



CAIRS/NFIRS

California All Incident

Reporting System

National Fire Incident

Reporting System

October 2018

Reminder

2018 Q3 NFIRS reports are due **October 15th**

Send to: CAIRS@fire.ca.gov

Questions? Contact Us

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NFIRS Validation FAQ's

Each time NFIRS data files are submitted, they are run through federal validation to identify any errors that need to be corrected. Types of errors include:

Critical Errors:

- Data that are **required** and must be provided or corrected for the report to be complete
- A report with a **critical error** is marked as an invalid incident
- An invalid incident will not be used in federal statistics

Warning Errors:

- Data that are missing or potentially incorrect
- A warning error will not prevent the report from being complete
- Complete reports with warning errors will be used in federal statistics

Why should I correct the critical errors?

- ⇒ Helps ensure your report contains complete, accurate and reliable data
- ⇒ Provides useful data to describe your community's fire problem
- ⇒ Provides accurate fire data used statewide and nationally to evaluate legislation, code enforcement and justify resource allocations
- ⇒ May affect your ability to receive FEMA grants (the Federal NFIRS program does not count invalid incidents)

What are import failures?

These are incidents that could not be imported into the state or federal database and therefore "do not exist" until imported successfully. Failures are often caused by an error in the formatting of the data file. We can help identify some of these errors, however you may have to work with your software vendor to fix the formatting issue. Most often, the data file contains an exposure report that is not attached to an Exposure 0 main report. Simply add the additional Exposure to an Exposure 0 report and the failure will be fixed.

Resources for correcting validation errors:

[NFIRS Complete Reference Guide](#): Detailed explanation of all NFIRS fields

[NFIRS Coding Questions Guide](#): Instructions for coding in a Q & A format

[NFIRS Grams](#): Sign up to receive bulletins from the US Fire Administration that answer FAQs and address common validation errors

[Validation Scoring](#): NFIRS validation is likely built into your reporting software. Ensure all flags are cleared and the settings require 100% validity for an incident to be complete and ready for export

[Ask for help](#): When we send an error report or you encounter an error, feel free to email us: CAIRS@fire.ca.gov