



Key Messages about the Database

1. What is the National Fire Incidence Database (NFID)?

- The NFID is a demonstration database that describes three types of fires: structural, vehicular and outdoor fires, in Canada from 2005 to 2014.
- *The definitions of these fires are as follows:*
 - **Structure fire:** *includes a wide range of properties/assemblies of materials forming a construction for occupancy or use to serve a specific purpose.*
 - **Vehicle fire:** *includes a wide range of motorized vehicles including, but not limited to passenger vehicles (other than a motor home), trucks, sport utility vehicles, buses, freight or transport vehicles, rail vehicles, farm equipment, water vehicles (this does not include accidents)*
 - **Outdoor fire:** *refers to fires involving vegetation, grass, brush, crops, leaves and other outdoor properties not involving a structure or vehicle. (this does not include wildfires or forest fires, lightning or electrical discharge fires)*

2. Who built the NFID?

- The NFID is a team effort between the CAFC, the CCFM&FC and our funders Canadian Safety and Security Centre, DRDC and Public Safety Canada.

3. Why is the NFID important?

- The NFID tells us about fire incidents (location time date), fire protection features, circumstances contributing to outbreak, factors relating to origin and spread; fire loss details; discovery of fire and actions taken fire casualties; other socioeconomic data
- It consolidates data from across the country thus allowing for a national picture for evidence informed policy formulation, identification of problem areas, and pockets of excellence and best practice.
- It allows the fire community to continually refine and improve data and reporting nationally

4. What types of studies are being done with the NFID data?

- Currently, [10 studies](#) are being conducted using NFID data by researcher teams across the country. These will be completed in December 2017.
- Statistics Canada has also prepared the **first study** on a select set of data-points. This study will be released at Fire Rescue Canada.
- You can conduct many studies with the database's 73 elements. Please contact the CAFC.



5. What are the limitations of the NFID?

- The NFID is a starting point.
- There are some reliability issues that will be resolved with time.
- **You must use the data with caution particularly when drawing conclusions that have policy implications.**
- The specific limitations include:
 - **Coverage:** *Seven jurisdictions representing 74% of the population coverage in Canada provided fire-related data for the pilot NFID project. However, not all jurisdictions were able to provide the complete 10 years of fire incident and victim information. British Columbia, Alberta Manitoba, and Ontario all provided at least 10 years of data for both fire incidents and victims. Saskatchewan data only includes data for those municipalities using the US National Fire Incident Reporting System, a U.S.-based records management system.*
 - **Underreporting:** *Not all fire services report their fire incident information to their respective Fire Commissioner's/Fire Marshal's Office. Others may report, but not on a consistent basis.*
 - **First Nations:** *In some jurisdictions, reporting by First Nations fire services may or may not be included, and may not be mandatory. However, it is believed amongst the fire services community that fire-related deaths are more consistently recorded.*
 - **High level of unknowns:** *A number of the tables contain a relatively high proportion of unknown values. Although these counts have been removed from the calculation of proportions for the other categories in the table, the proportion of known values is artificially inflated. For this reason, caution should be used in the interpretation of the information in these tables.*

6. What are the next steps?

- The overall goal for next steps is to refine, mine, analyze, grow build and improve the database.
- This requires both analytical and financial resources.
- The CAFC and the Fire Marshalls and Fire Commissioners are meeting on September 17 to discuss next steps
- READ the next steps report here

7. How can I access the National Fire Incidence database?

- The goal of the CAFC, the CCFM&FC and our partners is to eventually make the NFID freely accessible to all researchers. Please check nfidcanada.ca for updates.



Key Messages about the Statistics Canada Report

- We are pleased to see a first report from the data in the National Fire Incidence Database.
- The report shows us what can be done with the data and what limitations exist.
- Caution must be used in interpretations of this, for example:
 - The you could say our efforts in prevention and safety are paying off
 - but there is also a lot of missing data so we aren't seeing the full picture
- The report also focusses on incidences, injuries and deaths. It is silent on impacts of these fires. i.e. how many families were displaced; how much economic loss they suffered etc.
- The report also shows us that
 - Among the fires in the database residential fires make up the highest number
 - Of residential fires, cooking fires make up the highest number.
 - Heating fires are going down
 - Risk of death increases when there is no smoke alarm
 - The risk of death to seniors is much higher than the general population
- The report suggests that Canadians must have smoke alarms and that this should be part of the building code. Canadians are also urged to exercise caution in cooking activities.
- The next phase we'd like to understand a total costs of fires per province or in percentages of total CDN domestic product and its impact on progress from a socio economic perspective.