

CAL FIRE
Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
California Incident Data and Statistics Program
(CalStats)

NFIRS Data
Import and Validation Procedures
(eNFIRS)

For Local Fire Department Data Submittals

Updated: 04/14/2022

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Data Import Process

Overview

Fire departments in California report their incident response activity to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), as well as the Office of the State Fire Marshal's (OSFM) CalStats Unit through eNFIRS. The CalStats staff periodically exports the data from eNFIRS and uploads the records to the statewide CalStats Database. A flowchart of the process is included in [Appendix A](#). In order to complete the following steps, you must have an eNFIRS user account. Follow this link for instructions on obtaining an eNFIRS account: [Register for User Account in eNFIRS](#)

The general process is to:

1. Export the NFIRS incident data file from the third-party vendor software (.txt or .INC)
A single file can contain multiple incidents.
2. [Import the file](#) into the eNFIRS National Data Warehouse (eDW) using the Bulk Import Utility (BIU) in eNFIRS
3. [Review the output reports](#) generated by the eNFIRS import
4. Make any necessary corrections
5. Repeat steps 1 – 4 if corrections are made

NFIRS Submission Files

The following section outlines some of the basic elements included in an NFIRS submission file and is for informational purposes only.

Incident Identification

A good coding scheme is necessary when loading incidents from multiple fire departments from multiple states over multiple years into one database. NFIRS uses five key fields to distinctly identify individual incident records.



FDID

NFIRS relies on a five-digit identifier for the specific fire department that “owns” the report. This identity key is called the Fire Department Identification Number (FDID). The format is: **CCDDD**

Where **CC** = County number

The county number is from the [Federal Information Processing Standards \(FIPS\)](#) code scheme. FIPS numbers the counties in alphabetical order, so county 01 is Alameda County and 58 is Yuba County. The FDID number is issued and controlled by the CalStats Unit of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

State

NFIRS relies on a two-character alphabetical key to identify the specific state that “owns” the report. The format is: **SS**

Where **SS** = State = CA

Date

The incident date is defined as the date when the incident is first reported to the fire department. The format is usually: **YYYYMMDD**

Where **YYYY** = Year
And **MM** = Month
And **DD** = Day of the month

Incident Number

The incident number is a seven-digit number assigned to an incident (numerical only). This number is assigned and controlled by the fire department.

Exposure Number

In NFIRS, an exposure is a fire started by another fire. While the FDID, State, Incident Date, and Incident Number remain the same, a separate sequential Exposure Number is assigned to each exposure. The original “parent” incident is always coded as exposure “000” and further exposures are numbered sequentially in increments of 1, beginning with “001.” This is a three-digit number.

NFIRS Flat File Basics:

```
File Edit Format View Help
|
VHVPNPVHSV|HVFDH|
50555|CA|20160401|0009
50555|CA|20160401|0009299|000|1800||1|SSLE24|11|20160401034154||20160401034930|3|1|93;|
50555|CA|20160401|0009299|000|1005||611||N|20160401034154|||20160401034930|A||MCS|93;||1|
```

File Header (Must be at top of .txt file in order to import.)
Includes 10-digit Vendor ID (Ex: VHVPNPVHSV) and 5-digit Software ID (Ex: HVFDH)
Example shown: Zoll

Transaction Type
Example Shown: Blank (Addition)

Record Type

Delimiters (either ^ or | for NFIRS files)

FDID State Incident Date Incident Number Exposure # Record Type Transaction Type

More information on NFIRS Flat Files (also called “Transaction Files”) can be found on pages **132 – 161** of the **NFIRS 5.0 Design Documentation**:

https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/nfirs/NFIRS_Spec_2015.pdf

eNFIRS Import

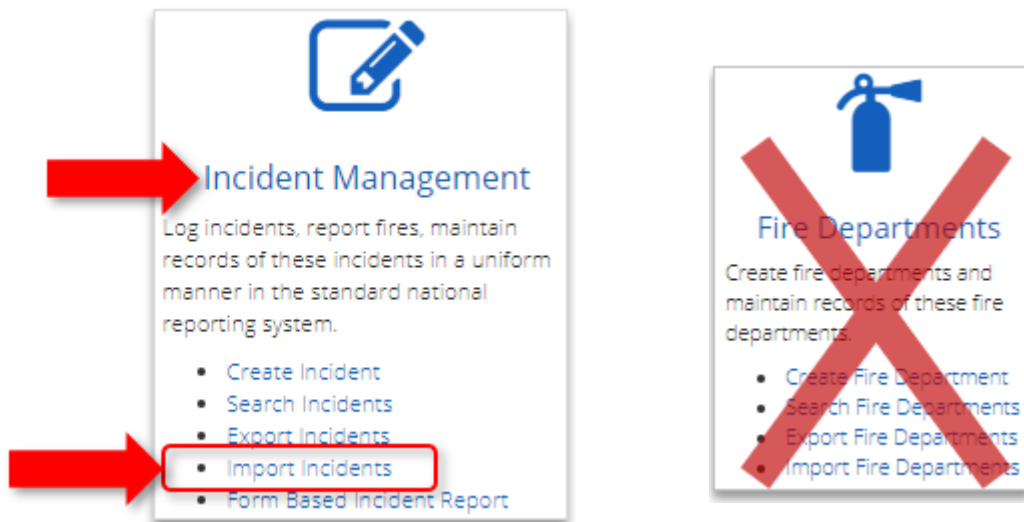
To view a video created by the U.S. Fire Administration that demonstrates the following steps, go to: [eNFIRS: Importing Incident Files \(in depth\)](#)

Log in to [eNFIRS](#)

! eNFIRS is **ONLY** fully functional with the Microsoft Edge browser. **!**
Other browsers may cause functionality issues.

Each account can have access to multiple FDID's, if needed. These users can switch between FDID's while logged in to a single user account but will only be able to view or import data for the FDID profile they are currently in at that time.

Select **Import Incidents** under **Incident Management** to access the Bulk Import Utility (BIU).



Do NOT select “Import Fire Departments” under the “Fire Departments” section for the incident submission process.

The first field of the Bulk Import Utility (BIU) is the email address that the results will be sent to. The default is the email address associated with the account, but this can be changed manually here if needed.

The red asterisk (*) denotes a required field.

*Email Address
e.g., john.doe@gmail.com

 In the BIU, select **Yes** for “Accept Invalid Incidents” and “Overwrite Existing Incidents.” 

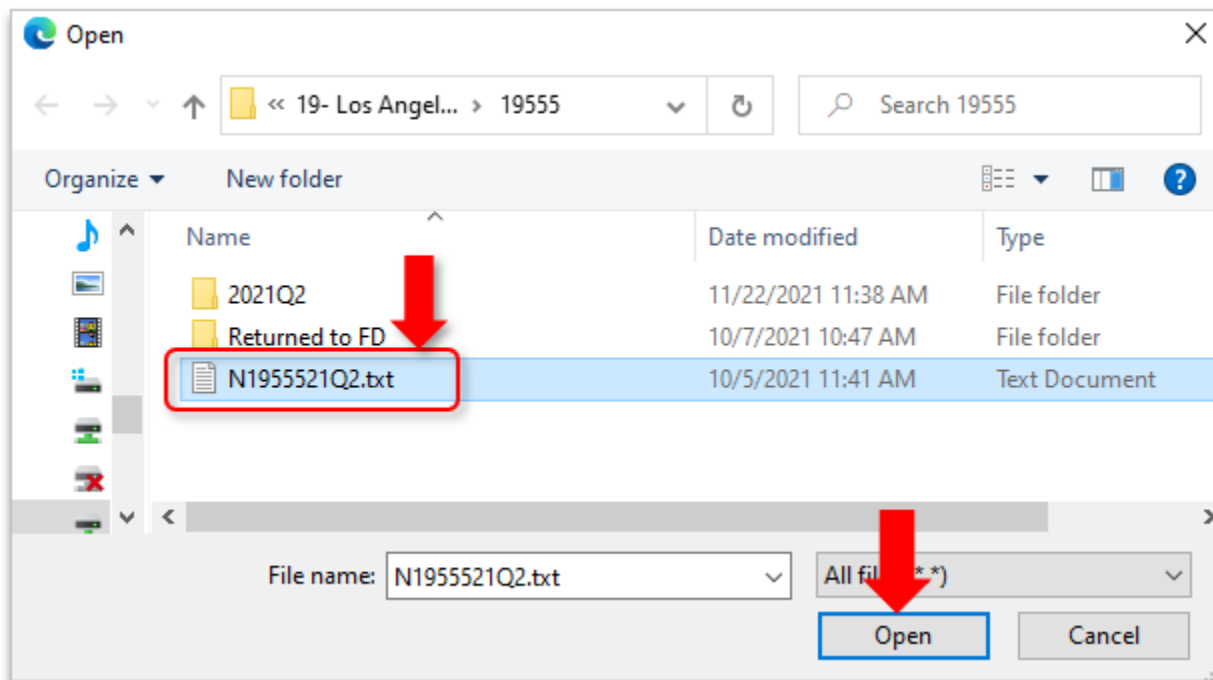
*Note: They will turn gray when they are selected. If they are white, they are **not** the selected options.*

Accept Invalid Incidents	<input type="button" value="Yes"/>	<input type="button" value="No"/>
Overwrite Existing Incidents	<input type="button" value="Yes"/>	<input type="button" value="No"/>

Select **Choose File** under File 1.

