CODING CORNER: GRASS/VEGETATION FIRES

Regardless of ignition, a fire that is out of control should be reported as one of the incident types below, even if it started as a controlled burn.

These incidents must include, at minimum, a Basic module and a Fire or Wildland Module. (One or the other must be completed.) Completing an Apparatus/Personnel is optional but highly encouraged.

If a Civilian Fire Casualty (injury or fatality) occurs due to the fire and you are the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) for the incident, you are responsible for completing one Civilian Fire Casualty Module per civilian.

If a Fire Service Casualty (injury or fatality) from your department occurs, a Fire Service Casualty module is mandatory.

Incident Type(s):
- Forest, Brush, or Grass
- Crops

Examples of Action(s) Taken:
- 11 – Extinguish
- 14 – Contain fire (Wildland)
- 16 – Control fire (Wildland)
- 13 – Establish Fire Lines
- 15 – Confine fire (Wildland)
- 53 – Evacuate area

Basic Module
The below area all required fields when completing the Basic Module, but it is always recommended to fill out all fields for a comprehensive incident report.

- Alarm, Arrival, and Last Unit Cleared dates/times
- Mutual Aid (See ‘Mutual Aid’ reference sheet for more information)
- Estimated Dollar Losses & Values are estimates, and are required for all fires
- Property Use

Fire Module
The below are all required sections/fields when completing the Fire module, but it is always recommended to fill out all fields for a comprehensive incident report.

- Number of Residential Units is only required if the Property Use section of the Basic Module is coded in the 400-series codes.
- On-Site Materials or Products –and- On-Site Materials Storage Use is only required if the Property Use section of the Basic Module was coded in the 500, 600, 700, or 800-series codes.
- Section D – Ignition, which includes Area of Fire Origin, Heat Source, Item First Ignited, and Type of Material First Ignited.
• **Section E – Cause of Ignition**, which includes Cause of Ignition, Factors Contributing to Ignition, and Human Factors Contributing to Ignition.

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**Wildland Module**

The below are all required sections/fields when completing the Wildland Module, but it is always recommended to fill out all fields for a comprehensive incident report.

- **Alternate Location Specification** (This is only required if location information was not put in the Basic Module)
- **Area Type**
- **Section D – Wildland Fire Cause**, which includes Wildland Fire Cause, Human Factors Contributing to Ignition, and Factors Contributing to Ignition
- **Heat Source**
- **Number of Buildings Ignited** – if no buildings were ignited, check “None.” If there were buildings ignited, remember that a separate exposure report must be done for each exposure.
- **Total Acres Burned** – this should be the most accurate *estimate* of acres burned that is practical to obtain

If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact the NFIRS administrator by email at NFIRS@wsp.wa.gov or by phone at 360-596-3924.