



## National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)

### Exposure Number

The following will provide information regarding exposures. To complete the required field found within the Key Information tab of the NFIRS incident report, either leave the field as defaulted, zero, or enter the correct number to correspond with the number of exposure fires resulting from another fire.

(This information is taken directly from Chapter 3 of the NFIRS Complete Reference Guide, <https://www.nfirs.fema.gov/users/usersdocs.shtm>.)

#### Definition of Exposure Number

*Exposure* is defined as a fire resulting from another fire outside that building, structure, or vehicle, or a fire that extends to an outside property from a building, structure, or vehicle. For example, if the building fire ignites a truck parked outside, the truck fire is an exposure fire.

- In the case of buildings with internal fire separations, treat the fire spread from one separation to another as an exposure. Treating multiple ownership of property within a building (e.g., condominiums) as exposures, unless separated by fire-rated compartments, is discouraged.

#### Purpose of Exposure Number

Although the Incident Number permits all properties involved in a fire incident to be related together, the Exposure Number identifies each separate property type involved in the fire. This makes it possible to capture the specific details of the fire in each exposure and to relate all the exposures to the basic incident, if necessary. The Exposure Number, in conjunction with other required Section A fields, uniquely identifies each incident itemized in Section C.

When a fire involves more than one building, each building fire should be considered a separate fire, with the ignition for all but the original building fire classified as exposure fires.

#### Entry of Exposure Number

In a fire involving exposures, an additional Basic Module should be completed for each exposure. Each module completed for an exposure should contain the same Incident Number assigned to the original property involved. A separate sequential Exposure Number is assigned to each exposure. The original incident is always coded "000," and exposures are numbered sequentially and incremented by 1 beginning with "001." The three-character numeric field is zero filled, not right justified.

- The Incident Date for each exposure remains the same as that of the basic incident; however, the Alarm Time in Block E1 should reflect the time of each new exposure.
- The relevant data for each exposure should then be recorded using the appropriate modules.
- Treat similar items in a group as a single exposure (such as a fleet of cars).
- Be sure to check or mark the exposure fire check box Cause of Ignition (Block E1) on the Fire Module for each exposure fire, and then skip to Section G on the Fire Module.