The goal
The goal of the National Fire Data System is to support local, evidence-based decision making on operational performance; community risk reduction; firefighter safety, health, and wellness; and other fire service activities. The project will develop the groundwork for a horizontally and vertically scalable system to collect data from fire departments. We will develop, build, and test the foundation of a system-agnostic infrastructure that will take in and store data from any systems that local agencies use and export data that conforms to existing and emerging industry standards.

The problem
- Inconsistent Data Silos
- Delayed Data Access
- Underutilized Data

Fire departments across the country have consistently struggled with the collection, analysis, and utilization of data that can enhance safety, operational performance, and risk reduction outcomes for firefighters and the communities that they serve.

Collaboration
The project’s Executive Advisory Board includes representation from eight key stakeholder groups:

- Center for Public Safety Excellence
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International City/County Management Association
- Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association
- National Association of State Fire Marshals
- National Volunteer Fire Council
- U.S. Fire Administration

The project’s Technical Working Group is made up of subject matter experts from the following fire departments and fire service organizations:
- Milwaukee Fire Department
- Gulfport Fire Department
- Virginia Beach Fire Department
- Central Arizona Fire & Medical Authority
- Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal
- Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
- NFPA 950 Technical Committee
- Seattle Fire Department

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What is the scope of this project?
We will develop, build, and test a system-agnostic, proof-of-concept infrastructure that will ingest, store, and export data on fire incidents, operational activities, and health and wellness risks. The National Fire Data System project is funded by a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Fire Prevention and Safety award.

Why is the project important to me?
The landscape of the fire service is changing. Your fire department, like most other all-hazards agencies, is likely facing ever-increasing demands that are stretching the available resources and the training required to safely and effectively mitigate emergencies. Meanwhile, ever-increasing calls for fiscal responsibility and organizational accountability require fire departments to justify their existing and requested resources and deployment strategies. The National Fire Data System project is intended to help local fire departments, like yours, better use data and information to safely, effectively, and efficiently respond to the risks in your community.

How does this project work with the National Fire Operations Reporting System (NFORS)?
The National Fire Data System and NFORS are working closely together and in parallel to support the improved use of data within the fire service to keep firefighters and their communities safe. The NFORS team is building a suite of tools to collect operational and health and wellness data from fire departments across the country. The National Fire Data System team is building the back-end architecture to store and analyze the data that is entered into the NFORS system and other systems.

What is the difference between fire incident data and fire activity data?
Fire departments have traditionally collected and reported data on responses to emergency incidents. Yet responding to emergency incidents often accounts for only a portion of the activities in which firefighters engage. The focus of the National Fire Data System is collecting data on all types of fire department activities, which many fire departments already document extensively. The initial stages of this project are focused on the collection and analysis of activities related to incident responses, emergency scene operations, and health and wellness exposures. The vision of the project will extend to collecting data on other common activities such as fire prevention, community risk reduction, training, and investigations.

NFPA’s commitment
NFPA has an 80-year history of collecting, analyzing, and communicating fire data to identify and mitigate fire and life safety risks. In particular, NFPA has extensive experience supporting fire departments in their efforts to protect the safety of their firefighters, focusing their fire prevention activities, and ultimately helping local departments to “tell their story”. The NFPA’s partnerships, personnel, and infrastructure will be leveraged to support the development of this comprehensive data system.

GET INVOLVED!
Visit www.nfpa.org/nfdsproject for more information. Email your questions and ideas to nfds@nfpa.org.