*File 1	<input type="button" value="Choose File"/>	chosen
File 2	<input type="button" value="Choose File"/>	No file chosen
File 3	<input type="button" value="Choose File"/>	No file chosen

Select the desired file and click **Open**.



Be sure the file follows the guidelines shown on the Bulk Import Utility (BIU) web page. These file guidelines are also shown in [Appendix F](#).

Note: A single file can contain multiple incidents.

Once the file is selected under File 1, click Import Files.

*Email Address
e.g., john.doe@gmail.com

Accept Invalid Incidents Yes No

Overwrite Existing Incidents Yes No

*File 1 N1955521Q2.txt ✓

File 2 No file chosen

File 3 No file chosen

Once you click Import Files, you will see the Bulk Import Confirmation screen.

Save the original file that was imported. This may be needed to evaluate critical errors and/or import failures once the file import is processed and the results are generated.

Bulk Import Confirmation

✓ Congratulations! ×

Your import request has been successfully submitted and placed in the queue for processing (check your email for a link to the completed request). If you do not receive an email from NFIRSBulkImport@dhs.gov, contact the NFIRS Support Center (fema-nfirshelp@fema.dhs.gov).

Caution: Uploading the same file more than once further delays the processing of the data.

Import Details

Import Results Email Address	kate.kovanda@fire.ca.gov
Files Submitted by	kdobrinski
State	CA
Accept Invalid Incidents	Yes
Overwrite Existing Incidents	Yes
Upload Time	0.194 second(s)

Import Results

File Name	File Size (KB)	Upload Status	Remarks
e7336088-4c15-4bcb-kdobr.zip	10939	Success	



The Bulk Import Confirmation does NOT indicate that the file was successfully imported, only that it has been successfully submitted to the queue for processing.



The import and validation results (output files) will be sent to the email address entered into the **Email Address** field of the BIU.

This email from NFIRSBulkImport@dhs.gov will contain a link to the output files.

Typically, the email from NFIRSBulkImport@dhs.gov does **not** arrive immediately and may be delayed further due to a large file size or system outages.

If the email from NFIRSBulkImport@dhs.gov does not arrive after 48 hours, contact the NFIRS Help Desk at: FEMA-NFIRSHelp@fema.dhs.gov

NFIRS File Import

NFIRSBulkImport@dhs.gov
Tue 4/12/2022 12:24 PM
To: Kovanda, Kate @CALFIRE

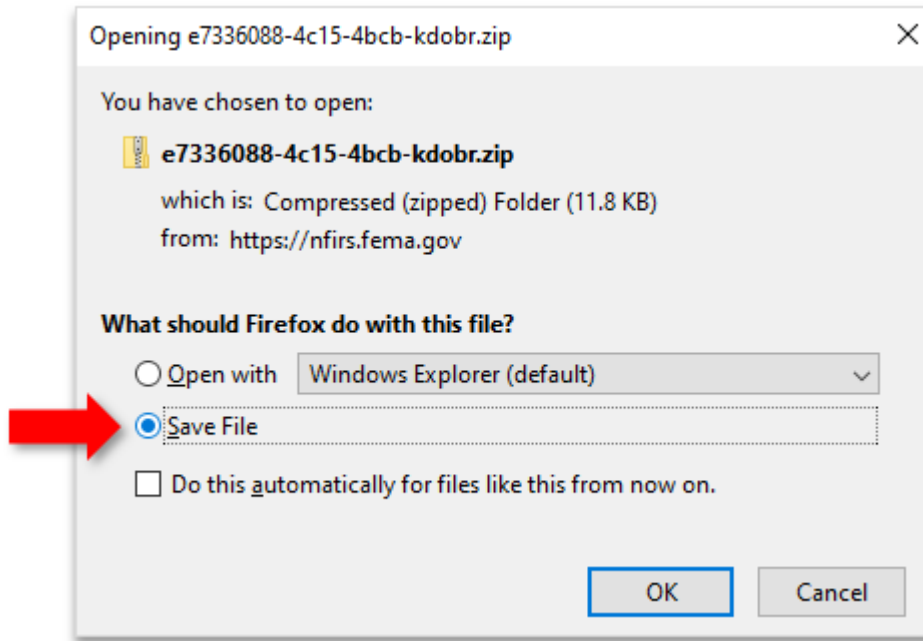
Warning: this message is from an external user and should be treated with caution.

The NFIRS Bulk Import service has completed processing your files. Please follow this link <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnfirs.fema.gov%2FNFIRSWeb%2FdownloadIncidentImport%3FRequestId%3D2ac2edd7-2da1-4fc8-kdobr&data=04%7C01%7Ckate.kovanda%40fire.ca.gov%7C1407edf266864f2920a708da1cba172a%7C447a4ca05405454dad68c18a520261f8%7C1%7C0%7C637853882835647211%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3R8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQljoiv2luMzliLCJBTil6k1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%3D&reserved=0> to retrieve the zip file containing your results.

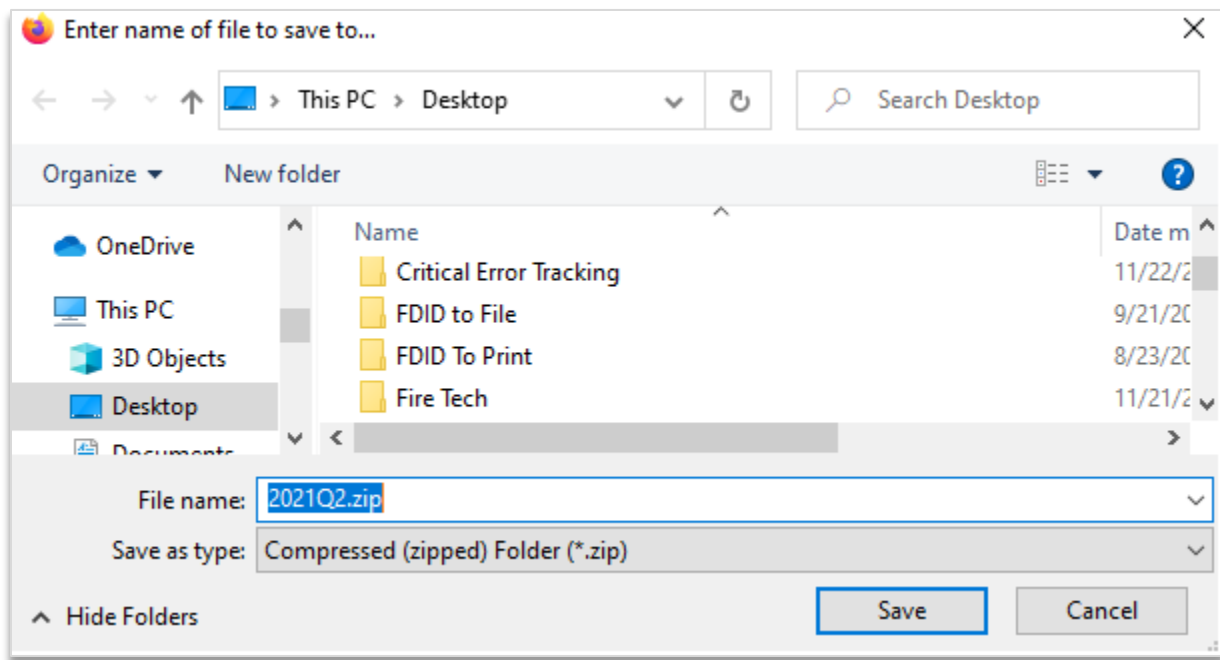
Reply | Forward

Clicking the **long** link in the email will generate a message asking what to do with the file.

