

The MIFDI BULLETIN

Massachusetts Institute
OF



**FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS**

MIFDI
PO BOX 507
MERRIMAC, MA 01860-0510

October
2006

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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 - 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, 2007**

**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> \$ 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) 864-2015 or (978) 346-4731, ext. 1
 E-mail: michael.mcLeieer@merrimacfire.com

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OCTOBER MEETING SCHEDULE:

The 499th MIFDI meeting will be held **Wednesday, October 25, 2006**, hosted by the Department of Fire Services / Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow. This is our semi-annual visit to the MFA courtesy of Fire Marshal Stephen Coan and MFA Director Larry McDonald. Due to security reasons, please be sure to sign in at the front reception desk upon your arrival. The display screen in the lobby will indicate our assigned room.

Our program will be provided by a staff member of the Department of Fire Services with an interesting presentation.

We also hope to meet with MFA Director Larry McDonald and expect him to address our membership on happenings at the academy.

For those interested a tour of the facility and latest equipment will be arranged.

The MFA food cafeteria is back in operation and appropriately named "Jakes".

SCHEDULE:

0900 Coffee, **1000** Presentation,
1130 Business meeting, **1200** Lunch

DIRECTIONS:

From Rt.128/I 95: Take Rt. 20 west to Rt.27 in Wayland. Turn right onto Rt.27 and continue until Rt. 27 makes a right towards Maynard. **DO NOT TURN RIGHT**, continue straight for approx 3 miles and the Academy will be on the right.

From Rt.495 North: Take Rt. 85 (Exit 25) towards Hudson. At the traffic light, turn left onto Rt.85. Turn right onto Broad St. (First traffic light), and at the second traffic light, turn right onto Rt.62. Continue straight until Rt.62 takes a left toward Stow. **DO NOT TURN LEFT**, continue straight for approx 4 miles and the Academy will be on your left.

From Rt.495 South: Take Rt.62 (Exit 26) into Hudson Center. Continue halfway around the rotary and continue on Rt.62 east. Continue straight until Rt.62 turns left towards Stow. **DO NOT TURN LEFT**, continue straight for approx 4 miles and the Academy will be on your left.

NOTE: There will be Green signs with gold MFA symbols to help point the way.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balances for 1/2006
 Checking 172.36
Savings 1,327.88
 Total \$1,500.24

Bills Paid September (Checking):
 Oct. 06 Newsletter \$120.00 Mike
 Mark Roche - MIFDI \$43.96 Coffee/Pastry 9/27
 TOTAL: \$163.96

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

Account Transfers:
 Transfer from Savings to Cking 10/11- \$120.00

Total active members = 110
 Dues paid thru 2008 = 3
 Dues paid thru 2007 = 6
 Dues paid thru 2006 = 88
 Dues paid thru 2005 = 13

Mailings
 E-Mail - 34 Home - 62
 Work - 14
 110

Balances as of 10/13/2006
 Bank Statement Checking: \$ 66.67
 Less uncleared checks: (\$ 43.96)
 Checking Balance: \$ 22.71
 Certificate of Deposit: \$ 508.82
Savings Balance: \$ 1,236.50
 Total \$ 1,768.03

Membership Totals
 77 Active - 28 Retired - 5 Associate

New Members:

- Richard McClellan - Firefighter - Wilmington Fire Department


Treasurer Notes:

- Please remember to look at your mailing label for the PAID THROUGH date. Thank you to all of you who have paid your dues.
- 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 10/13/2006
 Michael McLeier
 Treasurer
 978-864-2015 (Direct Line) or
 978-346-4731, ext. 1

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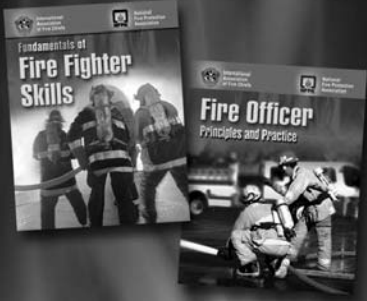
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RENEWAL of DUES or NEW MEMBERSHIPS

may be addressed to:

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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 .

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RECALL OF MEETING #498

The 498th meeting of MIFDI was held on September 27, 2006 hosted by the Marlborough Fire Department courtesy of Chief David Adams.

The training session was provided by Ms. Jane McCluskey and Mr. Brian Rooney of Jones and Bartlett Publishers (www.jbpub.com). J & B is a leader among publishers of fire service and EMS publications. The presentation by Jane and Brian allowed our members an overview of the vast amount of publications in both text and electronic form for use during training and continued education as well as for promotional study. Catalogs were provided for those in attendance with a few additional copies at future meetings for those members unable to attend.

