

## ***Five Benefits Your Fire Department Gets From The Fire Incident Reporting System!***

### **1. MONEY!**

- ? Quarterly funding monies amounting to between \$35,000-40,000 a year!
- ? NFIRS participation qualifies you to apply for USFA grant funding (*Assistance to Firefighters Grants*) for operations, vehicles, prevention programs, etc.

### **2. FIRE AND NON-FIRE DATA YOU CAN USE!**

- ? Data that helps you identify primary fire and other injury problems in your area so you can effectively plan prevention programs for your high-risk populations.
- ? Statistics for your department's Annual Report and justification for funding requests in your community.
- ? Official documentation of your department's activities (*"if it's not in writing, it doesn't exist!"*).
- ? Accurate documentation of your department's actions taken on an accident scene could protect your FD against potential liability issues in court.

### **3. FIRE SERVICE RECOGNITION AT THE STATE LEVEL!**

- ? NFIRS statistics from WV's fire departments are included in the State Fire Commission's Annual Report to the Governor and reflect fire department activity statewide.
- ? WV statistics give fire service representatives supportive data that helps promote legislation to improve benefits, training, recruiting/retention, and other issues important to fire departments.

### **4. INFORMATION SHARING AT LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS!**

- ? West Virginia's incident reporting data gives an important view of critical issues affecting citizens' safety, such as arson, juvenile firesetters, firefighter safety issues, and many others.
- ? Potential product recalls for defective equipment and other products are taken from WV's fire data to help the Consumer Product Safety Commission in identifying fire and electrical hazards.
- ? The National Fire Protection Association uses NFIRS data to identify potential needed changes to the NFPA codes that are part of WV's fire codes.
- ? West Virginia—and national—media can use fire data to raise public awareness of our state's most critical fire prevention needs.

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### **5. COMPLIANCE WITH MANDATORY STATE REPORTING LAWS!**

- ? Recognition that your FD is compliant with established laws & guidelines.
- ? Continuous support from the State Fire Marshal's Office in helping your department meet reporting requirements by the following:
  - Technical support through the Public Education Division with on-line NFIRS reporting.
  - Assistance and support through the Public Education Division for fire departments making the transition from paper to computer-based reporting.
  - Code support for FD's still using NFIRS 4.1 (paper forms).
  - **Acceptance of paper reports, reports submitted using purchased software, or on-line reports. *NOTE: Although the SFMO continues to accept any of these, we strongly recommend use of the free Federal Client Tool for on-line computer-based reporting.***
  - 8-hour computer class available for beginners using NFIRS 5.0 (on-line reporting).
  - Future class development in NFIRS data analysis, using the web-based reporting system.