Select "Save File" and click OK.
(This may look different depending on the web browser or email provider.)



Save the file to the Desktop or other desired location. This will save a *.zip folder containing the output files. The files in the newly saved folder are the **results** of the import.



More videos demonstrating eNFIRS features, such as account registration and data file processing can be found at the U.S. Fire Administration's NFIRS Training web page:

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfirs/training/>

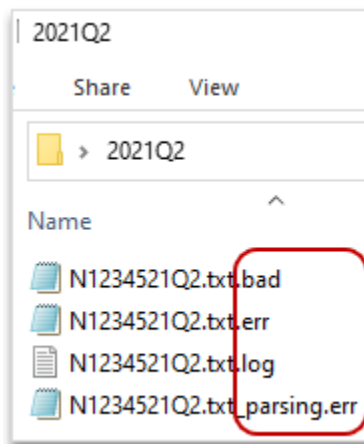
Processing Import and Validation Results

Overview

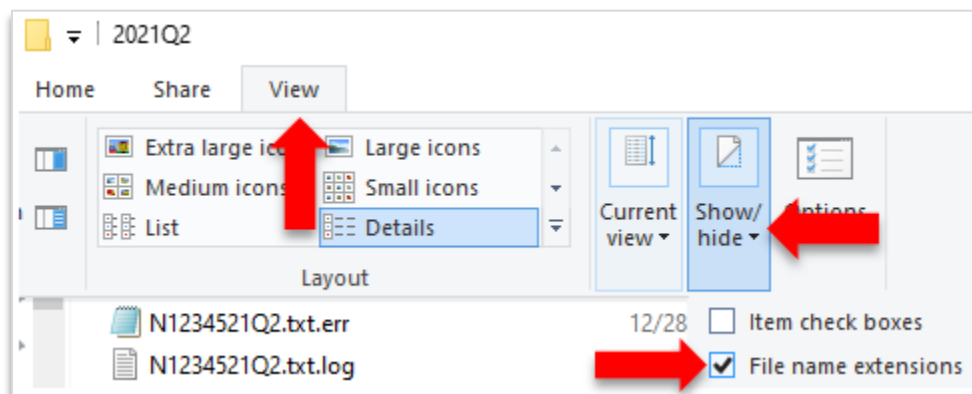
The desired result of an import is for all records to be successfully uploaded (imported) into the NFIRS database and to successfully pass the validation check.

The folder containing the **results** (output files) of the import should contain four files. The files should have the following extensions (shown in the red box): **.bad**, **.err**, **.log**, **._parsing.err**

The main ***.log** file is considered the **summary report**, which shows the number of valid imports, invalid imports (incidents with critical errors), deleted incidents, import failures, and the total number of incidents processed.



If the file extensions are not visible, go to the **View** tab in Windows Explorer, click the “Show/Hide” menu and check the **File Name Extensions** box.



Viewing Import and Validation Results

- Open the *.zip file containing the results of the import (output files)
- Open the *.log file and scroll to the bottom to view the **Incident Summary**
- If there are zero Invalid Imports (critical errors) **AND** zero import failures, this confirms that the import and file validation was successful
- If there are any Invalid Imports (critical errors) or Import Failures, use [Appendix B](#) and/or [Appendix C](#) for information on viewing these

Summary Report (*.log)

The following section outlines the various elements of the *.log file.

The first part of the summary report (*.log) shows the settings used in the processing of the data.

```
Bulk Import Request:
*****
Processing file: N1955521Q2.txt          2014/05/05 14:40:07
TransType: NFIRS 5.0 Incident File      2014/05/05 14:40:07
VendorID: VXVMPWVXWY                   2014/05/05 14:40:07
SoftwareID: XRTVR                       2014/05/05 14:40:07
Import Target: Database                  2014/05/05 14:40:07
Database Mode: On Line                   2014/05/05 14:40:07
Accept invalid Incidents: true           2014/05/05 14:40:07
Overwrite existing Incidents: true       2014/05/05 14:40:07
Import after validation: true             2014/05/05 14:40:07
```

The second part of the *.log file contains a status report for each incident processed. Each line shows the date/time that the incident was uploaded. Alternatively, the record may contain other information if there are validation issues with the record or if the record failed to import.

```
Incident was Successfully Imported: 39010:CA:11/20/2008:0000266:0 2014/05/05 09:51:04
Incident was Successfully Imported: 39010:CA:11/20/2008:0000267:0 2014/05/05 09:51:04
Incident was Successfully Imported: 39010:CA:11/24/2008:0000268:0 2014/05/05 09:51:04
EXCEPTION: Incident 39010:CA:12/02/2008:0000273:0 Contains Validation Errors 2014/05/05 09:51:04
Incident was Successfully Imported: 39010:CA:11/26/2008:0000269:0 2014/05/05 09:51:05
Incident was Successfully Imported: 39010:CA:11/26/2008:0000270:0 2014/05/05 09:51:05
Incident was Successfully Imported: 39010:CA:11/26/2008:0000271:0 2014/05/05 09:51:05
```

The third portion of the *.log file contains summary statistics for the status of the validation and import. *Note: "Invalid imports" are incidents with one or more critical errors.*

```
Incident was Successfully Imported: 39010:CA:12/29/2008:0000295:0 2014/05/05 09:51:09
Incident was Successfully Imported: 39010:CA:12/30/2008:0000296:0 2014/05/05 09:51:09
Incident was Successfully Imported: 39010:CA:12/31/2008:0000297:0 2014/05/05 09:51:09
```

```
Incident Summary:
*****
Valid imports: 282          2014/05/05 09:51:14
Invalid imports: 1         2014/05/05 09:51:14
Deleted Incidents: 0       2014/05/05 09:51:14
Import failures: 1         2014/05/05 09:51:14

TOTAL Processed: 284      2014/05/05 09:51:14
```

Typical Situations Found

Use the information in the *.log file to determine any actions needed for the incident data.

Situation 1: Successful Validation

Incident Summary:	
Valid imports:	421
Invalid imports:	0
Deleted incidents:	0
Import failures:	0
Total Processed:	421

The Problem:

No problems. Invalid imports (critical errors) = 0 and Import failures = 0

This is the desired outcome. All of the records successfully passed the validation check and were successfully imported into eNFIRS

Situation 2: Invalid Imports (Incidents with Critical Errors)

Incident Summary:	
Valid imports:	420
Invalid imports:	9
Deleted incidents:	0
Import failures:	0
Total Processed:	429

The Problem:

Invalid imports > 0

There are some incidents with critical errors.

Some of the records did not pass the validation check. Typically, this error message is generated when a data field in the record contains an invalid or incomplete value. The Bulk Import Utility (BIU) will still upload the incident into the eNFIRS National Data Warehouse (eDW).

The *.err file will contain additional information concerning the validation errors.

*Note: Warnings do NOT impact the validity of an incident. **Only critical errors** need to be addressed.*

In the example below, incident #0000163 was coded as a wildland fire but no acres were entered in the Acres Burned field.

39010^CA^20210120^0000163^0^Fire Module^Required Data^Critical^Number of Acres Burned^0^0^

More information on critical errors can be found in [Appendix B](#).

Situation 3: Import failures

Incident Summary:	
Valid imports:	420
Invalid imports:	0
Deleted incidents:	0
Import failures:	9
Total Processed:	429

The Problem:

Import failures > 0

There are incidents that failed to import.

These incidents were not imported into eNFIRS.

