



National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)

Aid Given or Received

The following will provide information regarding aid. To complete the required field found within the Basic Module of the NFIRS incident report, either leave the field as defaulted, None, or enter the correct number to correspond with the type of aid given or received. **REMEMBER:** For the purposes of NFIRS reporting, **only** fire departments can give or receive aid. Since only fire departments report to NFIRS, incidents are not being captured if aid is given to a non-reporting agency such as the Department of Natural Resources (DNR); thus, all fire departments must complete an incident for all assists to non-reporting agencies.

(Portions of this information can be found in Chapter 3 of the NFIRS Complete Reference Guide, <https://www.nfirs.fema.gov/users/usersdocs.shtm>.)

Definition of Aid Given or Received

Aid given or received, either automatically (i.e., prearranged) or mutually for a specific incident. These actions are defined as:

Aid Received (automatic or mutual): A fire department handles an incident within its jurisdiction with additional manpower or equipment from one or more fire departments outside its jurisdiction. Aid received can be either mutual or automatic aid.

Aid Given (automatic or mutual): A fire department responds into another fire department's jurisdiction to provide assistance at an incident or to cover a vacated station while the receiving fire department is busy at an incident. Aid received can be either mutual or automatic aid.

Other Aid Given: A fire department covers and responds to another jurisdiction or locale that has no fire department. *(Generally not used in Wisconsin)*

No Aid Given: A fire department handles an incident within its jurisdiction without help from adjacent or outside fire departments.

Purpose of Aid Given or Received

Aid information can be used to study response levels necessary to control various fire and emergency situations. It can be used to determine the adequacy of resources at the local level and the need for adjusting cooperative agreements. The Aid Given or Received entry serves as data control to ensure that the same incident is not counted more than once while still giving credit for activity performed by outside departments. By joining the individual reports thru the use of FDID numbers and incident numbers, it also helps to provide a complete picture of an incident.

Entry of Aid Given or Received

Check or mark the box indicating whether aid was given or received. If no aid was given or received, check or mark the None box.

- ❖ *Unless otherwise stipulated, whenever the following instructions indicate completion of the "Basic Module," the appropriate supporting and optional modules must also be completed.*

- **Mutual/Automatic Aid Received:** If either of these boxes is checked or marked, complete the Basic Module.
 - ❖ **Departments receiving aid should form the habit of informing all departments who give aid of the incident number assigned so that the giving department can include the incident number in their report.** *This allows the “joining” of the multiple reports to provide a complete picture of the incident.*
 - ❖ If aid is received from multiple departments, note the departments in your Narrative (Section L, Remarks).
- **Mutual/Automatic Aid Given:** If your department provided mutual fill-in service only, check or mark the appropriate aid-given box; complete Their FDID, Their State, and Their Incident Number fields; enter the two-digit Actions Taken code (codes 90, 91, or 92 only) in Section F; and complete Block G1 (Resources).
 - ❖ **Other department’s FDID numbers are given on the web** (<http://dsps.wi.gov/SB/SB-FirePrevention-FireDepartments.html>)
 - ❖ No other information is required for the Basic Module unless a fire service casualty occurs. In this case, you must also complete Block H1 (Casualties) and a Fire Service Casualty Module.
- **Other Aid Given:** *(Generally not encountered in Wisconsin)* Check or mark this box if your department covers and responds to another jurisdiction or locale that has no fire department. Complete the Basic Module. In Section D, leave the Their FDID and Their Incident Number fields blank; the Their State field is optional.
- **None:** Check or mark this box if no mutual aid was involved.

If the receiving fire department completes the incident, then the giving department should complete the required portion of the module as needed for its own documentation of the incident. This can be particularly important for documenting fire service casualties. You **MUST** list the departments giving or receiving aid to your department or your incident will return errors when submitted.

- **Resources (Block G1):** If you give aid, you may choose to report your own resources as an option. Similarly, if you receive aid, you may choose to count only your own resources or count your own resources plus those of the aid-giving department. If you include aid-received resources, check or mark the corresponding box.
- **Casualties (Block H1):** The aid-receiving department reports the details on all casualties other than the fire service casualties of the aid-giving department. Each department reports the details on its own fire service casualties.
 - ❖ ***It is critical to the reporting system that the aid-receiving departments always report the total number of civilian casualties associated with the incident.***

Examples

The examples given below illustrate aid entries and address some of the frequently asked questions regarding aid.

Question: When a fire department responds outside of its jurisdiction, when is it NOT aid given (i.e., automatic or mutual)?

