

TO: All Fire Departments in South Carolina  
FROM: Samantha Quizon, South Carolina State Program Manager  
DATE: July 19, 2016  
SUBJECT: Regarding Use of EMS Module in NFIRS

The EMS Module found attached to NFIRS reports is an optional module designed to capture information related to patient care provided by fire departments. It is our determination that the EMS Module is not required for use by fire departments in South Carolina.

Completing the EMS Module for non-fire related incidents can cause some departments to have duplicate paperwork. Although this will not impact any databases since all information is kept separate, it does create a burden on fire departments who are also reporting to DHEC through NEMSIS.

Fire departments who do not report to DHEC through NEMSIS are those departments who are not providing paramedic-level care to patients. Should the patient require more advanced care than the fire department can provide, that patient's care report will already be completed by the medical personnel providing care to said patient.

However, the Office of State Fire Marshal still expects fire departments to record incidents that are medical calls, such as 311, 321, 322, and 300. The recorded actions taken and the inclusive narrative should detail what the fire department did to assist the patient or medical providers.

If a fire department wishes to capture information for local database use through the EMS Module, that department is welcome to utilize the module for that purpose alone. Fire departments should not expect to compare data among similar departments in regards to anything found on the EMS Module. Additionally, fire departments are not expected to report the EMS Module to the National NFIRS Database.

The only instance when a fire department will be capturing patient information is when there is an injury or death related to a fire incident, and that fire caused the injury to the patient. In those cases alone, the fire department is required to use the Civilian Fire Casualty Module in their report and will not fill out the EMS Module.

If you have any questions about this topic or anything related to South Carolina's State NFIRS Program, please contact the State NFIRS Program Manager at (803) 896-1250.