



National Indigenous
Fire Safety Council Project

Projet du conseil national
autochtone de la sécurité-incendie

National Incident Reporting System (NIRS)



1.888.444.6811



indigenousfiresafety.ca

What is the National Incident Reporting System?

The National Incident Reporting System (NIRS), managed by the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council (NIFSC) Project, gathers, stores, and analyses fire incident data from Indigenous communities. Following the collection of incidents, the NIRS will analyze the cause, origin, and circumstances of fires to identify trends, deficits, and emerging risks and inform future education, training, infrastructure, and economic planning.

Why is it important to report a fire incident?

Reporting a fire incident helps to identify gaps in fire protection on reserves and supports the long term reduction of fire-related injury, property damage, and loss of life.

It also supports long-term decision making to ensure that First Nations people living on reserve are offered the same level of protection as others.

By understanding why and how fires occur, we can bring direct attention to the root causes and prevent future fires from happening.

Who should report fires?

Anyone can report a fire — the Band office, Chief and Council, the volunteer fire department or a nearby fire department, police or RCMP, an insurance company, or a community member, among others.

How are fire incidents reported?

Fire incidents can be reported in two ways:



1. By submitting a fire incident form online:
indigenousfiresafety.ca



2. Calling the NIFSC for support and reporting the fire incident over the phone **1-888-444-6811** and ask to report a fire incident. A Specialist from our team will be happy to assist you in completing the form. If you are already familiar with your regional Delivery Specialist, please contact them directly for further assistance.

What are the benefits of the NIRS, and reporting fire incidents, for communities?

The goal of the NIRS is to reduce fire-related injuries and deaths, as well as reduce the loss of property. Fire incidents from across the country will be analyzed and used to target overall fire and life safety education, programs, training and services in communities. It will also inform and support future investments that yield the greatest impact.

Fire incident data are an important resource for communities. Data provides insight into the challenges and success stories from other communities. By using the system, we can identify gaps in fire safety programming and then focus on those key areas.

What are the benefits of the NIRS for Chief and Council?

The NIRS will inform the development and prioritization of appropriate fire prevention, educational programming, infrastructure, and economic planning. It will also help direct future investments to address root causes to support safer communities.

The NIFSC Project is an Indigenous-led organization focused on supporting capacity building and resiliency in all Indigenous communities. Having a national organization, like the NIFSC Project, oversee data collection ensures an Indigenous approach (*for us, by us*), placing community safety at the core of its mission and purpose.

Since there is not a national jurisdictional responsibility for fire services, the amount and type of information kept by the provinces also varies widely. Having a national fire incident database allows communities to benefit from lessons learned across the country.

What are the benefits for National and Regional Indigenous Organizations?

The longitudinal trends identified in the NIRS will support evidence-based decision making to inform the development and prioritization of appropriate fire prevention, educational programs, training, infrastructure, and economic planning. The compilation and dissemination of national fire loss statistics will also help direct future investments to address the root causes of fire-related incidents to support safer communities.

Having access to fire statistics supports evidence-informed decision making with respect to operational decisions, policy development, and in promoting public awareness about the dangers of fire.

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