Jersey City Police Emergency Service Unit with two officers on board!

Divers from a host of agencies were called to the scene to search the dark, cold waters of the Hackensack. To complicate matters, a steady rain was falling and a thick fog was rolling in. Undaunted by the horrible weather conditions, divers from the Jersey City Police, New Jersey State Police, Bergen County Dive Team, NYPD and FDNY Rescue Co.1 all converged on the scene. The divers staged on both sides of the river and a systematic search was conducted. Approximately one-hour into the operation, New Jersey State Police divers located the ESU truck and brought one officer (Shawn Carson) to the surface. He was rushed to University Hospital in Newark, a State Trauma Center. Newark Police cleared a route from the site directly to the hospital. (Officer Carson was pronounced dead later that evening).

The second police officer (Robert Nguyen) had not been located as of this writing. Divers from various units were either deployed or staged at both sides of the river. At approx 0215 on December 26, divers called off the search until daybreak. Operations resumed the next morning at 0930 with divers entering the river by 1015. The Army Corps of Engineers responded with their large workboat, "Heyward", a well known fixture in the New York Harbor. The boat is equipped with a large crane capable of pulling vehicles from the waters of the harbor. The ESU truck was recovered and transported to the Corps' facilities and later transported back to the ESU quarters.

The Communipaw Ave. Bridge remains closed for an indefinite period. New Jersey Dept. of Transportation Engineers also responded to assess possible damage to the bridge. Exact details of how the tragedy unfolded are not clear at present. The Incident is under investigation by the Jersey City Police and various other agencies. Further details will undoubtedly be learned as the search for the missing officer continues.

(Note: The body of Officer Robert Nguyen was recovered on December 29, 2005, four days into this tragic incident).

LAST ALARM:

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Lieutenant Thomas L. Dynan**, active member of the Boston Fire Department. Lt. Dynan was assigned to the Training & Research Division. He died on December 19, 2005. May he rest in peace.

NATIONAL L.O.D.D. (December)

F.F. William Palmer	Bourne, MA	(C)	11-18-05	Cancer	(57)
F.F. John Gannon	Clinton, MA	(C)	11-18-05	Heart	(46)
F.F. Clint Rice	Carlton, TX	(V)	11-22-05	MVA	(28)
F.F. Charles McKenzie	West Van Lear, KY	(V)	11-23-05	Crushed	(75)
F.F. Robert Staepel	Phila., PA Shipyard	(C)	11-25-05	Heart	(41)
F.F. Christopher Roy	Calera, AL	(C)	11-28-05	MVA	(25)
F.F. Gary Steele	Tualatin Valley, OR	(C)	12-01-05	Cancer	(53)
Capt. Richard McCurley	New Orleans, LA	(C)	12-02-05	MVA	(33)
Capt. Chad Wessels	Briggs, TX	(V)	12-11-05	MVA	(31)
F.F. Douglas Ulmer	Palm Beach, FL	(C)	12-14-05	Heart	(54)
F.F. Chelsea Garvin	Summerdale, AL	(V)	12-15-05	Drowning	(19)
F.F. Michael Hart	Elkins, WV	(C)	12-20-05	MVA	(33)
F.F. Daniel Nichols	Des Moines, IA	(C)	12-26-05	MVA	(xx)

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Deputy Chief Richard Cardillo of the Waltham Fire Department on his recent appointment to Chief of Department.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with our "Senior Man", Mort Shurtleff, as he battles his difficult illness.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 22-25, 2006: 2006 FDSOA Apparatus Symposium
Orlando, FL Contact: www.fdsoa.org

January 25, 2006: **MIFDI** - Ashland

January 26-29, 2006: IAFF Human Relations Conference
San Antonio, TX Contact: www.IAFF.org

February 16, 2006: Firefighter MDA Ski Muster 2006
Mt. Wachusett, Princeton, MA Contact: MDA @ 508-898-3375

February 19-23, 2006: Firehouse World Exposition & Conference
San Diego, CA Contact: www.firehouseworld.com

February 22, 2006: **MIFDI** - TBA

March 8-9, 2006: Wildland Firefighter Conference
Phoenix, AZ Contact: www.iafc.org

March 18, 2006: Statewide Exam for Chief, Deputy & District Chief
GOOD LUCK!

