CODING INCIDENTS

Have questions about how to code an incident? Are your department personnel divided on how to code certain fields? Send us your questions. In this issue we will explore some common incident type coding questions that we have come across:

**QUESTION:** What incident type code would we use for a response to a bark mulch fire? We are confused with the code 142 because it implies a living form of brush.

**ANSWER:** The correct Incident Type Code is 142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire. This code includes ground fuels lying on or immediately above the ground such as duff, roots, dead leaves, fine dead wood, and downed logs.

**QUESTION:** If we can use incident type 113 for a fire contained to a cooking pot on a stove, why can’t we use this code for a fire contained to a toaster or a microwave?

**ANSWER:** Since toasters and microwaves are considered equipment involved in ignition and not cooking containers, the incident type must be 111 so that equipment involved information can be captured.

**QUESTION:** What incident type should I use for a utility transformer fire (pole or pad mounted), where we find the transformer actually burning?

**ANSWER:** This would be coded as a 112, *Fires in structure other than in a building.* Included are fires on or in piers, quays, or pilings: tunnels or underground connecting structures; bridges, trestles, or overhead elevated structures; transformers, power or utility vaults or equipment; fences; and tents/

For more examples of commonly asked questions, please check out the New Hampshire Fire Incident Reporting System (NHFIRS) Section of the Division of Fire Safety Website. The address is:


NHFIRS contact information:
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NHFIRS data and questions should be e-mailed to [NHFIRS@dos.nh.gov](mailto:NHFIRS@dos.nh.gov)