

USFA Adds New NFIRS Codes for Ethanol and Novelty Lighters

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Note: The article below is reprinted in its entirety as written by the author, as shown in IFMA's Spring 2008 report.

As part of its regular revision cycle, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has added some new codes and made a few minor changes to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), effective January 1, 2008, to address issues of concern to the fire service and data users.

Novelty lighters will now be captured in the Fire Module under a new code for Equipment Involved in Ignition, code 877. The Heat Source will generally be "Lighter: cigarette or cigarette lighter," code 65.

Ethanol will now be captured under the new Type of Material First Ignited code 28 in the Fire Module.

Some changes were made to enhance the quality of the data. The Fire Module is now required for all fires with Incident Type 100 – "Fire, other." To help provide a better understanding of dormitory fires, the Mixed Use field is now required when the Property Use is coded as 464 – "Barracks, dormitory." The Mixed Use field data will indicate if these barracks or dormitories are for educational, military, or farm use.

Information on additional changes is available at www.nfirs.fema.gov. Questions about NFIRS should be addressed to the NFIRS Support Center, online at www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/feedback/ntsc.jsp or phone number (888) 382-3827.

NFIRS provides the detailed information NFPA uses in its analyses of the fire problem. We rely on NFIRS to tell us how, where, when and why fires are occurring. We are grateful to the USFA for its work in maintaining NFIRS and its willingness to make changes that will ultimately enable us all to gain a better understanding of current and emerging fire problems. We also appreciate all the fire departments who participate in NFIRS and in NFPA's annual survey. NFIRS and NFPA's survey data are used together to provide national estimates of specific fire problems. Look for our statistical reports on www.nfpa.org.

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