

## DATA Connection

News from the Data Collection & Research Unit

### Reporting Exposure Fires

As defined by the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), an *exposure* is a fire resulting from another fire outside that building, structure, or vehicle, or a fire that extends to an outside property from a building, structure, or vehicle. For example, if the building fire ignites a truck parked outside, the truck fire is an exposure fire.

Although the Incident Number of an incident report permits all properties involved in a fire incident to be related together, the Exposure Number identifies each separate property type involved in the fire. This makes it possible to capture the specific details of the fire in each exposure and to relate all the exposures to the basic incident, if necessary. The Exposure Number, in conjunction with the FDID, State, Incident Date, and Incident Number, uniquely identifies each incident.

In a fire involving exposures, an additional report should be completed for each exposure.

Each module completed for an exposure should contain the same Incident Number assigned to the original property involved. A separate sequential Exposure Number is assigned to each exposure. The original incident is always coded "000," and exposures are numbered sequentially and incremental by 1 beginning with "001." The relevant data for each exposure should then be recorded using the appropriate modules.

When a fire involves more than one building, each building fire should be considered a separate fire, with the ignition for all but the original building fire classified as exposure fires.

Exposure reporting is limited only to fire incidents (Incident Type codes beginning with a 1). If it is necessary to record the address/location of each property for incidents other than fire incidents, the "Person/Entity Involved" fields (Block K1 of the Basic Module or Supplemental Module) can be used.

The use of an exposure fire is also limited to situations where there is actual flame damage. If an adjacent property is damaged due to water, heat, smoke or fire control, include the damage in the main report (Exposure 000). The owner/occupant information can be captured on NFIRS Form 1S, Supplemental Report. Multiple persons and entities involved can be documented on this report. The number of buildings involved should be documented in the Fire Module, Section B2.

In the case of buildings with internal fire separations, treat the fire spread from one separation to another as an exposure. Treating multiple ownership of property within a building (e.g., condominiums) as exposures, unless separated by fire-rated compartments, is discouraged.

When reporting exposure fires, be sure to check or mark the exposure fire check box, Cause of Ignition (Block E1) on the Fire Module for each exposure fire, and then skip to Section G on the Fire Module.



***In this example, the fire originated with the vehicle in the driveway, resulting in an exposure fire to the home. (Picture credit - Abingdon (MD) Firefighter Steven Muccioli)***