March 21-25, 2006: EMS Today Conference & Expo
Baltimore, MD Contact: www.jems.com

March 22, 2006: **MIFDI** - DFS/MFA

April 24-29, 2006: F.D.I.C. 2006
Indianapolis, IN Contact: www.fdic.com

April 24-26, 2006: FIRE-RESCUE-MED 2006
Las Vegas, NV Contact: www.IAFC.org

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:

Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department

The December meeting of MIFDI was presented by Mr. Peter Ostroskey, Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board. Peter provided an interesting presentation on the progress of upgrading and replacing the existing 9-1-1 system with the capability to incorporate wireless 9-1-1 calls. I thank Peter for providing this informative presentation to our members. I also want to thank Retired Chief Frank Fitzgerald for his help with arranging this meeting location.

A long overdue law recently signed by Governor Romney will finally provide death benefits to the families of volunteer and part-time public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty. This law was introduced as a result of Lancaster Call Firefighter Martin McNamara who died in the line of duty in 2003 and his family was denied pension benefits. Part-time firefighters, police officers and EMT's are now covered under this new law.

As we enter the 47th year of MIFDI, I again want to thank all those who keep this organization operating and helping to provide informative and educational presentations each month for our members. Vice President Brian Belliveau, Treasurer and Webmaster Michael McLeieer, Bulletin Editor Scott Maker, former Treasurer David Jardin, former Secretary Thomas Bogart, and members of the Board of Directors, I thank you all for your efforts and support with keeping this a highly professional and widely recognized organization.

A reminder during the winter months to check for severe weather cancellations of meetings on the MIFDI website @ www.mifdi.org

I hope to see you all in Ashland on the 25th. Until then, stay safe.

Mark

INSTRUCTORS CORNER: (Submitted by Michael McLeieer)

PASS alarm signals can fail at high temperatures

Exposure to high temperature environments may cause the loudness of PASS alarm signals to be reduced. This reduction in loudness could cause the alarm signal to become indistinguishable from background noise at the incident scene. This problem was brought to the attention of the NFPA Technical Committee on Electronic Safety Equipment by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program.

NIOSH reported that during the investigation of four fire fighter fatalities that occurred from 2001 to 2004, the PASS alarms were not heard or were barely audible. The PASS had been certified as compliant to NFPA 1982, Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS), 1998 Edition, and involved both stand-alone PASS and SCBA-integrated PASS.

Initial laboratory testing of PASS by the National Institute for Standards and Technology's (NIST) Fire Research Division has shown this sound reduction may begin to occur at temperatures as low as 300° F (150° C) and could affect all PASS. Additional work is required to better characterize the thermal conditions (temperatures and exposure durations) that contribute to alarm signal degradation.

While the NFPA Technical Committee on Electronic Safety Equipment has been working to develop appropriate revisions to NFPA 1982 to address this issue, adequate solutions have not yet been presented. The Committee, in cooperation with NIOSH and NIST, will continue to study the issue and will incorporate revisions into NFPA 1982 as solutions are developed and consensus around addressing the issue is achieved.

PASS has always been a "last resort call for help" for emergency services personnel who are unable to otherwise notify others that they are in distress. Fire fighters should continue to activate and wear PASS whenever in hazardous areas of any incident, but should also be aware that high temperatures could cause degradation of the alarm signal. Incident command should continue to apply all personnel accountability measures at all incidents to assure the safe entrance and exit of personnel from hazardous areas. Direct supervision of operating companies or teams should provide for the safe operating locations of personnel and ensure that members do not "freelance" on the incident scene. Emergency services organizations and emergency response personnel should report any PASS malfunctions and other problems with PASS functioning directly to both the certification organization whose certification mark appears on the PASS, and to NIOSH-NPPTL. Be sure to give your contact information so they can respond to you.

- SEI, the Safety Equipment Institute (certification organization), can be reached by e-mail.
- NIOSH-NPPTL, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health -- National Personal Protection Technical Laboratory, can be reached by e-mail.