



Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)

California Incident Data & Statistics Program (CalStats)*

*Formerly known as CAIRS

National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)

July 2020

Reminder

2020 Q2 (April - June)
NFIRS reports are due
July 15th

Send to:

CalStats@fire.ca.gov

Questions? Contact Us

Jennifer Bowman
Jennifer.Bowman@fire.ca.gov

Thomas Mackerness
Thomas.Mackerness@fire.ca.gov

Kate Dobrinski
Kate.Dobrinski@fire.ca.gov

NFIRS Coding: Wildland Fire Incidents

Did You Know?

California fire departments incorrectly report an average of **5 million** wildland acres burned per year in NFIRS.



Why?

The most common mistake that OSFM sees in wildland fire incidents is incorrect use of the "Aid Given or Received" field, particularly when fire departments are assisting on major incidents.

In 2018, many fire departments entered "None" or "Aid Received" when they provided assistance on the Mendocino Complex incident. This resulted in an additional **400,000+** acres being reported for **each** report, totaling several million erroneous acres.



Exposures

Another common mistake is the creation of exposures or additional incident numbers for the same incident.

In NFIRS, an exposure is a fire started by another fire. It is **not** meant to indicate property/parcel ownership or represent strike teams.

The **Total Acres Burned** field is meant to document the acres burned on the incident. Do not use this to document the number of acres threatened or protected.

Key Points When Coding Wildland Fires in NFIRS:

- Are you providing additional manpower to assist another fire department? (This includes overhead, strike teams, etc.) If so, you **gave aid**. Use either code 3 or 4 in the Aid Given/Received field. Only the Basic Module is required on Aid Given incidents.

More information on coding Aid Given/Received can be found on the CalStats website:
https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/5597/aidgiven_flowchart.pdf

- Exposures are meant to capture fires started by other fires. Do **NOT** use additional exposures to indicate:
 - Additional strike teams/personnel dispatched to a single incident (Use the Apparatus Module on Exposure 0)
 - Property ownership/parcels of land (Use the Narrative or the Persons/Property Involved sections of the Basic Module)

More information on Exposures can be found in the NFIRS 5.0 Complete Reference Guide at: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/nfirs/support/documentation.html>

For more information on NFIRS reporting, visit the CalStats website at:

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/wildfire-planning-engineering/california-incident-data-and-statistics-program/>