The detailed listing of the incidents in the *.log file will show “**Incident failed import,**” “**Unable to import,**” or “**Unrecoverable error**” for incidents that failed. For example:

Unable to import incident 39010:CA:05/15/2008:0000101:1 due to an error that occurred while saving incident data: Exposure 0 for incident number 0000101 was not found, but must be added before this exposure (1) can be added. (Exposure 0 for this incident is missing or may have failed to import.) (Exposures must start with 0.). 2014/05/05 09:50:39

The example above occurs when Exposure 001+ is included in the file, but Exposure 000 is not present (or is located *later* in the file than Exposure 001+). **Exposure 001 and greater cannot import if Exposure 000 is not in the eNFIRS National Data Warehouse (eDW).**

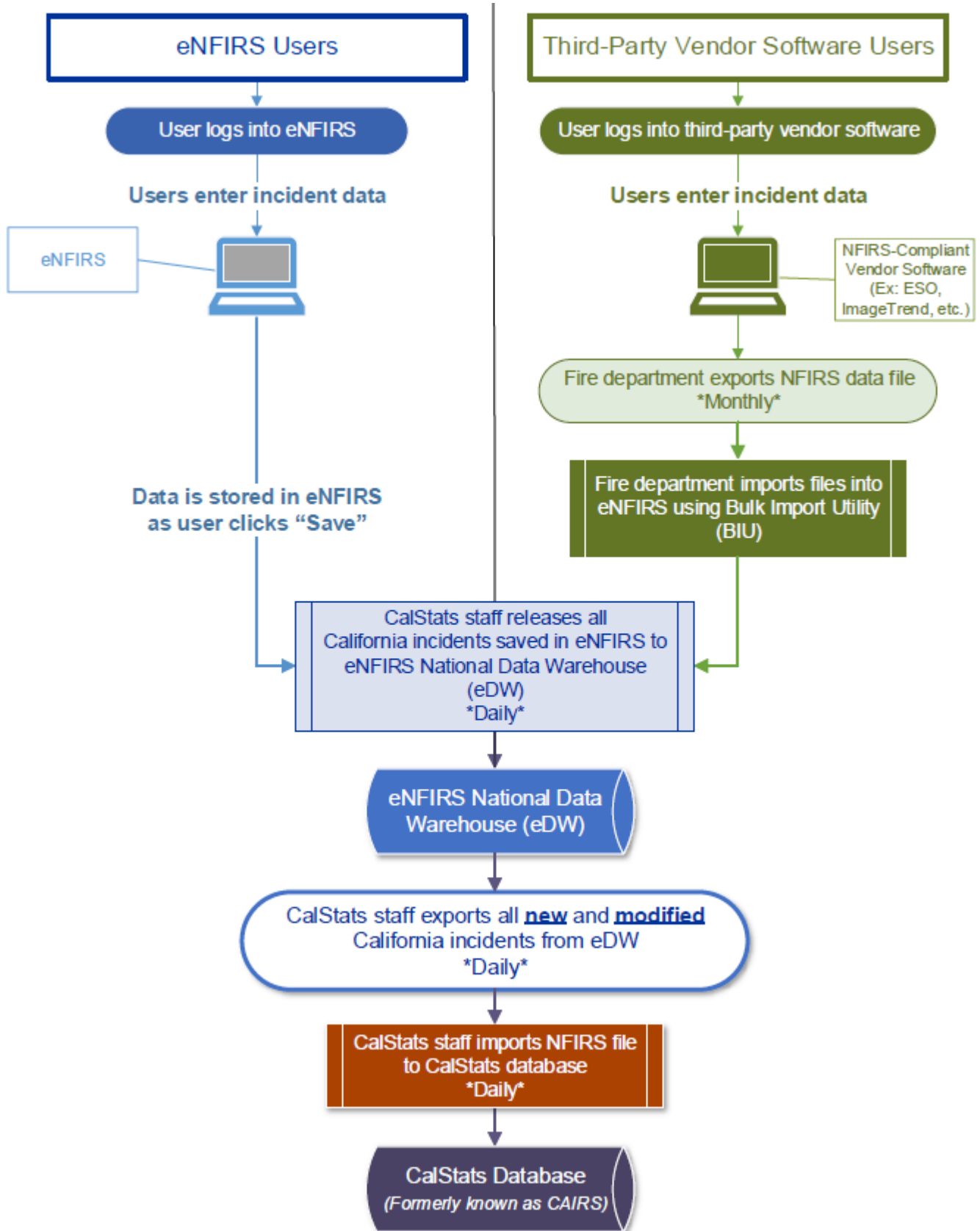
Note: All related exposures MUST have the same FDID, Date, and Incident Number. Otherwise, the database does not associate them together and the “child” records will fail to import.

Data format issues can also cause import failures. Data formatting is typically the problem when there are a large number of import failures.

[Appendix C](#) and [Appendix D](#) provide instructions for identifying the issues causing the import failures.

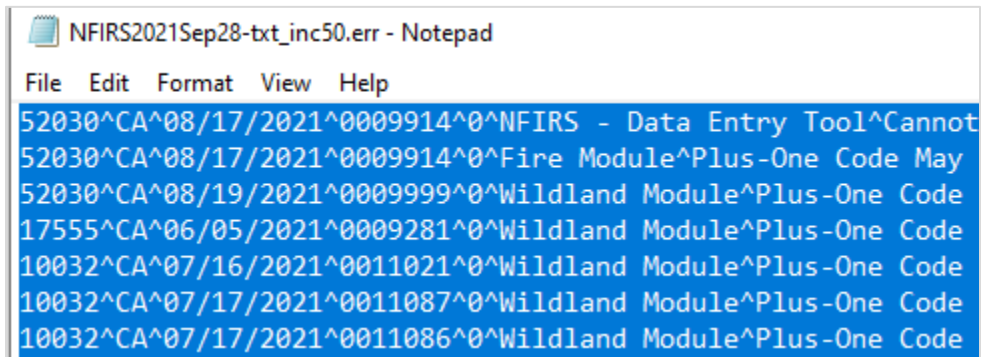
When these issues are identified, refer to your fire department’s department software vendor, the NFIRS Helpdesk at fema-nfirshelp@fema.dhs.gov, or the CalStats Program at CalStats@fire.ca.gov for assistance.

Appendix A: CalStats Data Flow – Local Government and Contract Counties



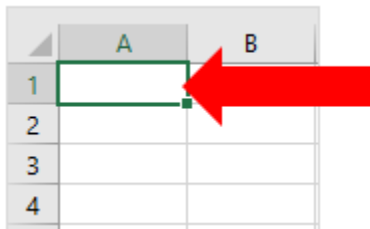
Appendix B: Using Excel to Process *.err Files

- Open a blank Excel workbook
- Open the *.err file
- Use **CTRL+A** to “select all” in the *.err file

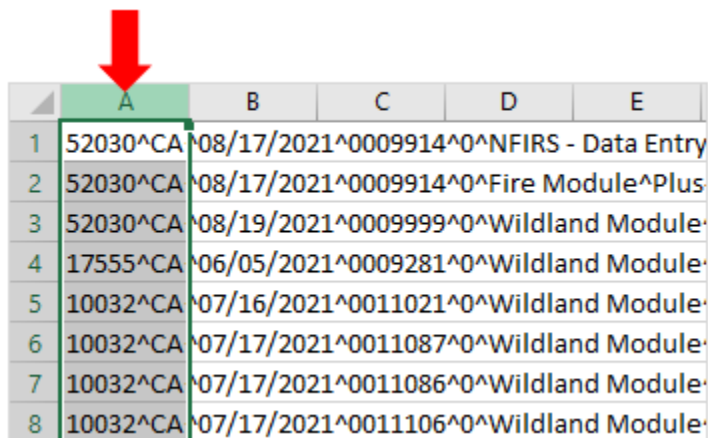


```
NFIRS2021Sep28-txt_inc50.err - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
52030^CA^08/17/2021^0009914^0^NFIRS - Data Entry Tool^Cannot
52030^CA^08/17/2021^0009914^0^Fire Module^Plus-One Code May
52030^CA^08/19/2021^0009999^0^Wildland Module^Plus-One Code
17555^CA^06/05/2021^0009281^0^Wildland Module^Plus-One Code
10032^CA^07/16/2021^0011021^0^Wildland Module^Plus-One Code
10032^CA^07/17/2021^0011087^0^Wildland Module^Plus-One Code
10032^CA^07/17/2021^0011086^0^Wildland Module^Plus-One Code
```

