

FINAL RECOMMENDATION

June 21, 2001

Recommendation of the Action Plan Team: CORE Mission

Statement of Issue #14: There is a need to enhance the collection of comprehensive data to support USFA and partner/customer analysis and policy decisions.

Recommendation #: R-66

Summary: **R-66** “Involve external partners to compile and share data. Expand information partnerships.”

Recommendation: Actively seek additional data partners in collection and analysis of data. Possibilities include Insurances Services Organizations for data sharing; insurance companies for data collection, verification and validation; other Federal agencies for cooperation with collecting related data; and NFPA for various data collection efforts. Actively support inter-agency data sharing projects with existing partners and seek to develop new opportunities. Aggressively market the NFIRS database and associated methodologies.

Background: The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) database is the largest fire incident database in the world. With its detailed description of each reported incident, NFIRS is the single most valuable instrument in describing the fire situation in the U.S. USFA staff regularly share data with other Federal and non-Federal organizations including NFPA, CPSC, CDC and NHTSA. Though external use of the NFIRS dataset is significant, it should be expanded upon to increase the breadth and scope of extra-USFA research dedicated to describing the fire situation in the U.S.

Several issues exist that inhibit increasing the external use of NFIRS. They are: 1. lack of quality control on the analytical dataset; 2. difficulty of accessing data; 3. limited awareness of the dataset outside of our existing partners; and 4. limited integrability with other datasets.

Priority: High

Step(s) to Achieve:

1. Actively perform quality control activities (see R-67);
2. Create user friendly analytical datasets;
3. Create NFIRS analytical presence on internet;

4. Present NFIRS based analyses to audiences outside of our existing partners; and
5. Develop new methodologies to integrate NFIRS data with other datasets.

Estimated Time Frame:

Step 1: Ongoing
Step 2: 6 Months
Step 3: 8 Months/Ongoing
Step 4: Ongoing
Step 5: Ongoing

Estimated Cost:

Step 1: See R-67
Step 2: Staff Time
Step 3: Staff/Contractor Time
Step 4: Variable - Travel, Presentation, Marketing Costs
Step 5: Staff/Contractor Time

Outcome:

Through this and other projects, USFA will have more reliable data for internal and external analyses, achieve increased awareness of the fire situation in the U.S., and enhance partnerships with stakeholders.

Conclusion:

The NFDC will become the national fire data clearing house in cooperation and coordination with multiple partners serving a variety of customers, including the public, private, and academic sectors.

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