

NFIRS Enhancement Project Overview

Background:

The current version of the NFIRS application was developed between 1996 and 2000 as part of the roll-out of the NFIRS 5.0 standard. The system's software is now a decade old and badly in need of modernization. Additionally, planned functionality was never developed in several key areas of the system because of a lack of resources to do so.

Recent congressional resources for NFIRS enhancements have been provided as outlined in the USFA Reauthorization Act of 2008 and have led to an opportunity for USFA to make long needed updates to the NFIRS 5.0 software and system infrastructure. The project to modernize NFIRS began in October of 2008.

What it is:

- Overhauls the USFA NFIRS 5.0 system software, applications and infrastructure
- Adds new or enhanced capabilities to USFA NFIRS 5.0 software
- Brings NFIRS system software in line with DHS and FEMA enterprise standards
- Improves system performance
- Improves the user experience

What it is not:

- Not NFIRS 6.0
- No new modules
- No new data fields
- No changes to the NFIRS 5.0 codes or definitions
- No change to the NFIRS Design Specification (no fire software vendor impact).
- Not "Real-Time" NFIRS

Planned Phases:

The NFIRS modernization project has been divided into five phases which may be developed in tandem, or serially as dictated by the resources available to USFA.

1. Data Entry Browser Interface (planned release date: Spring, 2010)
2. Data Warehouse & Mining which provides flexible and efficient ways of retrieving and exporting data (planned release date: Spring, 2011)
3. New NFIRS Web Portal (includes new security model)
4. Revision of the NFIRS Data Entry Applications (includes new rules engine)
5. Enhanced User Interface (includes GIS services & revised administrative applications)