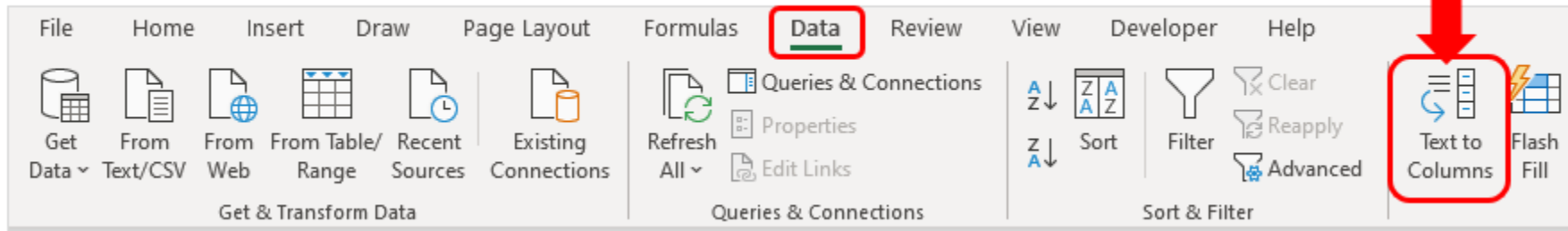
- Use **CTRL+C** to copy the selected data
- Use **CTRL+V** to paste the data into **cell A1** of the Excel workbook



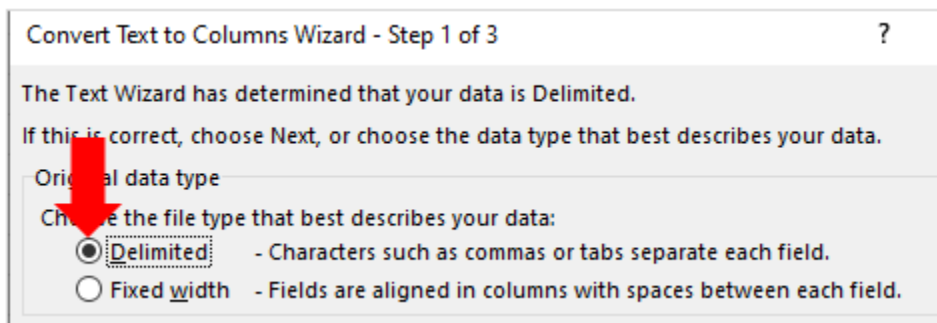
- Click on **A** in the gray column header to select **all** of **column A**



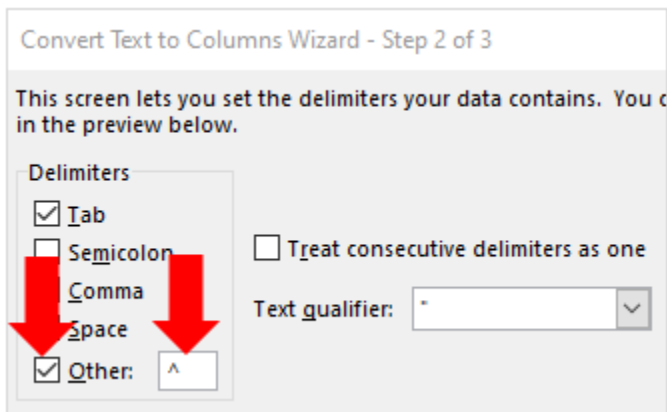
- Under the **Data** tab, select **Text to Columns**



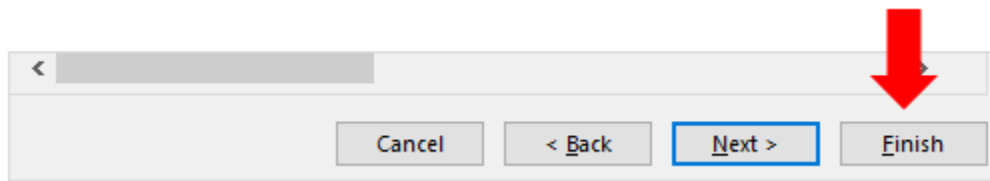
- Select **Delimited** and click Next



- Check the **Other** box and enter either the caret (^) symbol or other delimiter, such as “|” (depending on what is in the file)



- Click **Finish**



- Your error data is now split into columns
- Delete columns **J and K**, if present.

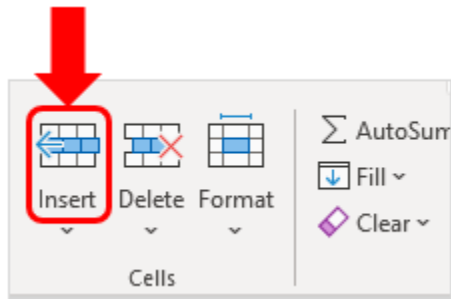
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	52030	CA	8/17/2021	9914	0	NFIRS - Da	Cannot ha	Critical	Fire Modu	0	0
2	52030	CA	8/17/2021	9914	0	Fire Modu	Plus-One	Warning	Mobile Pr		0
3	52030	CA	8/19/2021	9999	0	Wildland	Plus-One	Warning	Wildland		0
4	17555	CA	6/5/2021	9281	0	Wildland	Plus-One	Warning	Wildland		0
5	10032	CA	7/16/2021	11021	0	Wildland	Plus-One	Warning	Wildland	0	0

- Click on **1** in the gray row numbers to select **all** of **row 1**

A screenshot of a spreadsheet with columns A through K and rows 1 through 8. Row 1 is highlighted in gray. A red arrow points to the row number '1' in the first column.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	52030	CA	8/17/2021	9914	0	NFIRS - Da	Cannot ha	Critical	Fire Module		
2	52030	CA	8/17/2021	9914	0	Fire Modu	Plus-One	Warning	Mobile Property Make		
3	52030	CA	8/19/2021	9999	0	Wildland	Plus-One	Warning	Wildland Fire Cause		
4	17555	CA	6/5/2021	9281	0	Wildland	Plus-One	Warning	Wildland Fire Cause		
5	10032	CA	7/16/2021	11021	0	Wildland	Plus-One	Warning	Wildland Fire Cause		
6	10032	CA	7/17/2021	11087	0	Wildland	Plus-One	Warning	Wildland Fire Cause		
7	10032	CA	7/17/2021	11086	0	Wildland	Plus-One	Warning	Wildland Fire Cause		
8	10032	CA	7/17/2021	11106	0	Wildland	Plus-One	Warning	Wildland Fire Cause		

- Click **Insert** to insert a new row **above** row 1



- Label the columns as shown below:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	FDID	State	Incident Date	Incident Number	Exposure	Module/Location	Description	Severity	Field/Location
2	52030	CA	8/17/2021	9914	0	NFIRS - Data Entry Tool	Cannot have both Equipme	Critical	Fire Module
3	52030	CA	8/17/2021	9914	0	Fire Module	Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning	Mobile Property Make
4	52030	CA	8/19/2021	9999	0	Wildland Module	Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning	Wildland Fire Cause
5	17555	CA	6/5/2021	9281	0	Wildland Module	Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning	Wildland Fire Cause
6	10032	CA	7/16/2021	11021	0	Wildland Module	Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning	Wildland Fire Cause

- If desired, **insert a new blank column to the left of column G**, then cut and paste the **Field/Location** column (column I) into that new blank column so the information flows better (optional)

 A screenshot of the Excel table from the previous step. A red curved arrow points from the 'Field/Location' column (column I) to a new blank column (column G) that has been inserted to the left of the original column G. The table structure is as follows:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
1	FDID	State	Incident Date	Incident Number	Exposure	Module/Location		Description	Severity	Field/Location
2	52030	CA	8/17/2021	9914	0	NFIRS - Data Entry Tool		Cannot have both Equipme	Critical	Fire Module
3	52030	CA	8/17/2021	9914	0	Fire Module		Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning	Mobile Property Make
4	52030	CA	8/19/2021	9999	0	Wildland Module		Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning	Wildland Fire Cause
5	17555	CA	6/5/2021	9281	0	Wildland Module		Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning	Wildland Fire Cause
6	10032	CA	7/16/2021	11021	0	Wildland Module		Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning	Wildland Fire Cause

