

TO: All Fire Departments in South Carolina
FROM: Samantha Quizon, South Carolina State Program Manager
DATE: September 6, 2016
SUBJECT: Incident Types where a Patient is Involved

Having the correct incident type code in a fire incident report is crucial for determining what is happening in your district, what actions are taken by your department, and how to accurately complete a fire incident report. The most common errors with choosing the right incident type come from incidents in which a fire department is interacting with a patient.

If the patient was injured in a motor vehicle collision or was injured because they were hit by a motor vehicle, you would use 322 or 323, respectively. If the patient was in a fire, use the correct fire code and complete a Civilian Fire Casualty module as well.

If the patient has left the scene by another agency transporting them before your fire department arrives on the scene, use 661. For situations where there was no patient to begin with, use 622.

When the incident is solely involving the medical care of a patient, and it does not fit into the above situations, use 321 or 311. Is your department intending to be the primary patient care provider? If you answered "yes" to either of those questions, your incident type will most likely be 321. If you intend to provide medical care, but the patient refuses, you may also use 321. Departments will be using 311 as the incident type code when they are assisting another agency with medical treatment. Incident type 311 also is used for lifting a heavy patient into an ambulance, or driving another agency's patient transport vehicle.

Other important codes include 554, when a department provides a lift-assist with no medical treatment or transport given; 331, when a department opens a door so that EMS can provide treatment; and 553, when the department is called to provide medical treatment but the patient is deceased upon arrival. In the last situation, the department is securing the scene until another agency (police, coroner, EMS, or funeral home) takes control. Finally, if the patient is living when you arrive but dies while you are providing treatment, you can still use 311 or 321 since that is the incident you saw when you arrived.

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.