The presentation concluded with a brief business meeting held by President Roche. Two new members were introduced. Members approved funding for Treasurer Michael Mcleieer to attend the 2007 FDIC as representative of MIFDI. Training Council member Persson gave an updated report from the Massachusetts Fire Training Council meeting. The meeting adjourned for an enjoyable lunch at nearby Kennedy's Restaurant

E.M.S. RUN

Oxygen Regulator Fires

(FDA & NIOSH Public Health Notification)

FDA has received 12 reports in which regulators used with oxygen cylinders have burned or exploded, in some cases injuring personnel. Some of these incidents occurred during emergency medical use or during routine equipment checks. FDA and NIOSH believe that improper use of gaskets/washers in these regulators was a major factor in both the ignition and severity of the fires, although there are likely to be other contributing factors.

Two types of washers referred as CGA 870 seals are commonly used to create the seal at the cylinder valve / regulator interface. The type recommended by many regulator manufacturers is a metal-bound elastomeric sealing washer that is used for multiple use applications. The other common type, often supplied free of charge with refilled oxygen cylinders is a plastic (usually Nylon) crush gasket suitable for single use applications.

When used more than once, the Nylon crush gaskets require higher torque than the elastomeric sealing washers in order to seal the cylinder valve / regulator interface, and if they are used again, they require more torque with each successive use. The cylinder valve / regulator connection is designed to be hand-tightened. If the crush gaskets are re-used, the need for increased torque may require using a wrench or other hand tool, which can deform the crush gasket and damage the cylinder valve and regulator. This can result in leakage of oxygen past the cylinder valve seat across the nylon crush gasket. According to a forensic analysis supported by FDA and NIOSH, "flow friction" caused by this leakage of compressed oxygen across the surface of the crush gasket may produce enough thermal energy to spontaneously ignite the nylon gasket material.

FDA and NIOSH recommend that plastic crush gaskets never be reused, as they may require additional torque to obtain the necessary seal with each subsequent use. This can deform the gasket, increasing the likelihood that oxygen will leak around the seal and ignite. The following general safety precautions should also be taken to avoid explosions, tank ruptures and fires from oxygen regulators:

- Always crack cylinder valves (open the valve just enough to allow gas to escape for a very short time) before attaching regulators in order to expel foreign matter from the outlet port of the valve.
- Always follow the regulator manufacturer's instructions for attaching the regulator to an oxygen cylinder.
- Always use the sealing gasket specified by the regulator manufacturer.
- Always inspect the regulator and CGA 870 seal before attaching it to the valve to ensure that the regulator is equipped with only one clean, sealing type washer (reusable metal-bound rubber seal) or a new crush type gasket (single use, not reusable, typically Nylon) that is in good condition.
- Always be certain that the valve, regulator, and gasket are free from oil and grease. Oil or grease contamination is widely known to contribute to ignition in oxygen systems.
- Tighten the T-handle firmly by hand, but do not use wrenches or other hand tools that may over-torque the handle.
- Open the post valve slowly. If gas escapes at the juncture of the regulator and valve, quickly close the valve. Verify the regulator is properly attached and the gasket is properly placed and in good condition. If you have any questions, contact your supplier.

For more information, refer to www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety.html

LAST ALARM

25th Anniversary of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial (Courtesy of the U.S. Fire Administration)

The 25th annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial weekend was held October 7-8, 2006. A plaque with the names of 98 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2005 was added to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial located on the campus of the National Fire Academy. The names of six firefighters from previous years was also added. The plaques surrounding the Memorial, established in 1981, contains the names of more than 3000 firefighters.

Thirty-three states experienced line-of-duty deaths in 2005. Deaths resulted from various causes including; motor vehicle accidents while en-route to or returning from calls, training incidents, building collapses, being struck by objects (vehicles, trees) at incidents, falls, heart attacks, air tanker and helicopter crashes, electrocution, drowning, assault, and burns.

Four multiple fatality incidents accounted for ten deaths. Two multiple fatality incidents occurred at structural fires while the other two occurred during wildland operations. One structural incident involved an explosion, the other resulted in two firefighters becoming trapped. The wildland incidents involved aircraft crashes.

Wildland fires, controlled burns, and aircraft training/certification for wildland fire protection resulted in 10 deaths. Six of the firefighters died while piloting air tankers or helicopters.

