



NFIRS-to-NERIS Transition Guide



The NFIRS system that fire departments have used since the 1970s is going away. In its place, departments will use the National Emergency Response Information System — also known as NERIS. **What does this transition mean for your department?** This Transition Guide outlines everything you need to know.

Why Replace NFIRS With NERIS?

You've likely noticed that NFIRS is showing its age. Federal law requires a nationwide platform connecting departments to real-time information on fires and other emergencies. If you're interested in the exact language, here's what 15 U.S.C. §2208 (1974) says about the required National Fire Data Center:

“The Administrator shall operate, directly or through contracts or grants, an integrated, comprehensive National Fire Data Center for the selection, analysis, publication, and dissemination of information related to the prevention, occurrence, control, and results of fires of all types.”

The law goes on to say that the National Fire Data Center should:

- Provide an accurate nationwide analysis of the fire problem.
- Identify major problem areas.
- Assist in setting priorities.
- Determine possible solutions to problems.
- Monitor the progress of programs to reduce fire losses.

The bottom line: NFIRS is no longer living up to the legal standard. NERIS is designed as the perfect replacement for modern emergency services.

See the next page for a timeline and details on starting the transition. >>>

The Timeline for Implementation

- **Summer 2024:** Launch beta version of NERIS and onboard 50 fire departments as early adopters.
- **November 2024:** Release NERIS Version I and begin onboarding fire departments.
- **All of 2025:** A hybrid reporting year as some departments transition to NERIS while others wait.
- **Jan. 1, 2026:** All incident reporting must take place through NERIS.

Streamline Your Transition With Fireline

Depending on your approach to the transition, your team could require a significant amount of training. For example, you can use the free NERIS tool to shift to the new system, but this requires your team to learn entirely new incident type codes, response codes and more. **At Fireline, we offer consulting services and tools that accelerate and streamline your transition from NFIRS to NERIS.**

As a controlled rollout of the NERIS platform gets underway, we can consult on helping your department get assigned a window for transition. We can also provide access to our automation platform that translates the hundreds of incident types and response codes from NFIRS to how they are represented in NERIS. (Spoiler Alert: They're different.) Our automated approach is designed to smooth the transition and keep your year-over-year trend data intact.

Getting started with Fireline is simple. Here's a look at our process for helping fire departments get started with their transition from NFIRS to NERIS:



Start Your Transition Now

Ready to get started on your department's transition from NFIRS to NERIS? There are two ways we can help. First, **[schedule your discovery call](#)** and speak to one of our NERIS experts about your department and how we can help accelerate your transition to this new platform. This is the first step in the four-step process outlined above that takes you on the complete journey from NFIRS to NERIS. You can also **[take our NERIS Readiness Survey](#)** to determine where your department stands in the process.

See the next page for FAQs on the transition to NERIS. >>>

Frequently Asked Questions

Can my RMS/CAD vendor support these changes?

Most vendors have committed to the change, but timeline, costs, and implementation efforts will vary. Each RMS/CAD platform's roadmap and ability to roll out to its customers in a scalable way will look different.

How many team members should work on NERIS, and what effort level will the transition require?

This will vary based on the size of your department and other factors. You'll likely need a lead, a point person at each station, someone focused on technology, and someone focused on training and leadership.

What type of training will my team require?

The free NERIS tool will require your team to learn entirely new incident types and response codes. If you want to integrate your RMS/CAD data, our platform translates these codes so there's no training required.

What budget considerations and planning should I account for?

Though NERIS offers a free self-entry tool, most departments will choose to connect in a more automated fashion. This requires implementation, consulting, and integration development. It's important to understand your department's buying process and start planning for these costs early.

How long will the NFIRS to NERIS transition take?

This depends on your approach to the transition. The Fireline process takes roughly 4–6 weeks from initial concept through integrations, testing, and training. NERIS is now rolling out in phases, and departments must be accepted into the program. We can consult on helping you get assigned a window for transition.

How can AI and ML help automate this process?

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) helps you eliminate manual processes and automate the mapping of data and codes from NFIRS to NERIS. Algorithms help you predict future incidents and trends, and we offer a chatbot that reduces the amount of time it takes to enter incident data by 80%.

Will incident codes remain the same?

Yes, they will change. Hundreds of codes will be different under NERIS than they were under NFIRS. Without a careful shift from NFIRS to NERIS, your ability to access year-over-year trend data could be affected. Our platform is designed to smooth this transition so your year-over-year data remains intact.

What happens if we don't shift to NERIS by the deadline on Jan. 1, 2026?

The biggest risk is funding. NERIS is a compliance requirement, and you may be ineligible for grants and other funding sources if it does not make the transition. Without shifting to NERIS, you may also lose your ability to spot trends, which could create higher risks due to unknown issues.

Why Start Now?

The NERIS team is hard at work to make this transition as seamless as possible, but there are time-consuming dependencies that departments must consider. Expect to spend 2 months on planning, evaluating, and buying, plus 4–6 weeks on implementing, executing, and testing. Approaching the transition with a sense of urgency is best because you won't meet the deadline if you wait until the last minute.

Start your transition now.