FIREWORKS

FIRE SERVICE GUIDE

NERIS 1.5 Is Here: What Changed and What to Do Now

What the October 1, 2026 NERIS update changed for your department, and the steps to take now.

OCTOBER 2026

What NERIS is

NERIS, the National Emergency Response Information System, is the national system fire departments use to report incidents. It fully replaced the legacy NFIRS system across the U.S. and territories in January 2026.

Who runs it

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) leads NERIS. The Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI, part of UL Research Institutes) develops and maintains the data standard with DHS Science and Technology and USFA.

Why it replaced NFIRS

NFIRS was built on outdated code, could not connect to modern systems, and produced slow, incomplete data.

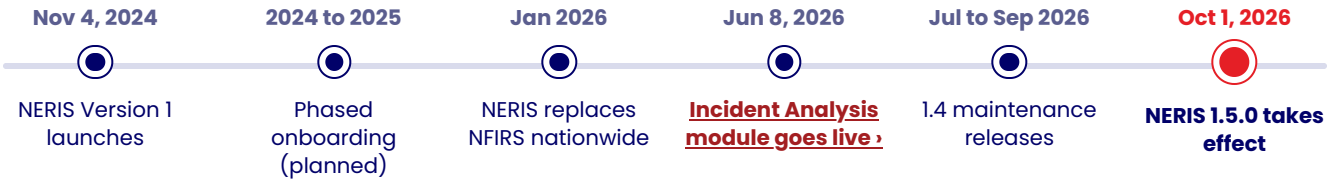
What it does

Gives departments and the nation timely, consistent incident data for decisions on staffing, prevention, and response.

What a "schema" is

The official list of fields and allowed answers in a NERIS report: incident types, actions taken, location types, and more. Version 1.5 updates that list.

NERIS 1.5 arrived nine months after NERIS replaced NFIRS



FSRI calls 1.5 "the start of regular updates" and has not published a date for the next version. Onboarding dates are FSRI's planned targets.

NERIS 1.5 in one sentence

New answer choices and fields for calls departments already run, with nothing removed and nothing new required.

Before you compare years

Before October 1, 2026, many of these calls were coded under broader types, so a jump in micromobility collisions may reflect better coding, not more incidents. And because the new fields are optional, data quality depends on crews actually using them.

What changed in NERIS 1.5

NERIS 1.5.0 took effect October 1, 2026. Every change is additive: new fields and new answer choices, with nothing removed and no change to how reports are structured.

FSRI built the update from helpdesk tickets, national engagement sessions, and department feedback since launch.

Area	What was added or changed	Why it matters
Incident types	Agricultural vehicle fire	Harvest equipment is larger, carries more fuel, and often sits far from hydrants
Incident types	Micromobility vehicle collision (e-bikes, scooters, hoverboards)	Previously lumped in with generic collisions
Incident types	Human-powered vehicle collision (bicycles, skateboards, wheelchairs)	Separates these from motor vehicle collisions
Incident types	Water rescue split: ice, flood, and person in tidal or surf water	Each uses different tactics
Incident types	Obstruction or debris removal; private-side water leak or flooding	Common calls with no prior code
Incident types	Aviation emergency (Alert 2 standby)	Uses resources even when no accident occurs
Incident base	Yes/no: person experiencing homelessness	Applies to any call type or location
Actions	Non-patient EMS support	Most requested addition; replaces the NFIRS "provide manpower"
Actions	Vehicle, structure, and earth/trench stabilization; vehicle electrical disconnection	Captures work done before a rescue
Actions	Rapid intervention team (RIT) established, with a timestamp	Measure RIT timing against your own guidelines
Actions	Ground and aerial ladder use; control utilities; establish landing zone	Countable instead of buried in the narrative

What changed in NERIS 1.5 (continued)

Area	What was added or changed	Why it matters
Fire detail	Aerial master stream; plug-in solar panels as a power hazard	New suppression option and an emerging hazard
Fire detail	Yes/no: outside fire violated a local ordinance (burn ban)	Previously handled through incident type
Fire detail	Damage values "Affected" (about 10% or less) and "Inaccessible"	Also added to exposures and analysis
Fire detail	"Arson fire investigator" renamed "Fire and explosion investigator"	Old value retired
Locations	Data center, mega warehouse (200,000+ sq ft), automated storage and retrieval, commercial greenhouse, pool or aquatic facility, fitness center, tidal water	Operationally different from generic categories
Locations	Modifiers: short-term rental, hoarding, excessive fuel load	Adds context without changing the occupancy code
Modifiers	Civil unrest added; World Cup 2026 retired	Tournament has ended
Stations, units	In-service yes/no	Take a station or unit offline for repairs or seasonal moves without losing its NERIS ID
Analysis	Fuel group for outside fires (grass, shrub, timber, and more)	Completed during analysis, not by crews on scene

How it impacts your department

Nothing breaks. FSRI states no new field is required, existing reports stay valid, and current integrations should keep working. The impact is better data, if crews use the new options.

Who	What changes for them
Crews and report writers	More precise choices. Ladder use, RIT, EMS support, and debris removal can be coded directly instead of falling under "other" or the narrative.
Officers and training	RIT establishment has its own timestamp, so you can compare actual RIT timing against your SOGs.
Records and admin	Retire outdated values: "Arson fire investigator" and the "World Cup 2026" modifier.
Chiefs and analysts	Count micromobility crashes, data centers, short-term rentals, hoarding, homelessness-related calls, and plug-in solar hazards separately.
Fire marshals	The burn ban flag on outside fires and new location modifiers support code and enforcement decisions.