Answer: Two conditions have to be true for a fire department to record in NFIRS that aid is given or received: (1) The aid involves another fire department, and (2) both fire departments are at the incident (i.e., at the scene or staging). Negative examples of aid given or received are listed below:

- If a fire department is called to assist another fire department but gets canceled before arriving at the scene, no aid is given or received because both fire departments are not at the incident.
- If a fire department receives help from a non-fire service EMS department, no aid is given or received because the EMS department is not a fire department.
- If a fire department is dispatched from its station to handle an incident in another jurisdiction because the other fire department is unavailable, no aid is given or received because both fire departments are not at the incident. Only the fire department that responds to the incident completes an NFIRS report.
- If a fire department is filling-in at another fire department's station and responds to a vehicle fire, no aid is given or received because the department that is covering becomes resources of the other department; only one fire department is at the incident. The department that is filling-in completes only one NFIRS report for its FDID during its stay at the other department's station: a cover assignment (incident type 571). All incidents during the cover assignment are recorded under the other department's FDID. (*See example number 2*)

1. *A fire department receives automatic aid from another department in fighting a fire.*

The Gorman County Fire Department responded to a structure fire to assist the Buckley Fire & Rescue Department. Buckley FRD completes all required modules and checks the "Automatic aid received" box in Section D on the Basic Module.

- The equipment provided by the Gorman County FD may be listed in the Remarks section (L). For example, "Gorman County Fire Department: one pumper, one aerial ladder."
- The Gorman County FD completes Section A through Section G1 on the Basic Module. In Section D, check or mark the Automatic Aid Given box and indicate Buckley FRD's FDID, State, and incident number. If the incident number is unknown, then the Gorman County FD is required to complete the entire Basic Module.

2. *A fire department sends apparatus and personnel to a nearby community to "fill-in" for its fire department.*

Buckley Fire & Rescue Department sent one pumper to fill-in at Station 13 in Gorman County FD's jurisdiction.

- If the Buckley FRD fill-in unit responded to an incident: Buckley FRD completes the Basic Module using Gorman County FD's FDID and Incident Number because, once they are in the Gorman station, it is the same as if they are Gorman fire department personnel.
- If Buckley FRD did not respond to an incident: Buckley FRD completes the Basic Module with the Action Taken (Section F) as "Fill-in, Standby" (code 92) using the Buckley FDID and Incident Number.

Question: Engine 1 from Department "A" is on a cover assignment in Department "B's" jurisdiction. While covering, engine 1 runs three incidents in Department B's jurisdiction (Incident Types #321, #322, & #735). How does engine 1 from Department A record these three incidents? Do these incidents require a Department A incident number, or can they be part of the '571' Cover Assignment incident?

Answer: When Department A is filling in for Department B, they are no longer Department A. Instead, they become Department B. Therefore, in your scenario, Department A's Engine 1 becomes Department B. So, Department A should complete the three reports as if they are Department B, using Department B's FDID number and Incident Numbers.

Question: We were dispatched for a move up to another department's station. While we were there, we were called to a fire scene. How would this incident be listed and what address is the correct one to use? Or would this be two separate incidents?

Answer: This should be two separate incidents (one for the move-up and the other for the actual fire). You should use the other department's station address for the move-up & the actual fire scene address for the second incident. Remember—when a department moves up, they become that department. As a result, any calls run while they are there should be entered as if they were the other department.

3. *A fire department responds to a DNR call for a wildfire. A structure is burned during the fire.*

The Buckley Fire & Rescue Department responds to a wildfire along with the DNR.

- Buckley FRD submits two complete reports. The first report is given the incident number that is next in Buckley's incident numbering order and is completed for a wildfire (if chosen, the optional wildfire module can be utilized in place of the fire module). The second report is given the same incident number and is Exposure 1. This report is completed for the structure fire and will require at a minimum the Basic, Fire, and Structure modules. While both reports show no aid given/received on the Basic module, both narratives indicate the DNR's involvement.

AID GIVEN OR RECEIVED CODES

- 1 Mutual aid received from an outside fire service entity upon request from the initial responding department.
 - 2 Automatic aid received. Includes a department receiving aid from an outside fire service entity that was dispatched automatically based on a prior agreement between two jurisdictions.
 - 3 Mutual aid given to an outside fire service entity on request of the outside entity.
 - 4 Automatic aid given. Includes departments automatically dispatched to give aid to an outside fire service entity based on a prior agreement between two jurisdictions.
 - 5 Other aid given. Includes a fire department responding to another jurisdiction or locale that has no fire department.
- N No aid given or received.