NFIRS 5.0 Self-Study Program

Structure Fire Module: NFIRS-3

Objectives

After completing the Structure Fire Module the student will be able to:

- 1. Describe when the Structure Fire Module is to be used.
- 2. Demonstrate how to correctly complete various sections of the Structure Fire Module, given scenarios of hypothetical incidents.

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Pretest #3 - Structure Fire Module

- 1. All structures are buildings.
 - (a) True.
 - (b) False.
- 2. A Structure Fire Module is required to be completed for a hostile fire confined to a chimney.
 - (a) True.
 - (b) False.
- 3. The Structure Fire Module is a required NFIRS module if the fire occurs in or on a structure.
 - (a) True.
 - (b) False.
- 4. All buildings are structures.
 - (a) True.
 - (b) False.
- 5. A Structure Fire Module should be completed for all building fires that extend beyond a non-combustible container.
 - (a) True.
 - (b) False.

Using the Structure Fire Module

The Structure Fire Module furnishes information regarding the buildings involved in the fire, how the fire started, and detection and suppression equipment present.

The Structure Fire Module (NFIRS-3) should be completed for all structure fires that extend beyond a noncombustible container. A structure is an assembly of materials forming a construction for occupancy or use to serve a specific purpose. This includes, but is not limited to, buildings, open platforms, bridges, roof assemblies over open storage or process areas, tents, air-supported structures, and grandstands. Like the other modules, the Structure Fire Module is divided into sections and further subdivided into blocks. The sections and blocks ask for information on different factors or items involved in the building fire.

Section I: Structure Type, Building Status, Building Height, Main Floor Size



Block I¹ records information regarding the type of structure. If the fire is in an enclosed building, complete this entire module. The rest of the module would not be completed if the structure is

- an open structure such as a bridge;
- an air-supported structure;
- a tent;
- an open platform such as a pier, dock;
- a connective structure such as a fence or pipeline; and/or
- an underground structure such as flood tunnel.

Complete the Structure Fire Module for enclosed buildings. Examples include residential buildings, commercial buildings, subway station, or similar structures. It also must be completed for portable/ mobile structures such as job-site trailers, portable offices, or similar structures.

Information about the status of the building is collected in Block I₂.



Block I₂ captures the status of the building involved in the fire.



In **Block I**³ enter the total number of stories at or above grade level, then enter the total number of stories below grade level. Do not count normally inaccessible attics, attics with less than standing height, or the roof as a story. **Both parts of I**³ **must be completed without regard to how many floors were involved in the fire.**



Block I⁴ offers two options for indicating the main floor size. Enter either the number of square feet on the structure's main floor or its length and width in feet.

Section J: Fire Origin, Fire Spread, Number of Stories Damaged by Flame

In Section J you will record data that will help describe where the fire started, whether or not it spread, and the percentage of the structure that was damaged by flame.



Enter the story on which the fire originated in **Block J**₁. This story number is assumed to be at or above grade unless the Below Grade box is marked. Count the ground level as story 1. In case of most residential basements, you would enter "1" for the Story of fire origin and then check the box to indicate it was below grade.



Block J_2 captures the extent of fire spread in terms of how far the flame damage extended. The extent of flame damage is the area actually burned or charred and does not include the area receiving only heat, smoke, or water damage. Mark the box best describing the extent of fire spread. If the fire spread was confined to the object of origin (1) and the box in Block D_3 on the Fire Module was marked, do not mark the box here.



Block J³ captures the number of stories damaged by flame spread. Flame damage is the area actually burned or charred and does not include areas receiving only heat, smoke, or water damage.

Enter the number of stories damaged by flame according to the indicated criteria. If the roof was the only part of the structure that burned, count it as part of the top story.

Section K: Material Contributing Most to Flame Spread



Section K is completed only if:

- 1. The flame spread is beyond the object of origin.
- 2. The material contributing most to the flame spread is **different** from the Item First Ignited (recorded in D_3 of NFIRS-2 Fire Module).

If either one of these conditions does not apply, mark the box and skip the rest of the section.

In **Block K**¹ you will enter the code for the Item Contributing Most to Flame Spread. Fill in this item only if:

- 1. The flame spread beyond the object of origin.
- 2. The item contributing most to flame spread is different from the Item First Ignited.