Of the firefighters honored this year, 63 were volunteer firefighters, 37 were career firefighters, and 4 were contract firefighters.

New York had the Nation's largest number of line-of-duty firefighter deaths in 2005 with 17, while California, Pennsylvania, and Texas each had 8 firefighter line-of-duty deaths.

According to the Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Board of Directors, "the Foundation's services are offered to the families and colleagues of fallen firefighters not only following a line-of-duty death but for years to come."

CONGRATULATIONS:

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors offer our congratulations to MIFDI Treasurer and P.P. **Michael McLeieer** of the Merrimac Fire Department on his recent acceptance as adjunct faculty at the National Fire Academy.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Longtime and devoted MIFDI member **Arthur Hallowell**, Weston Fire Department (retired) has recently moved to an assisted living facility in Hudson, Florida. Arthur continues his recovery from a stroke a few years ago and we wish him well. For those wishing to send him a card or note may do so at the following address;

Arthur W. Hallowell
c/o Atria Baypoint Village
7927 State Road 52, Room 132
Hudson, FL 34667

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 7-8, 2006: 25th National Fallen Firefighters Memorial
N.F.A. Emmitsburg, MD

October 8-14, 2006: National Fire Prevention Week
The campaign this year is "*Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat*"

October 20, 2006: Presentation by New Orleans Dist.Chief Chris Mickal
Malden Emergency Center, Rt.60, Malden
Contact: Capt. Gerry Mahoney, Cambridge F.D.: firegerry@comcast.net

October 20, 2006: N.E. Society of Explosive Engineers Annual EXPO
Best Western Conference Center, Rt.20, Marlborough from 12-9pm

October 21, 2006: Annual MRS Firematic Flea Market
Florian Hall 55 Hallet St., Dorchester 12-4pm

October 25, 2006: **MIFDI** - DFS/MFA

October 29, 2006: Daylight Saving Time ends
"Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries"

November 15, 2006: **MIFDI** - Norton

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:
Captain Mark W. Roche, Newton Fire Department

The September meeting presented by Jones & Bartlett Publications provided our members with a variety of information available for use as training aids. I thank both Jane McCluskey and Brian Rooney for delivering this training topic to MIFDI. I also thank Chief David Adams and the members of the Marlborough Fire Department for allowing us use of their nice facility.

On September 29, I attended the graduation of Recruit Class #173 of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. 72 out of 72 recruits representing 39 departments throughout the Commonwealth received their diplomas during ceremonies held at Nashoba Regional High School in Bolton. The guest speaker was MIFDI member, Brockton Fire Lieutenant Kevin M. Galligan who gave an inspirational talk to recruits highlighting the importance of maintaining good physical condition as firefighters citing a recent fire in Brockton which he responded to and participated in the successful rescue of a family from their third floor apartment.

It is that time of the year when MIFDI looks for future leaders of this great organization with openings in many positions. If any member would be interested in any position, let myself, Brian, or Michael know. *Jump in, the water's fine!*

During the month of October, the History Channel will be airing a program titled "INTO THE FIRE" focusing on interviews with firefighters from across the country asking the question, "Why do we do it?" The program will air on October 13 @ 8pm, and October 22 @ 4pm on the History Channel.

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

Mark

INSTRUCTORS CORNER
Review of Elevator Operations for Firefighters

- Report to the designated elevator lobby (May not always be the 1st floor).
- Capture the elevators using the 3502 key.
- Turn the 3-position switch to the "ON" position and remove the key (Phase 1).
- You have now "captured" the elevator, all car and corridor call buttons shall be rendered inoperative.
- Enter the elevator, again using your 3502 key turn the 3-position switch inside the elevator to the "ON" position (Phase 2).
- The elevator is now operable ONLY by the members in the car.
- Remember that the opening and closing of the car doors in this phase can only be done by applying continuous pressure to the door open and door close buttons. If the button is released prior to the doors reaching the full open or full close positions, the doors will automatically reopen or reclose.
- Proceed to the desired floor (TWO floors below the fire floor).
- Leave one member in the elevator to control elevator operations.
- Once the crew has exited the car, the elevator should be returned to the lobby for further use by additional crews.
- Elevators should not be locked or held on upper floors by first due units, this denies other incoming units access to upper floors.
- As mentioned, Staging should be established TWO floors below the fire floor. The Staging area should consist of the following;
 - a) Staging Command
 - b) R.I.T. crew
 - c) Reserve team
 - d) Rehab area
 - e) Reserve equipment
 - f) SCBA changing area
 - g) EMS station