Ohio | **Department of Commerce**

Division of State Fire Marshal

Sheryl Maxfield, Director

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) /
Ohio Fire Incident Reporting System
COVID 19 Special Studies 9244

Announcement

The United States Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Data Center (NFDC) has implemented a national-level special study in NFIRS to assist fire departments in recording responses to the coronavirus disease (COVID 19) pandemic. This special study will document fire department calls to suspected or confirmed incidents involving the sudden and nationwide spread of COVID 19.

The goal of this special study is to collect, aggregate and quantify the number of fire department responses to incidents in which COVID 19 was a factor.

The Ohio Division of State Fire Marshal strongly encourages Ohio Fire Departments to utilize the Special Study ID#9244.

Access this information by visiting the Special Study section of your software and selecting Special Study ID#9244 *"COVID 19 was a factor in this incident".* After selecting the Special Study, you will have the option to select the appropriate value.

Special Study Scope

Description: *COVID 19 Discovery*

Collection Level: *National*

Participants: *Fire Departments that participate in NFIRS and OFIRS*

Start Date: *January 1, 2020*

End Date: *December 31, 2022*

Basic Module Special Study (ID# 9244):   COVID 19 was a factor in this incident.

Codes:

1   Yes, COVID 19 was suspected
2   Yes, COVID 19 was confirmed
3   No, COVID 19 was not a factor
4   Unknown

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Description of Special Study Options

These four options are not asking if the occupant(s) or subject(s) of the incident were diagnosed with the Coronavirus, but merely if the COVID 19 pandemic was a factor in the incident occurring. Many Ohioans are working from home or not working during this pandemic, this could be a factor in incidents occurring.

If the incident would not have occurred in the absence of COVID 19 pandemic and subsequent orders to minimize the spread, then choose either *Option 1 – COVID 19 Suspected* or *Option 2 – COVID 19 Confirmed*.

This simply means the pandemic could have or did cause this incident to occur. This includes fires that would not have occurred if the occupants would have typically been at school or their place of employment at the start of the incident.

If, regardless of the COVID 19 pandemic, this incident would have occurred, then choose *Option 3 – COVID 19 was not a factor*.

If there are no indications the incident would have occurred due to the COVID 19 pandemic or not, then choose *Option 4 – Unknown*.

This special study applies to ALL types of incidents from series 100 – 700 Incident Types.

COVID 19 Incident Coding Recommendations

Generally, the coding of COVID 19 incidents, suspected or confirmed, will not be any different than other types of incidents. The following information is intended for the fire service recording incidents in NFIRS/OFIRS that involve the COVID 19 pandemic or calls that are suspected to be related to the pandemic.

Here are some guidelines in entering an NFIRS/OFIRS report relating to a COVID 19 issue.

Basic Module

- *Incident Type (C)*
  - Document the type of situation found
- *Resources (G1)*
  - Include accurate counts and listings of apparatus and personnel used in response to these types of incidents
- *Fire Service Casualties (H1)*
  - Record Fire Service Health exposures and potential health exposures in the injuries field
  - **NOTE**: One Fire Service Casualty Module will need to be created for each injury/exposure listed
- *Remarks/Narrative*
  - Clearly document the incident and identify COVID 19 in the text
- *Special Study 9244*
  - Fill out special study 9244 "COVID 19 was a factor in this incident"
  - Choose the appropriate option.

EMS Module

- Use this module to document patient-specific information that is not related to a fire. (No Protected Health Information)

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Fire Service Casualty (FSC) Module

- This module can be used to capture incident scene exposures as a "*first report*" of contact with known or suspected COVID 19 cases. There are a few things to keep in mind:
    - As with all Fire Service Casualties, the exposure must be identified, i.e. you are in a house with a person that is suspected or confirmed to have the Coronavirus disease and there is a breach in your PPE.
    - The number of FSC modules must equal the number of Fire Service Injuries listed on the Basic Module:
        - If there are 20 personnel on the scene who were exposed to COVID 19, then 20 individual FSC modules should be completed – one for every person on the scene
    - *Severity (G3) = 1 (Report only, including exposures)*
    - All required fields will need to be completed on the FSC module, including gender, casualty number, age, date/time of injury, severity, etc.
    - If you fill out an FSC module for a firefighter who is potentially exposed to COVID 19, you MUST fill out the Special Study section as to whether COVID 19 was suspected or confirmed.

Remarks

- Clearly document the incident and identify COVID 19 in the text

Summary

The use of this special study along with other data collected about the incident helps in the analysis of the fire department response during the COVID 19 pandemic. This special study should be used in the conjunction with the guidelines listed above and the use of the Remarks/Narrative section.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at your convenience at OFIRS@com.ohio.gov or the contact information listed below.

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