The codes used in this section are the same as those for the Item First Ignited and are found in the CRG.

You will use **Block K**² to record the Type of Material Contributing Most to the Flame Spread.

K ₂		
	Type of material contributing most to flame spread	Required only if item contributing code is 00 or <70.

Complete this Block when the code for Type of Material is between 00 and 70. It is not necessary to supply this information when the type of material code is 70 or greater.

Section L: Presence of Detectors, Detector Type, Detector Power Supply, Detector Operation, Detector Effectiveness, Detector Failure Reason



In **Block L**¹ you should indicate the existence of detectors within their designed range of the fire. If no detectors were present, mark None Present and skip to Section M.

L2	Detector Type
1	Smoke
2	Heat
3	Combination smoke and heat
4	Sprinkler, water flow detection
5	More than one type present
0	Other
U	Undetermined

Use **Block** L₂ Detector Type to identify the type of detector present in the area of fire origin. This field is **required** if the fire was within the area covered by the detector.

L ₃	Detector Power Supply	
1	Battery only	
2	Hardwire only Blug in	
3	Hardwire with battery	
5	Plug-in with battery	
6	Mechanical	
7	Multiple detectors & power	
0 U	supplies Other Undetermined	

Use $Block L_3$ to describe the power supply for the detector that was found. This field is **required** if the fire was within the designed range of the detector.



Block L⁴ identifies whether or not the detection equipment worked. This field is **required** if the fire was within the designed range of the detector.

If the fire was too small to activate the detection equipment or the detector operation was undetermined then skip to Section M.

When the Operated box (2) is marked, then a box in L_5 is marked to indicate the detector's effectiveness, and Block L_6 can be skipped. If the Failed to operate box (3) is marked, then skip to Block L_6 to show the reason for detector failure.



In **Block L**₅ mark the box best describing the effectiveness of the detector. This field is **required** if you checked box (2) in L_4 (Operated).



In **Block** L_6 mark the box that best describes why the detector failed to operate or did not operate properly. This field is **required** if you checked box (3) in Block L_4 (Failed to operate).

Section M: Presence of Automatic Extinguishing System, Type of Automatic Extinguishing System, Operation of Automatic Extinguishing System, Number of Sprinkler Heads Operating, Reason for Automatic Extinguishing System Failure



You must mark one of the boxes in Block M_1 . If no automatic extinguishing system was present, check the None Present box and skip the rest of Section M. Complete the other parts of Section M only if an extinguishing system was present.



In **Block M**² mark the box indicating the type of Automatic Extinguishment System (AES) present. If multiple systems are present, indicate the system designed to protect the area where the fire started. The field is **required** if the fire was within the designated range for the AES.



In **Block M**³ mark the box that indicates if the AES operated and was or was not effective. Effective does not necessarily mean complete extinguishment, but the system must at least contain and control the fire until the fire department can complete extinguishment.

If boxes 1 or 2 are marked in M_3 , use M_4 to record the number of sprinkler heads that operated (regardless of their effectiveness).

M 4	Number of Sprinkler Heads Operating
Required if system operated	
Numb	er of sprinkler heads operating

In **Block M_4** fill in the total number of sprinkler heads that operated during the fire. This field is **required** if the sprinkler system activated.



In **Block M**⁵ mark the box that describes why the automatic extinguishing system failed to operate or did not operate properly. This field is **required** if the system failed to operate. If you indicated in Block M³ that the system Operated/not effective, box 2, or Failed to operate, box 4, it is required to record the reason for the problem in Block M⁵.

SUMMARY

The Structure Fire Module is used along with the Fire Module to gather detailed information about larger fire incidents that involve building or portable/mobile structures. Given the information presented, you should know how to document an incident that requires the completion of the Structure Fire Module.

EXAMPLE: Residential Fire

Directions: Read the call information in the example below. Then look at the completed Structure Fire Module form. Look at each section and follow along with the proper use of the information as applicable to the Structure Fire Module.

A smoke detector in the first-floor hallway alerted the residents of a single-family dwelling of a possible problem. They quickly exited out the front door and reported seeing smoke coming from the basement. Children playing with matches started a fire in a small stack of newspapers that were in the basement of a ranch-style home, 30 feet by 50 feet. Luckily they were uninjured. There was fire damage in the basement and smoke damage on the first floor. The detector was hardwired with a battery backup. There was a residential wet-pipe sprinkler system installed throughout the home. One sprinkler head activated and extinguished the fire.

