



# DFIRS NEWS

## Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System

Volume 4, Issue 1

January – March 2005

### Message from the Program Manager

In order to use our state resources in the wisest manner possible, the DFIRS Newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis using electronic means of dissemination. If for some reason you have not received the DFIRS Newsletter one month after the close of the quarter, please contact me.

Over the next several months' military obligations at times may necessitate my absence for short periods of time. During these times, the Dover Headquarters will be handling all calls and e-mails in order to provide the same level of service departments currently receive.

FEMA will also be assisting the SFMO with any questions or problems; therefore, if SFMO resources are not available please contact FEMA directly at (888) 382-3827.

### 2005 Training Classes

DFIRS training will be provided throughout the state for all new fire recorders, line officers, and other relevant administrative members. The training schedule is as follows:

#### Kent County departments

January 11, 2005 @ 7:00 p.m. – Delaware State Fire School, 1461 Chestnut Grove Road, Dover, DE 19904

#### Sussex County departments

January 14, 2005 @ 7:00 p.m. – Delaware State Fire School, Industrial Park Blvd, Georgetown, DE 19947

#### New Castle departments

January 18, 2005 @ 7:00 p.m. – Delaware State Fire School, 2311 MacArthur Drive, New Castle, DE 19720

Please fill out the provided pre-registration form and return to Delaware State Fire Marshal's Office, 1537 Chestnut Grove Road, Dover, DE 19904 before January 3, 2005.

### Important Coding Information

As was published in the last newsletter, the Systems Committee of the National Fire Information Council provided a ruling for incident coding answering the question:

**“How should a fire incident when the fire is out prior to the arrival of the fire department be coded?”**

#### Answer:

The incident type would be a fire just as it would be as if the fire is still burning (for example, a building fire is an incident type 111). The actions taken would be investigate or other post fire extinguishment actions.

**Please pass this information on to all department members recording incident information, both electronically and manually.**

### Other Coding Questions

#### Question:

**If an incident does not have an arrival time or a controlled time, what should be reported?**

#### Answer:

If the unit is cancelled en-route, then the Arrival Time should be set to the time that the unit, or fire department, cleared. Also, in the Apparatus/Personnel Module, the arrival time for an individual unit would be the same as the cleared time if they were cancelled en-route. This is typical when the first unit arrives at the scene and can handle the situation without the need for the additional units that are cancelled en-route.

#### Question:

**Heat from a fire did excessive melting of aluminum sliding on an adjacent house. The adjacent house sustained major dollar loss. Is this**

## Reflecting on 2004....

The purpose of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program is to award one-year grants directly to fire departments of a State to enhance their abilities with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. This program seeks to support departments that lack the tools and resources necessary to protect the health and safety of the public and their firefighting personnel with respect to fire and all other hazards they may face.

For information on the AFG Program, please see [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com)

| Fire Dept   | Category                               | Federal Share | Award Announcement |
|-------------|--|---------------|--------------------|
| Felton      | Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety | \$128,160     | 1/23/2004          |
| Talleyville | Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety | \$66,325      | 3/5/2004           |
| Christiana  | Operations and Firefighter Safety      | \$245,682     | 6/18/2004          |
| Minquas     | Operations and Firefighter Safety      | \$72,425      | 9/10/2004          |
| Minquadale  | Operations and Firefighter Safety      | \$100,782     | 10/1/2004          |

an exposure? And if so, what is the incident type?

### Answer:

The use of the exposure fire is limited to situations where there is fire damage. If the adjacent property is damaged due to water, heat, smoke, or fire control, include the damage in the main report (Exposure 000). Multiple person and entities involved can be documented on the basic report. The count of building involved is documented in the Fire Module in Section B2.

### Question:

**What incident type would be used for a small single bush that burned outside, and which modules need to be completed?**

### Answer:

This would be Incident Type 142 and would require completing of the Basic Module and the Fire Module.

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*For more information regarding the Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System (DFIRS), please contact Crystal Beach at 302-739-5665 or [crystal.beach@state.de.us](mailto:crystal.beach@state.de.us)*

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**PLEASE POST FOR ALL DEPARTMENT MEMBERS**