



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY STATE FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION

National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)

Alicia Ver Huel, Iowa NFIRS Program Manager

Fighting Fires *with* FACTS



Preventing Goals

Reasons for Non Reporting

Negative Results

Funding
One time funding of \$235,000 for purchase of Iowa Rescue Bridge;
\$34,000 Annually for Support/Maintenance
Live Date of 7/1/2011

Training

Benefits

- 32% to 76% of departments reporting in 3 years
- 140,000 to over 180,000 incidents reports received
- Now 96% of Iowa's population is covered by a reporting dept

USABLE DATA!!!!



State Fire Marshal Office
does not have records for
this incident. To request records,
contact the State Fire Marshal
Office for information.

Reporting software is too expensive.

I'm a volunteer, you can't expect me to

Reporting software is too expensive.

**I'm a volunteer, you can't expect me to
run calls AND do paperwork.**

**We are a small department
information does**

I'm a volunteer, you
run calls AND do paperwork

**We are a small department so our
information does not matter.**

Our department
has

**Our department does not
have a computer.**

**The previous Fire Chief left
and took the computer,
software, and information.**

S

We did not realize no one from our department was reporting.

**No reason to report if no one ever uses
our reports at the state or federal level.**

There a

There are too many codes.

There are

**There are not specific
enough code.**

Enough to

**We do not want our report
to be used in court.**

**We do not want to be
hauled into court to defend
our cause determination.**

Information.

Paper forms are easier.

**State Fire Marshal Office
does not have useable fire
data to respond to media
and legislative requests for
information.**

Feasible

vs

Whining

- *Software is too expensive
- *No department computer
- *High turnover of staff;
ongoing training needs
- *Black hole
- *Lack of statewide data

- *I'm a volunteer, we shouldn't be required to report
- *We're a "small" department
- *Too many/too few of codes available
- *We do not want our reports to be used in any legal matters
- *Paper forms are easier

The background of the slide features several interlocking gears of varying sizes, rendered in a light gray, semi-transparent style. The gears are arranged in a way that they appear to be meshing together, creating a sense of mechanical complexity and interconnectedness. The overall aesthetic is clean and professional, typical of a corporate or technical presentation.

Solution

Purchase a statewide, user friendly, web based software for departments to use free of charge as a single department database for NFIRS reports, staff information, training records, inspections, and annual reporting.

Requested help from fire organizations and individual firefighters to receive one time funding from state general fund.

"Saving Money" by purchasing statewide fire department database system.

Data Opportunities Missed

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