

## NFIRS history

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (PL 93-498) authorizes the National Fire Data Center (NFDC) in the USFA to gather and analyze information on the magnitude of the nation's fire problem, as well as detailed characteristics and trends. The act further authorizes the USFA to develop uniform data reporting methods, and to encourage and assist state agencies in developing data and reporting fire damage.

To carry out the intentions of the Act, the NFDC established NFIRS in the mid-1970s.

NFIRS has two objectives:

1. To help state, local, tribal and U.S. territory governments develop fire reporting and analysis capability for their own use.
2. To obtain data that can be used to assess and subsequently to combat the fire problem more accurately at a national level.

To begin reporting NFIRS data and to learn more, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/data/nfirs/](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/nfirs/).

### U.S. Fire Administration NFIRS Help Desk:

☎ 888-382-3827

✉ FEMA-NFIRSHelp@fema.dhs.gov

🌐 <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/contact/ntsc/>



[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)



U.S. Fire Administration  
Working for a fire-safe America

# The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)

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The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is a reporting standard that fire departments use to uniformly report on the full range of their activities, from fire to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to severe weather and natural disasters.

NFIRS is a model of successful federal, state, tribal, U.S. territory and local government partnerships. The database constitutes the world's largest national collection of fire department response incident information.

## Benefits of using NFIRS

- ◆ Fire departments can use NFIRS to track and manage apparatus, personnel and casualty information, document the full range of department activity, and justify budgets with summary and statistical data.
- ◆ Fire departments can use NFIRS data to focus on current community challenges, predict future issues, and measure program performance.
- ◆ By contributing to NFIRS, fire departments help the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) to:
  - ▶ Analyze the severity and reach of the nation's fire problem.
  - ▶ Use NFIRS information to develop national public education campaigns.
  - ▶ Make recommendations for national codes and standards.
  - ▶ Determine consumer product failures.
  - ▶ Identify the focus for research efforts.
  - ▶ Support federal legislation.
- ◆ The modular design of NFIRS makes the system easy to use because it captures only the data required to describe an incident.

"Good information is dependent on good data."

— NFIRS user.

## How NFIRS works

After responding to an incident, a fire department completes the appropriate NFIRS modules. Each module collects a common set of information that describes the nature of the call, the actions firefighters took in response to the call, and the end results, including firefighter and civilian casualties and a property loss estimate.

The fire department submits its all-incident data to the state, tribal or territorial agency responsible for NFIRS data. The agency gathers data from all its participating departments and reports the compiled data to the USFA. The fire department can also submit their data directly to the USFA's NFIRS National Database through import tools designed specifically for this process.

The NFIRS software is available at no cost to states, tribal, territorial agencies and fire departments. To download the software, visit [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/nfirs/user\\_tools/index.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/nfirs/user_tools/index.html).

## Facts about NFIRS

- ◆ NFIRS is the world's largest, national, annual database of fire incident information.
- ◆ The NFIRS database comprises about 75 percent of all fires that occur annually.
- ◆ Every U.S. state and the District of Columbia report NFIRS data.
- ◆ The Department of Defense, Native American tribal and U.S. territory governments participate in NFIRS.
- ◆ Participation in NFIRS is voluntary.
- ◆ More than 24,480 fire departments reported in NFIRS for year 2017.
- ◆ Participating fire departments reported 27.9 million incidents, including 1.2 million fires for year 2017.
- ◆ Thirty-eight fire departments with a protected population of over 500,000 participate in NFIRS.