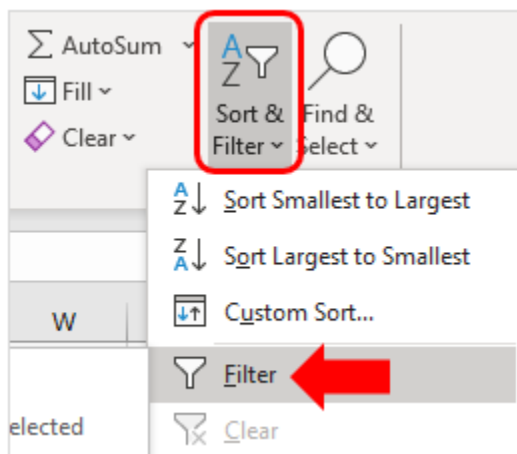
- The spreadsheet should now look like this:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	FDID	State	Incident Date	Incident Number	Exposure	Module/Location	Field/Location	Description	Severity
2	52030	CA	8/17/2021	9914	0	NFIRS - Data Entry Tool	Fire Module	Cannot have both Equipme	Critical
3	52030	CA	8/17/2021	9914	0	Fire Module	Mobile Property Make	Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning
4	52030	CA	8/19/2021	9999	0	Wildland Module	Wildland Fire Cause	Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning
5	17555	CA	6/5/2021	9281	0	Wildland Module	Wildland Fire Cause	Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning
6	10032	CA	7/16/2021	11021	0	Wildland Module	Wildland Fire Cause	Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning

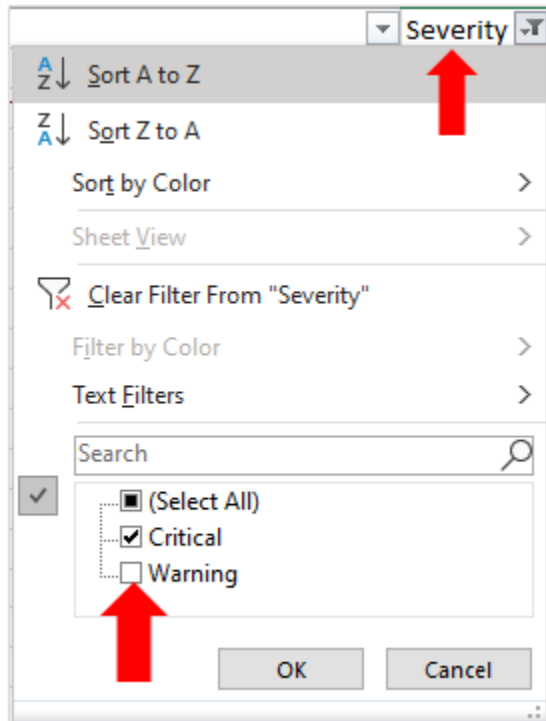
- Use **CTRL+A** to select all of the cells with data

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	FDID	State	Incident Date	Incident Number	Exposure	Module/Location	Field/Location	Description	Severity
2	52030	CA	8/17/2021	9914	0	NFIRS - Data Entry Tool	Fire Module	Cannot have both Equipme	Critical
3	52030	CA	8/17/2021	9914	0	Fire Module	Mobile Property Make	Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning
4	52030	CA	8/19/2021	9999	0	Wildland Module	Wildland Fire Cause	Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning
5	17555	CA	6/5/2021	9281	0	Wildland Module	Wildland Fire Cause	Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning
6	10032	CA	7/16/2021	11021	0	Wildland Module	Wildland Fire Cause	Plus-One Code May Not Be	Warning

- Under **Sort & Filter** select **Filter**




- Under the **Severity** column filter, un-check “Warning” (since warnings do **not** count against validation, only critical errors) and click OK.



- You now have a list of the critical errors from the file.

Appendix C: Processing Import Failures

- Open a blank Excel workbook
- Open the *.log file
- Use **CTRL+A** to “select all” in the *.log file



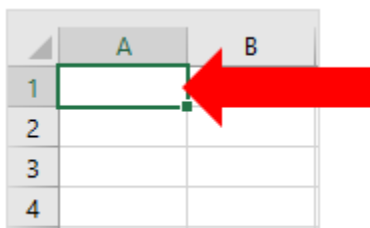
The screenshot shows a Notepad window titled "2020_1_1_2.log - Notepad". The menu bar includes File, Edit, Format, View, and Help. The text in the window is as follows:

```
Bulk Import Request:
*****
Processing file: 2020_1_1_2
TransType: NFIRS 5.0 Incident File
VendorID: USFADET1.0
SoftwareID: NFDC1
Import Target: Database
Database Mode: On Line
Accept invalid Incidents: true
Overwrite existing Incidents: true
Import after validation:true

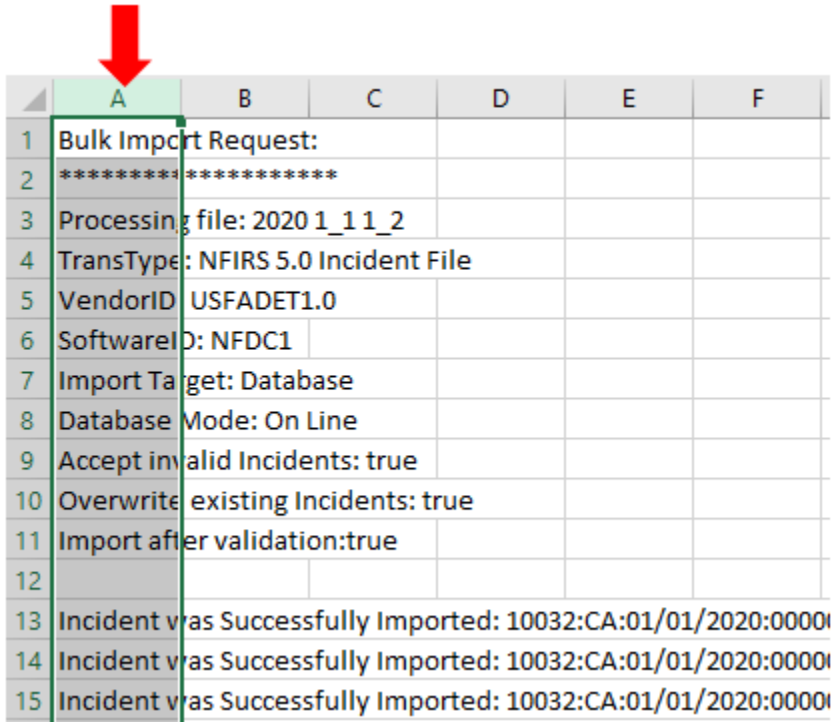
Incident was Successfully Imported: 10032:CA:01/01/2020:0000002:0 2021-07-30 12:56:52
Incident was Successfully Imported: 10032:CA:01/01/2020:0000005:0 2021-07-30 12:56:55
Incident was Successfully Imported: 10032:CA:01/01/2020:0000011:0 2021-07-30 12:56:59
Incident was Successfully Imported: 10032:CA:01/01/2020:0000009:0 2021-07-30 12:57:03
```

The text from "Bulk Import Request:" down to "Import after validation:true" and the four lines of "Incident was Successfully Imported:" are highlighted in blue.

