



Coffee Break Training - Planning and Information Management Series

Using the National Fire Incident Reporting System to Support and Improve Fire Department Programs

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Learning Objective: The student will be able to identify multiple uses for National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data to support and improve fire and Emergency Medical Services programs in your community.

The NFIRS was developed at the recommendation of the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control to allow communities to gather and use information about their local fire issues and to provide a way to gather data on a national level. The information gathered allows fire departments to strengthen their programs and supports the goals of the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) to reduce fire and life safety risk through preparedness, prevention, and mitigation; and it promotes response, local planning, and preparedness for all hazards. By recording and using accurate incident information in NFIRS, fire departments can:

- Describe their community hazards and fire problem.
- Support budget requests for programs to address hazards in the community.
- Support changes to fire and building codes.
- Evaluate code enforcement activities and effectiveness.
- Evaluate public education programs.
- Develop plans based on the chance of occurrence and impact on the community.
- Improve allocation of fire department resources within the community.
- Schedule non-emergency activities.
- Identify product safety issues.
- Support fire engineering analysis and modeling to make firefighting effective and safer.

To learn more about the NFIRS program and how it can assist your department, consider enrolling in the National Fire Academy (NFA) course Q0494, “National Fire Incident Reporting System 5.0,” self-study (<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/courses/online.html>), enrolling in course R0491, “National Fire Incident Reporting System: Program Management” (https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/courses/on_campus_6_10.html), visit the USFA’s Learning Resource Center (<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/library/>), or visit the USFA NFIRS Home Page (<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/nfirs/>).

References: NFA course Q0494, “National Fire Incident Reporting System 5.0.”

For archived downloads, go to:

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/coffee_break/