

MFIRS Coding for Biohazard Responses

Updated for New Incident Type Codes
2/27/02

The State Fire Marshal Division recently received the following information from the United States Fire Administration (USFA) regarding coding of biohazard responses in NFIRS 5.

The U. S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Information Council have established new Incident Type coding for biological hazard incidents.

- Remember that hazardous materials incidents include biological hazards as well as chemical hazards.
 - Most of these Incident Types will be good intent calls since the number of actual anthrax incidents themselves still number only a few to date, although some may be intentionally false.
 - For false alarm incidents, use Incident Type of 672 - 'Biological hazard, none found'.
 - If the report is known to be an intentional false alarm, use Incident Type 751 - 'Biological hazard, malicious false report'.
 - If you are waiting for test results and don't know yet if a biological hazard is actually present, either use Incident Type '400 Hazardous condition, other' and change it to Incident Code 672 or 751 later if tests are negative, or just wait until the test results have returned to complete that part of the report.
 - If the biohazard is real, use Incident Code - '451 - Biological hazard, confirmed or suspected'.
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