- Use **CTRL+C** to copy the selected data
- Use **CTRL+V** to paste the data into **cell A1** of the Excel workbook

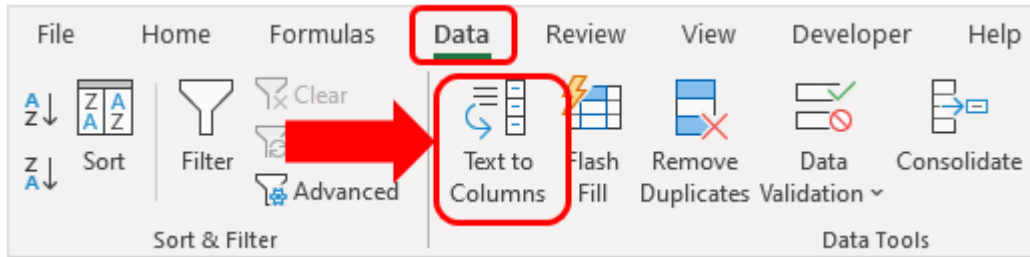


- Click on **A** in the gray column header to select **all** of **column A**

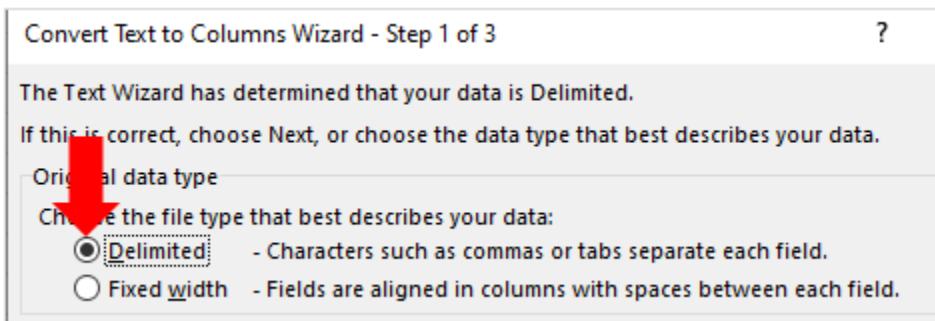


	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Bulk Import Request:					
2	*****					
3	Processing file: 2020_1_1_2					
4	TransType: NFIRS 5.0 Incident File					
5	VendorID: USFADET1.0					
6	SoftwareID: NFDC1					
7	Import Target: Database					
8	Database Mode: On Line					
9	Accept invalid Incidents: true					
10	Overwrite existing Incidents: true					
11	Import after validation:true					
12						
13	Incident was Successfully Imported: 10032:CA:01/01/2020:00001					
14	Incident was Successfully Imported: 10032:CA:01/01/2020:00001					
15	Incident was Successfully Imported: 10032:CA:01/01/2020:00001					

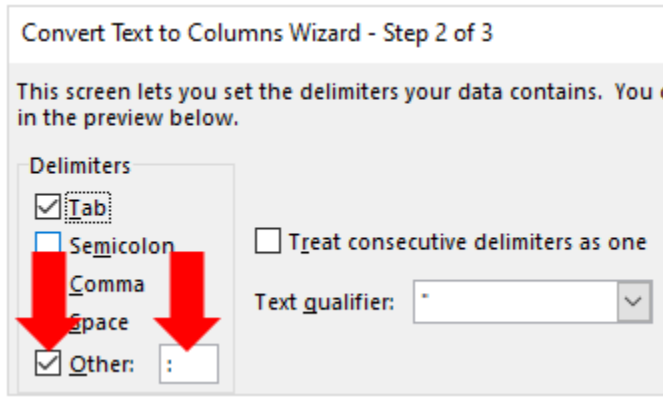
- Under the **Data** tab, select **Text to Columns**



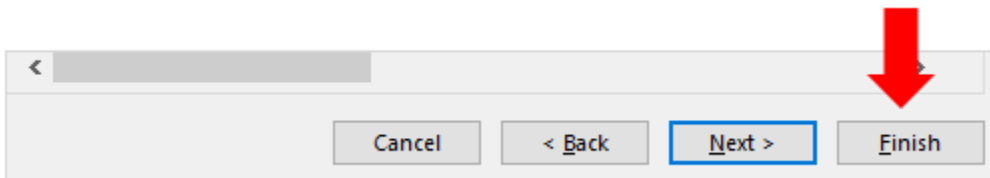
- Select **Delimited** and click Next



- Check the **Other** box and enter the colon (:) symbol



- Click **Finish**



- Your error data is now split into columns

- Delete rows **1 through 11**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Bulk Import Request:								
2	*****								
3	Processing file: 2021-07-30_11_2								
4	TransType: NFIRS 5.0 Incident file								
5	VendorID: USFADET1.0								
6	SoftwareID: NFDC1								
7	Import Target: Database								
8	Database Mode: On Line								
9	Accept invalid Incidents: true								
10	Overwrite existing incidents: true								
11	Import after validation:true								
12									
13	Incident was Successfully Imported: 10032:CA:01/01/2020:0000002:0	2021-07-30	12:56:52						
14	Incident was Successfully Imported: 10032:CA:01/01/2020:0000005:0	2021-07-30	12:56:55						

- Scroll to the end of the spreadsheet and delete the **Incident Summary** rows

20039	Incident was Successfully Imported: 36185
20040	EXCEPTION: Incident 19110:CA:01/02/2020
20041	
20042	Incident Summary:
20043	*****
20044	Valid Imports:17683
20045	Invalid Imports:476
20046	Deleted Incidents:0
20047	Import failures:1831
20048	
20049	TOTAL Processed:19990

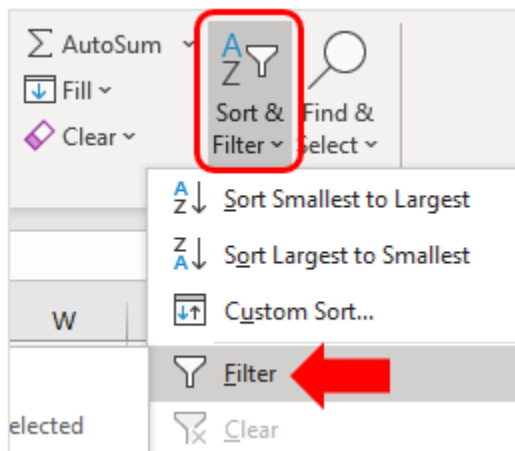
- Scroll back to the top of the document and label the columns as shown below

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Result	FDID	State	Incident Date	Incident Number	Module	Error Message		
2	Incident wa:	10032	CA	1/1/2020	2 0	2021-07-30 12	56	52	
3	Incident wa:	10032	CA	1/1/2020	5 0	2021-07-30 12	56	55	
4	Incident wa:	10032	CA	1/1/2020	11 0	2021-07-30 12	56	59	
5	Incident wa:	10032	CA	1/1/2020	9 0	2021-07-30 12	57	3	

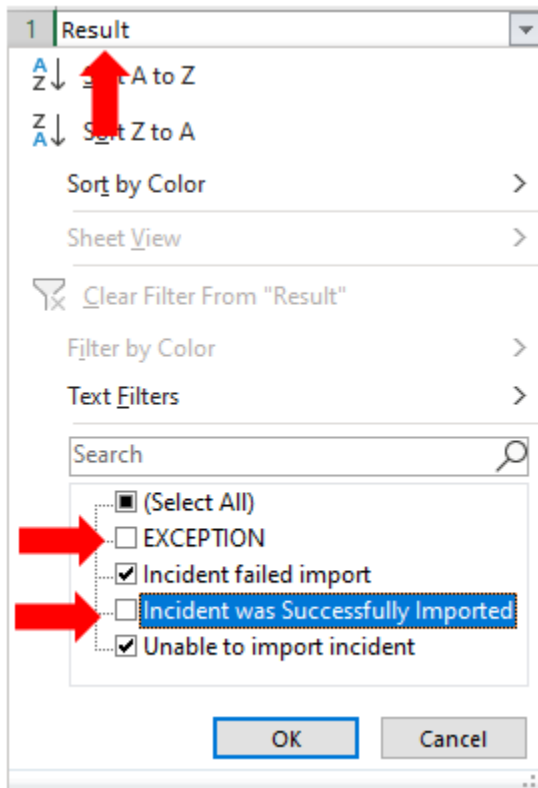
- Use **CTRL+A** to select all of the cells with data

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Result	FDID	State	Incident Date	Incident Number	Module	Error Message		
2	Incident wa:	10032	CA	1/1/2020	2 0	2021-07-30 12	56	52	
3	Incident wa:	10032	CA	1/1/2020	5 0	2021-07-30 12	56	55	
4	Incident wa:	10032	CA	1/1/2020	11 0	2021-07-30 12	56	59	
5	Incident wa:	10032	CA	1/1/2020	9 0	2021-07-30 12	57	3	

- Under **Sort & Filter** select **Filter**



- Under the **Result** column filter, **un-check** “EXCEPTION” and “Incident was Successfully Imported” and click OK.



Note: “Exception” indicates a critical error, NOT an import failure.

