

About NFIRS/Release Notes

The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is a program of:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency
United States Fire Administration
National Fire Data Center
<https://www.usfa.fema.gov>

Additional information and documentation on the NFIRS are available here:
<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfirs/>.

Release Notes

RELEASED: 5/01/2025

National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)
2024 Public Data Release (PDR)

This is the initial release of the 2024 NFIRS PDR database tables. The USFA releases two versions of the NFIRS PDR. The Fire and Hazardous Materials PDR includes all incidents where the incident type corresponds to a fire or hazardous materials incident (100 and 400 series) and the records from all modules that correspond to those incidents. The All-Incident PDR includes all incident types. Downloadable NFIRS PDR files from 1980 to 2024 are available on OpenFEMA at: <https://www.fema.gov/about/openfema/data-sets/fema-usfa-nfirs-annual-data>. For 2024, the fire and hazmat PDR data (NFIRS_FIRES_2024_050125.zip) and the all-incident PDR data (NFIRS_2024_050125.zip) were extracted from the NFIRS national production database on 4/12/2025.

The NFIRS data captured in the PDR files, including casualties and losses, are as reported to the USFA by the fire departments. For 2024, the all-incident PDR basic incident file includes 838,657 records for the state of New York. This is significantly less than the all-incident record count of 1,502,248 reflected in the 2023 PDR for the state of New York as they were unable to submit all their incidents by the April 1, 2025, cutoff date for the creation of the 2024 PDR.

FILE FORMAT:

The NFIRS PDR file format changed starting with the 2012 data year from dbase table files to delimited text files. Fields are separated by the "^" character, text fields are enclosed by double quotes, and the file uses Latin-1 encoding. Note that these files can be opened directly in Microsoft Excel but if the row count exceeds 1,048,576, some of the data will be truncated. Most database and statistical tools support loading of this delimited text format.

In 2019, a primary id key (INCIDENT_KEY) field was added to the PDR files. This field uniquely identifies each incident and consists of the following 5 data fields: STATE, FDID, INC_DATE, INC_NO, and EXP_NO. Except for this primary id key field, the format of the files and the data fields is the same in the dbase table files and the delimited text files.

The NFIRS PDR file format provides the field name, field description, data type, and field length for all data elements in each data table. The file format is found in the "Public Data Release Format v1_8.pdf" file.

QUALITY CONTROL NOTES:

Please see the "2024 NFIRS Data Quality Notes_05-01-2025.pdf" file included in this release. Additionally, see the "Data Quality Errata Addendum_PDR2023.pdf."

OTHER NOTES:

The NFIRS Structure Fire Cause codes are included as a table in the "causes.txt" file. It may be matched with the other tables using the NFIRS key (INCIDENT_KEY). Documentation is included in the "Structure Fire Cause.pdf" file. Beginning with 2016 NFIRS data, the cause file was modified to include only structure fire incidents versus all fire incidents as in the past, and the OLD_CAUSE and OLD_PCC fields were retired and are no longer included on this file.

The "NFIRS and PDR Overview 2024.pdf" guide provides a brief overview of the NFIRS, its data, and its limitations in data analyses at the state and national levels, as well as analytic resources. A brief overview of the PDR files is also discussed.

A guide to analyzing the NFIRS fire data is also included. The file is: "NFIRS 5.0 Fire Data Analysis Guidelines and Issues.pdf."

For information about how the files in the PDR relate to one another, refer to the NFIRSRelationDiagram.pdf file. For information about the data elements and lookup codes within each PDR file, refer to the codelookup.txt file. Also, see the NFIRS Complete Reference Guide (CRG) for answers to questions about code descriptions and field definitions.

The number of records included in each delimited text file for the 2024 PDR is shown below.

PDR File	Fire and HazMat PDR	All Incident PDR
arson.txt	68,327	68,624
arsonagencyreferral.txt	29,182	29,338
arsonjuvsub.txt	583	583
basicaid.txt	314,200	1,585,482
basicincident.txt	2,410,457	33,312,139
civiliancasualty.txt	8,139	8,200
ems.txt	1,855	977,549
fdheader.txt	37,801	37,801
ffcasualty.txt	11,367	20,098
ffequipfail.txt	135	320
fireincident.txt	586,714	586,715
hazchem.txt	10,018	11,043
hazmat.txt	10,624	11,689
hazmatequipinvolved.txt	10,624	11,689
hazmobprop.txt	10,624	11,689
incidentaddress.txt	2,410,457	33,312,139
wildlands.txt	96,398	96,454
causes.txt	316,934	316,934

USFA NFIRS DATA DISCLAIMER:

Caution: The NFIRS is not a repository of all incidents that occur in the United States. The NFIRS is a voluntary system, and it includes only those incidents reported to the system by fire departments that participate in the NFIRS. The PDR contains incidents that have been released by state NFIRS program managers, which may be different than the incidents reported by fire departments. In most years, all states, the District of Columbia, and many Native American Tribal Authorities report to the NFIRS, but not all fire departments that report to the NFIRS within a state necessarily report all their incidents. Also, some fire departments that report fire incidents do not report associated casualties or estimated dollar losses. States and/or fire departments that report in one particular year may not report to the NFIRS the following year. Therefore, the NFIRS is not a census of all incidents or casualties.

NFIRS Support Center

Hours of Operation - Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET.

Call 888-382-3827 or email FEMA-NFIRSHelp@fema.dhs.gov.