In Structure Type ★ If fire was in an enclosed building or a portable/mobile structure, complete the rest of this form. 1 Enclosed building 2 Portable/mobile structure 3 Open structure 4 Air-supported structure 5 Tent 6 Open platform (e.g., piers) 7 Underground structure (work areas) 8 Connective structure (e.g., fences) 0 Other type of structure	I2 Building Status 1 Under construction 2 Occupied & operating 3 Idle, not routinely used 4 Under major renovation 5 Vacant and secured 6 Vacant and unsecured 7 Being demolished 0 Other U Undetermined	I3 Building Height Count the roof as part of the highest story. □0 0 1 Total number of stories at or above grade □1 Total number of stories at or below grade	I4 Main Floor Size ☆ NFIRS-3 Structure Fire ↓, ↓, ↓, ↓ Total square feet OR ↓, ↓, ↓, ↓, ↓ U, 0, 5,0 Length in feet Width in feet
J1 Fire Origin ★ J2 O101 ▲ ▲ ↓ Story of fire origin ▲ ↓ J2 Fire Spread ★ ↓ J2 Fire spread was confined to object of origin, do not check a box (Ref. Block D3, Fire Module). ↓ 2 ⊠Confined to room of origin ↓ 3 □Confined to floor of origin ↓ 4 □Confined to building of origin ↓	Number of Stories Damage Count the roof as part of the highest story. Number of stories w/minor da (1 to 24% flame damage) (2 to 49% flame damage) Number of stories w/keavy da (50 to 74% flame damage) (50 to 74% flame damage) (50 to 74% flame damage) (75 to 100% flame damage)	ad by Flame K Typ mage ⊠ Check same i Fire M mage K1 L Ite damage K2 L	e of Material Contributing Most lame Spread if no flame spread OR if as Material First Ignited (Block D4, Skip to Section L m contributing most to flame spread pe of material contributing ost to flame spread Required only if item contributing code is 00 or <70.
L1 Presence of Detectors ☆ (In area of the fire) N None Present Section M 1 Image: Present Skip to Section M 1 Image: Present Image: Present 1 Image: Present Image: Present <td>L3 Detector Power Sup 1 Battery only 2 Hardwire only 3 Plug-in 4 Hardwire with batter 5 Plug-in with batter 6 Mechanical 7 Multiple detectors supplies 0 Other U Undetermined 1 Fire too small to ac 2 Operated 3 Failed to operate U Undetermined</td> <td>Poply L5 D ery 3 T y 3 T y 4 F y U U & power L6 D L6 D U L6 D Q tivate 1 P Complete 5 B Block L6 0 Q</td> <td>etector Effectiveness quired if detector operated. Alerted occupants, occupants responded lerted occupants, occupants failed or respond here were no occupants ailed to alert occupants indetermined etector Failure Reason required if detector failed to operate ower failure, shutoff, or disconnect mproper installation or placement lefective ack of maintenance, includes ot cleaning iattery missing or disconnected ther indetermined</td>	L3 Detector Power Sup 1 Battery only 2 Hardwire only 3 Plug-in 4 Hardwire with batter 5 Plug-in with batter 6 Mechanical 7 Multiple detectors supplies 0 Other U Undetermined 1 Fire too small to ac 2 Operated 3 Failed to operate U Undetermined	Poply L5 D ery 3 T y 3 T y 4 F y U U & power L6 D L6 D U L6 D Q tivate 1 P Complete 5 B Block L6 0 Q	etector Effectiveness quired if detector operated. Alerted occupants, occupants responded lerted occupants, occupants failed or respond here were no occupants ailed to alert occupants indetermined etector Failure Reason required if detector failed to operate ower failure, shutoff, or disconnect mproper installation or placement lefective ack of maintenance, includes ot cleaning iattery missing or disconnected ther indetermined
M1 Presence of Automatic Extinguis N None Present 1 Present 2 Partial System Present U Undetermined M2 Type of Automatic Extinguish Required if fire was within designed range of Automatic 1 Wet-pipe sprinkler 2 Dry-pipe sprinkler 3 Other sprinkler system 4 Dry chemical system 5 Foam system 6 Halogen-type system 7 Carbon dioxide (CO ₂) syste 0 Other special hazard syste U Undetermined	Image System Image March March March Required if fir 1 Image Oper 1 Image Oper 1 Image Oper 1 Image Oper <td< td=""><td>eration of Automatic inguishing System e was within designed range ated/effective (go to M4) ated/not effective (go to ico small to activate d to operate (go to M5) r termined umber of Sprinkler ads Operating ystem operated j prinkler heads operating</td><td>M5 Reason for Automatic Extinguishing System Failure Required if system failed or not effective 1 System shut off 2 Not enough agent discharged 3 Agent discharged but did not reach fire 4 Wrong type of system 5 Fire not in area protected 6 System components damaged 7 Lack of maintenance 8 Manual intervention 0 Other U Undetermined</td></td<>	eration of Automatic inguishing System e was within designed range ated/effective (go to M4) ated/not effective (go to ico small to activate d to operate (go to M5) r termined umber of Sprinkler ads Operating ystem operated j prinkler heads operating	M5 Reason for Automatic Extinguishing System Failure Required if system failed or not effective 1 System shut off 2 Not enough agent discharged 3 Agent discharged but did not reach fire 4 Wrong type of system 5 Fire not in area protected 6 System components damaged 7 Lack of maintenance 8 Manual intervention 0 Other U Undetermined

