What are fire service activity data?
Fire service activity data are any type of data that fire department or other fire service agencies collect in order to document or manage any of their various activities. Local fire service agencies currently collect and manage a tremendous amount of data. Traditionally, fire departments have only shared data related to emergency responses (fires, emergency medical responses, hazardous materials incidents, etc.) externally even though these often only account for a portion of a fire department’s activities.

What types of data is this system intended to collect?

The National Fire Data System is being designed to be flexible enough to eventually handle any of the various types of data that fire departments currently collect or might collect in the future. The initial stages of this project is focused on the collection and analysis of activities related to incident responses, emergency scene operations, and health and wellness exposures. Long-term, the project will look to extend to collecting data on other common activities such as fire prevention and community risk reduction, training, and investigations.

Is this system intended to replace the records management system software my department currently uses to record incident reports and other records?
No, the National Fire Data System is intended to be a “back-end” data infrastructure that will accept data from your current system(s) so your agency is not required to change your records management system in order to participate.

Why is this project important to the fire service?
The landscape of the fire service is changing. Most fire departments, like other first responder agencies, are facing ever-increasing service demands as well as increased calls for fiscal responsibility and organizational accountability. These increased demands are stretching available resources, calling into question current deployment strategies while increasingly requiring fire departments to justify their existing and requested resources. The National Fire Data System project is intended to help local fire departments better use data and information to safely, effectively, and efficiently respond their communities’ needs.

How is this project funded?
The National Fire Data System project is funded by a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Fire Prevention and Safety award as well as internal funding from NFPA.