- You now have a list of the import failures from the file.
- More information on the incidents that failed to import can be found in the ***.txt_parsing.err** file (see [Appendix D](#))

Appendix D: Viewing the Parsing File (*.txt_parsing.err)

The information below provides an explanation and example of identifying the formatting issues that can cause incidents to fail import. The parsing file is something that NFIRS-compliant software vendors should be familiar with, but this information can be used to assist in communication and resolution of formatting issues in NFIRS submission files.

Elements of the Parsing File

*N1234521Q2.txt_parsing.err - Notepad

File Edit Format View Help

```
Line: 24 Input: 12345^CA^20210207^0001211^000^1020^^12005^CA^ABCDE001211^ Cause: [ABCDE001211] Numeric field exceeds
Line: 31 Input: 12345^CA^20210208^0001216^000^1020^^12080^CA^ABCDE001216^ Cause: [ABCDE001216] Numeric field exceeds
Line: 38 Input: 12345^CA^20210208^0001228^000^1020^^12130^CA^ABCDE001228^ Cause: [ABCDE001228] Numeric field exceeds
```

Line number of original import file where formatting issue is located

FDID

State

Incident Date

Incident Number

Exposure #

Record Type where formatting issue is located

Data causing import failure

Reason for import failure

Cause message

Line Number

This is the line number, starting from top to bottom, where the data causing the import failure can be found in the **original file** that was imported to eNFIRS. Line one is a delimiter and line two is the ten-digit Vendor ID and five-digit Software ID.

N1232521Q2.txt - Notepad

File Edit Format View Help

```
(Delimiter) Line 1 -> ^
(Vendor ID & Software ID) Line 2 -> VXVMPWVXWY^XRTVR^
Line 3 -> 12345^CA^20210208^0001048^000^1000^
Line 4 -> 12345^CA^20210208^0001048^000^1005^
12345^CA^20210208^0001048^000^1010^
```

Locate the specified line number in the **original file** that was imported to eNFIRS.

Review the cause message from the **parsing file** and locate the **data** causing the import failure.

This can also be found in the **original file** by locating the **incident number** and **record type** identified in the **parsing file**.

Ex:

```
Line: 24 Input: 12345^CA^20210207^0001211^000^1020^^12005^CA^ABCDE001211^ Cause: [ABCDE001211] Numeric field exceeds
```

Line Number = 24

Data = [ABCDE001211]

Incident Number = 0001211

Record Type = 1020

```
^
VXVMPWXWY^XRTVR^
12345^CA^20210208^0021048^000^1000^^^5.0^
12345^CA^20210208^0021048^000^1005^^322^N^N^20220208140358
12345^CA^20210208^0021048^000^1010^^^1^1841^S^SAN JACINTO^
12345^CA^20210208^0021048^000^1030^^2533507^IAN^^GOVERNALI
12345^CA^20210208^0021048^000^1035^^2533507^IAN^^GOVERNALI
12345^CA^20210208^0021048^000^1060^^1^9244^4^
12345^CA^20210208^0021184^000^1000^^^5.0^
12345^CA^20210208^0021184^000^1005^^321^N^N^20220208182358
12345^CA^20210208^0021184^000^1010^^^1^325^S^VERNON^AVE^^
12345^CA^20210208^0021184^000^1030^^2533507^IAN^^GOVERNALI
12345^CA^20210208^0021184^000^1035^^2533507^IAN^^GOVERNALI
12345^CA^20210208^0021184^000^1060^^1^9244^4^
12345^CA^20210208^0021216^000^1000^^^5.0^
12345^CA^20210208^0021216^000^1005^^321^N^N^20220208193113
12345^CA^20210208^0021216^000^1010^^^1^818^E^MAIN^ST^^^Sar
12345^CA^20210208^0021216^000^1030^^2533507^IAN^^GOVERNALI
12345^CA^20210208^0021216^000^1035^^2533507^IAN^^GOVERNALI
12345^CA^20210208^0021216^000^1060^^1^9244^4^
12345^CA^20210207^0001211^000^1050^^321^N^4^20220207192604
12345^CA^20210207^0001211^000^1000^^2^^ALDERPOINT RD/OLI
12345^CA^20210207^0001211^000^1020^^12005^CA^ABCDE001211^
```

Line number: 24

Incident Number:
0001211

Record Type:
1020

Data causing of import failure: ABCDE001211

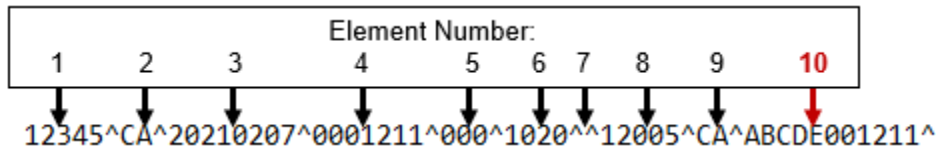
In the **parsing file**, the **reason** for the import failure in this example reads: “Numeric field exceeds max allowed length.”

This indicates that the data (**ABCDE001211**) exceeds the maximum number of characters allowed for that field.

To identify which NFIRS field this is, locate the **element number** of the data in the **original file** that was imported.

(The element number is the count of the elements between the delimiters)

Ex:



Element Number = 10

The NFIRS field causing the error in this example is **element number 10** of **record type 1020**.

Table 3-5 on page **132** of the [NFIRS 5.0 Design Documentation](#) lists the record types (transactions) of an NFIRS submission file.

Record type 1020 is identified as the “Aid Given and Received Transaction” of the incident. This transaction (record type) contains information from the Aid Given and Received section of the Basic Module.

TABLE 3-5. Transaction Hierarchy Table

(1000) Incident Header Transaction
(1005) Basic Incident Transaction
(1010) Incident Address Transaction
(1020) Aid Given and Received Transaction

Beginning on page 141 of the NFIRS 5.0 Design Documentation, there are tables for each transaction that show which field is located at each element number of that record type.

Locate the appropriate table based on **Table 3-5**.

In this example, the “Aid Given and Received Transaction” can be found in **Table 3-10** on page 142.

From this table, it is shown that **element number 10** of **record type 1020** is the “Incident Number of FDID Receiving Aid” field.

It is also shown that this field must be a number (N) and the **maximum** length of this field is seven digits.

A key explaining the various data types can be found beginning on page 136 of the NFIRS 5.0 Design Documentation.

TABLE 3-10. Aid Given or Received Transaction

ELEMENT NUMBER	ELEMENT NAME	DATA TYPE	SPECIAL FORMATTING	MAX OR EXPECTED LENGTH	COMMENTS
1	Fire Dept. ID	X		5	
2	Fire Dept. State	C		2	
3	Alarm Date	N		8	
4	Incident Number	N		7	
5	Exposure Number	N		3	Zero Based
6	Record Type	N		5	Record Type: 1020
7	Transaction Type	C		1	
8	FDID Receiving Aid	X		5	
9	FDID State Receiving Aid	C		2	
10	Incident Number of FDID Receiving Aid	N		7	

The data causing the import failure (**ABCDE001211**) contains eleven digits, which exceeds the maximum of seven.

This information can be brought to the attention of the software vendor your fire department uses to complete NFIRS reports (ESO, Emergency Reporting, Zoll, Firehouse, etc.) to resolve the issue in their data formatting.

Appendix F: eNFIRS Bulk Import Utility (BIU) File Guidelines

These guidelines can be found on the eNFIRS BIU web page:

File Guidelines

File Names

- May contain *alphabetic* characters (**a to z**)
- May contain *numeric* digits (**0 to 9**)
- May contain **spaces (but NOT tabs, newlines, or carriage returns)**
- May ONLY contain the following *special characters*: **@ (at sign), . (period), _ (underscore), - (hyphen)**
- No other special characters will be accepted

File Content Type and Number

- File content type has to be either **text/plain** or **application/zip**
- File of content type **application/zip** must only contain **plain text files**
- File of content type **application/zip** can contain **up to 10 files**
- A *maximum* of **30 plain text files** are allowed
- File content type has to be either incident data or fire dept info data
- A zip file cannot contain both incident data files and fire dept info data files
- Fire Dept information files must be uploaded separately, on the Fire Dept info upload page