

NFIC Members,

As your NFIC representative, I was recently asked to participate in the USFA's NFIRS Forum. The forum was established as a means of disseminating information pertaining to NFIRS and provide feedback on the system. The forum is scheduled to meet quarterly. Brad Pabody is our USFA contact.

The committee had its first conference call last week. Representatives from various associations and organizations participated, i.e., NASFM, IAFF, NHTSA, IAFSI, IAAI, DOD, CPSC, NFPA, NEMSIS and others I didn't quite catch. US Fire Administrator Cochran was not available but Deputy US Fire Administrator Gaines was on the call.

During the call we reviewed some of the items listed on the attached documents. This was our first call and served as an introduction to the forum's agenda.

The NFIRS Enhancement Project Overview document states that resources have been provided to the USFA to make long needed updates to the NFIRS 5.0 software and system infrastructure. The project began in October 2008 and provides for the release of the Data Entry Browser Interface this Spring (see Data Entry Browser Interface). I'm sure we will be talking more about DEBI during our NFIRS training in April. Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the information provided. If you have any questions let me know or contact Brad Pabody.

One item that may be of interest to many of you is the involvement of a NEMSIS representative in the Forum. Their rep was very interested in working with NFIRS and will be providing input on EMS data collected and report generation.

If you have any specific questions about the Forum be sure to contact Brad Pabody. Melissa Gannie, NFIC Vice President, has agreed to serve as your NFIC Forum representative in future Forum meetings/calls.

If you have any other questions let me know.

Virginia Garza
NFIC's NFIRS Forum Representative