Also new in 2026: Incident Analysis

On June 8, 2026, NERIS launched the Incident Analysis module, its first add-on report for incidents that need more than a baseline record.

The core incident report captures what crews did on scene. Incident Analysis adds the investigative detail: origin, cause, loss, and the products involved. NERIS 1.5 then synced it with the new location modifiers, damage values, and burn ban flag, and added fuel group for outside fires.

What it covers

Structure fire origin and cause, structures and properties affected, outdoor fire spread, batteries, consumer products, vehicles, hazardous situations, and human factors.

Who completes it

In NERIS, an investigator, fire marshal, or analyst can complete it on their own timeline, separate from the operational record crews close.

When to use it

Calls that warrant more than a baseline report, such as fires with loss or cause detail, battery incidents, or consumer products involved. One incident can open several modules.

Why it matters

Cause and loss data that compares locally, statewide, and nationally, plus national battery data that can inform building codes, product safety research, recalls, and prevention.

FSRI says Community Risk Reduction and Health and Safety modules will follow later in 2026.

Incident Analysis is live in Fireworks, built right into the incident report. No separate record, role, or approval: crews answer the Incident Flags that apply, and the incident and its analysis go to NERIS together when the report is approved.

What to do now: step by step

None of these steps are required to stay compliant, but each one improves the data your department gets back.

1. **Confirm 1.5 is live in your reporting software.** FSRI notes vendors must update their systems before the new fields can be sent. Ask your vendor which 1.5 values are available today.
2. **Review the changes with your report writers,** starting with the calls your department runs most.
3. **Update your coding guidance and SOGs** for the new incident types and actions.
4. **Start recording RIT establishment times** so you can measure them against your guidelines.
5. **Retire outdated values:** "Arson fire investigator" and the "World Cup 2026" modifier.
6. **Use the new location context:** short-term rental, hoarding, and excessive fuel modifiers, plus the homelessness flag.
7. **Mark the October 1, 2026 break in your reporting,** then spot-check a sample of incidents after 30 days.

Fireworks is ready for NERIS 1.5. The new 1.5 incident types, actions, and location options are live in Fireworks, built into the incident report your crews already use. See it in action with a free demo at eprfireworks.com.

Sources

- FSRI: NERIS Schema V 1.5, neris.fsri.org/articles/schema-v-1-5
- FSRI: What the Fire Service Asked For: A Look at Version 1.5, neris.fsri.org/blog/version-1-5
- FSRI: NERIS Release Notes and Technical Reference 1.5.0, neris.fsri.org/release-notes
- FSRI: FAQ: General NERIS Questions; FAQ: When Can I Onboard?
- FSRI: Live Now: Incident Analysis Module, neris.fsri.org/blog/live-now-incident-analysis-module
- USFA: NERIS, usfa.fema.gov/nfirs/neris

Information current as of October 29, 2026.

NERIS 1.5 Customer Cheat Sheet: Where It Is in Fireworks

For Fireworks customers. Keep it by the report-writing station.

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Many 1.5 fields appear only after an earlier answer. If you don't see a field, check the "Shows up when" column.

1.5 change	Where in Fireworks	Shows up when
New incident types	Incident Info > **Incident Types**	Always. Pick the type, then the subtype in the window that opens.
New actions	Incident Info > **Action & Tactics**	Open the matching tactic: ladder use, stabilization, **No Patient / EMS Support**, control utilities, landing zone, or RIT.
RIT established time	Response > Times: **Rapid Intervention Established Time**	Always, under **Tactic Timestamps**.
Location modifiers	Address & Location > Location: **Location Modifiers**	Always.
Homelessness flag	Address & Location > Location: **Person Experiencing Homelessness**	Always.
New occupancy types, tidal water	Address & Location: **Location Type** and **Location Sub Type**	Always. Use the magnifier to search by name.
Burn ban flag	Fire tab: **Violated Local Ordinance (Burn Ban)**	**Primary Nature of the Fire** = Outside Fire.
Fuel group	Fire tab > Outside Fire Analysis: **Fuel Group**	**Primary Nature of the Fire** = Outside Fire.
"Affected" / "Inaccessible" damage	Fire tab: **Structure Damage**. Exposures: Address & Location > **Add Exposure**	Structure Damage: **Primary Nature of the Fire** = Structure Fire. Exposures: after you select **Add Exposure**.
Aerial master stream	Fire tab: **Suppression Appliances**	Any fire incident. Pick **Aerial Master Stream**.
Fire and explosion investigator	Fire tab: **Type of Investigation**	Any fire incident. Pick **Investigated by Fire/Explosion Investigator**.
Plug-in solar panels	Emerging Hazards > Power generation: **Type Of Photovoltaics**	Incident Flags: emerging hazards = Yes. Then under **Was power generation hardware involved?** select **Photovoltaics**, and pick **Plug In Photovoltaics**.

Start with the type

Incident Types and the Incident Flags decide which tabs open. Answer every flag.

Fire tab order matters

Set Primary Nature of the Fire first. It decides which fields and analysis sections appear.

Validate, then approve

Use Validate Incident to catch errors. The report and its Incident Analysis go to NERIS together.

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See NERIS 1.5 in Fireworks

One incident report, every 1.5 field, and support from people who have worked the call.

Get a free demo at eprfireworks.com

FIREWORKS: BUILT BY FIRE & EMS PERSONNEL