EXERCISE SCENARIO 3-1: Warehouse Fire

Directions: Read the call information in the exercise below. Use the information provided to complete the Structure Fire Module form. Compare your work to the answers provided on the completed Structure Fire Module form. If your answers are different from the ones provided, read over the Structure Fire Module again.

A fire occurred on the fifth floor of an eight-story, vacant and secured warehouse. The 200- foot by 100-foot fifth floor was damaged by the fire. The sixth story was damaged by smoke. The warehouse was protected by a wet-pipe sprinkler system. Smoke detectors were hardwired through the main power box on the building's north end. Power to the warehouse was knocked out by an electrical storm moving through the area. Because it was after eight in the evening, no one was in the building to notice that the power was off or that a fire had started near where welders had been working on storage racks. Fortunately, two sprinkler heads activated and quickly extinguished the fire.





EXERCISE SCENARIO 3-2: Cary Street Fire

Directions: Read the call information in the exercise below. Use the information provided to complete the entire Structure Fire Module form and the other required forms. Compare your work to the answers provided in Appendix A. If your answers are different from the ones provided, read over the Structure Fire Module again.

The Alberta Fire Department (FDID #92188) received a call for a reported house fire at 5 East Cary Street, Brunswick, Virginia 23351, on May 1, 2005. The dispatcher assigned the incident (#5433) to Engine 1, Engine 2, and Truck 1 from Shift A. The units received the alarm at 12:53 p.m. and arrived at the scene at 1:05 p.m. Each unit was staffed with four firefighters.

The owner of the single-family dwelling, Mrs. Christy Gordon, said that she was warming her lunch on the stove when the grease from the pan began to burn. The gas stove was a Whirlpool, Model RF330PXVN, Serial Number F925888840, Year 2000. The fire spread from the pan to the curtains. She had fallen asleep upstairs and was alerted when the hardwired smoke detector activated. The flame damage was confined to the kitchen. The 2,000-square-foot, two-story home was filled with smoke in the other rooms. She called 911.The firefighters extinguished the fire and removed smoke from the other rooms. The fire was brought under control at 1:25 p.m. There was \$24,000 fire loss to property and \$9,600 content loss. The value of the property was \$161,000 and the content value was \$80,400. The last unit cleared the scene at 2:40 p.m. FF1 Adam C. Wallner, Badge No. 224, completed the report after returning to Station No. 2. Captain Tonya S. Gordon, Badge No. 105, was the officer in charge. The incident was in Census Tract 5011-12, District A12.

