National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) Coding Questions and Answers
July 2008
United States Fire Administration

1. I have a question on how to classify a call that we had. The call was originally called in as a medical call and when we arrived on scene, we found that the person was having a medical problem. But, in the mean time, the person left food on the stove that caught on fire. We had to page out another truck to help with the fire. Should I separate that as two calls?

Yes, code those as different incidents. Simply use the narrative to explain what happened during the medical incident.

2. Would the following incident be considered a fire death? A truck was hauling asphalt when it blew a front tire, hit the guard rail, overturned on driver's side, caught on fire & burned. The driver was trapped inside & died.

It depends. Did the driver die because of the fire or because of the impact? A fire casualty is a person who is injured or killed as a result of a fire, including injuries or deaths from natural or accidental causes sustained while involved in the activities of fire control, attempting rescue, or escaping from the dangers of the fire. Fires include Incident Types 100–199 as recorded on the Basic Module, Section C. If a civilian injury is not directly related to fire, it may be reported on an EMS Module with the same incident ID information. A separate Civilian Fire Casualty Module is required for each fire casualty.

3. The specs say that the fields Incident Controlled Date & Time are required if a Wildland Module is completed. How about if a Fire Module is completed instead of a Wildland Module - are the controlled date and time still needed?

Controlled Date/Time is only required for the Wildland module. These are not required fields for the Fire module.

4. We have a contracted ambulance service in our city.   Many times, we have dispatched incidents where the Fire Department arrives on-scene but are waived off by the ambulance service. Would it be appropriate to use incident type 661 (EMS call, party transported by non-fire agency) for these types of calls even if we're unsure if the patient was transported? Or do you have another suggestion for the incident type to use? This is, of course, assuming Fire Department personnel provide no patient care.

Incident type 661 or 311 would be acceptable codes, depending on what the fire personnel do upon arrival.

5. When one of our units is on a move-up into another jurisdiction and responds to incidents within that jurisdiction, who should submit an NFIRS report for that incident? Them? Us? or Both?

If you have Moved Up to another department and run an incident for that department, you would enter that NFIRS report yourself using the FDID of the department you are moved into. In other words, department 1 Moves up to department 2; department 1 runs a call for department 2; department 1 completes a NFIRS report using department 2's FDID.