



County of Erie

JOEL A. GIAMBRA
County Executive

MICHAEL V. WALTERS
Commissioner

JAMES M. McCULLOUGH
Deputy Commissioner
Fire Safety

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Division of Fire Safety

3359 Broadway – Cheektowaga NY 14227
716/681-7111 – FAX/681-3645
www.erie.gov/fire

EARL R. SCHMITTENDORF
Assistant Fire Coordinator

Fire Reporting System Update

As previously reported, the New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control is transitioning from their hybrid reporting system to the new National Fire Incident Reporting System Standard (NFIRS) ver.5.0.

The table below shows the timeline for filing incident reports in the various formats. Basically, after the end of this year, OFPC will only accept new ver.5.0 fire reports in electronic format. If you haven't purchased incident-reporting software yet, a list of certified software vendors is available at: www.nfirs.fema.gov/VendorCert.htm. When making your selection, be sure to purchase their *NFIRS ver. 5.0 compliant* version.

As shown to the right, the new national form looks little like our current state form. Dubbed as an "all incident" reporting system, the new program accounts for all of the functions of the fire department including firefighting, EMS, search and rescue, Haz/Mat and other customer services. The two-digit NFPA codes have been replaced by a three-digit numbering system in many cases, adding another level of accuracy required in defining the specifics of an incident. However, the new coding system also *allows* more accurate reporting – eliminating some of the confusion found with the old BFIR system.

When mailing or e-mailing (nfirs5@dos.state.ny.us) your state reports, be sure to include a contact name and phone number as well as indicating the date range (period) for the reports submitted.

DEADLINE	ALLOWABLE FORMAT
01/01/2001-12/31/2001	NYS OFPC will accept incident reports in the old NFIRS/BFIR ver. 4.0 written, printed or disk format
01/01/2001 and Beyond	NYS OFPC will accept incident reports in the new NFIRS ver. 5.0 via disk or e-mail to nfirs5@dos.state.ny.us
01/01/2002	NYS OFPC WILL NOT accept incident reports in the old NFIRS/BFIR ver. 4.0 in any format
2002?	NYS OFPC will accept incident reports in the new NFIRS ver. 5.0 via a special printed form that can be scanned

Duties of the Fire Chief

General Municipal Law Section 204-d relates to Duties of the Fire Chief and states: "The Fire Chief of any fire department or company, shall, in addition to any other duties assigned to him by law or contract, to the extent reasonably possible determine or cause to be determined the cause of each fire or explosion which the fire department or company has been called to suppress. He shall file with the office of fire prevention and control of the department of state a report containing such determination and any additional information required by such office. He shall contact or cause to be contacted the appropriate investigative authority if he has reason to believe the fire or explosion is of incendiary or suspicious origin."

By law you must complete and file Fire Incident Reports. We strongly encourage your cooperation in complying with this law. If you are experiencing any difficulty in completing or filing incident reports, please do not hesitate to contact our office or NYS OFPC at 518-474-6746. E-mail NFIRS reports to: nfirs5@dos.state.ny.us.