A DD	YYYY Delete Change Station Incident Number Station Incident Number
B Location Type ☆ Check this box to indi Module in Section B, Intersection Information Rear of Adjacent to Directions US National Grid Cross Street, Directions or N	cate that the address for this incident is provided on the Wildland Fire "Alternative Location Specification." Use only for wildland fires. Street or Highway
C Incident Type Incident Type D Aid Given or Received 1 Mutual aid received 2 Auto. aid received 3 Mutual aid given 4 Auto. aid given 5 Other aid given 5 Other aid given	E1 Dates and Times Midnight is 0000 E2 Shifts and Alarms Check boxes if dates are the same as Alarm Date. ALARM always required Hour Min Alarm Alarm Alarm Alarm Alarm Image: Alarm Image: Alarm Image: Alarm Image: Alarm Alarms District Shifts and Alarms Shifts and Alarms Image: Alarm
F Actions Taken ↓ ↓ ↓ Primary Action Taken (1) ↓ ↓ ↓ Additional Action Taken (2) ↓ ↓ ↓ Additional Action Taken (3)	G1 Resources ☆ G2 Estimated Dollar Losses and Values Check this box and skip this block if an Apparatus or Personnel Module is used. LOSSES: Required for all fires if known. None Suppression
Completed Modules H1★Casualties Fire-2 Deaths Structure Fire-3 Civilian Fire Cas4 Fire Service Cas5 EMS-6 HazMat-7 Wildland Fire-8 Apparatus-9 Personnel-10 Personnel-11 Detector alerted occi Unknown Unknown	None H3 Hazardous Materials Release None Mixed Use njuries 1 Natural gas: slow leak, no evacuation or HazMat actions 2 Propane gas: <21-lb tank (as in home BBQ grill)
J Property Use Image: None Structures None 131 Church, place of worship 161 Restaurant or cafeteria 162 Bar/tavern or nightclub 213 Elementary school, kindergarten 215 High school, junior high 241 College, adult education 311 Nursing home 331 Hospital Outside Crops or orchard 669 Forest (timberland) 807 Outdoor storage area 919 Dump or sanitary landfill 931 Open land or field	341 Clinic, clinic-type infirmary 539 Household goods, sales, repairs 342 Doctor/dentist office 571 Gas or service station 361 Prison or jail, not juvenile 579 Motor vehicle/boat sales/repairs 349 1- or 2-family dwelling 599 Business office 429 Multifamily dwelling 615 Electric-generating plant 439 Rooming/boarding house 629 Laboratory/science laboratory 449 Commercial hotel or motel 700 Manufacturing plant 459 Residential, board and care 819 Livestock/poultry storage (barn) 464 Dormitory/barracks 882 Non-residential parking garage 519 Food and beverage sales 891 Warehouse 936 Vacant lot 981 Construction site 936 Graded/cared for plot of land 984 Industrial plant yard 946 Lake, river, stream Look up and enter a Property Use Oceand 960 Other street Property Use box. Code Code 970 Highway/divided highway Property Use Description Property U

Person/Entity Involved
Check this box if same address as incident Location (Section B). Then skip the three duplicate address lines. L
Cowner Then check this box and skip Local Option Local Option Check this box if same Local option Index as a incident Location (Section B). Then skip the three Mr., Ms., Mrs. First Name MI Last Name Suffix Mumber Suffix Street or Highway Street or Highway Street Type Suffix Location (Section B). Prefix Street or Highway Street Type Street Type Suffix Location (Section B). Apt./Suite/Room Code Location (Section B). Number Prefix Street or Highway Street Type Street Type Suffix Location (Section B). Apt./Suite/Room City Location (Section B). State ZIP Code
Remarks:
Local Option
Fire Module Required? Check the box that applies and then complete the Fire Module based on Incident Type, as follows: □ Buildings 111 Complete Fire & Structure Modules □ Special structure 112 Complete Fire Module & Section I, Structure Module □ Confined 113–118 Basic Module Only □ Mobile property 120–123 Complete Fire Module □ Vergetation 140–143 Complete Fire Module □ Vegetation 140–143 Complete Fire or Wildland Module □ Outside rubside fire 160 Complete Fire or Wildland Module □ Special outside fire 161–163 Complete Fire or Wildland Module □ Special outside fire 161–163 Complete Fire or Wildland Module □ TTEMS WITH A ☆ MUST ALWAYS BE COMPLETED! ITEMS WITH A ☆ MUST ALWAYS BE COMPLETED!
☐ More remarks? Check this box and attach Supplemental Forms (NFIRS–1S) as necessary.
M Authorization
Image: State of the state o
Mitter in tharge. ➡ □



