

NWCG Data Standard
LOCAL FIRE REPORT IDENTIFIER
Discussion Paper
November 29, 2007

1. Because the local practices vary, the standards for the LOCAL REPORT IDENTIFIER are purposefully defined in relatively general terms. The intent of the data element is to ensure each reporting unit has a scheme for uniquely identifying its individual fires for a given calendar year. Broad latitude is allowed to accommodate the many coding or numbering schemes that are in use now or may be devised to satisfy this requirement.
2. Typically, the LOCAL REPORT IDENTIFIER is the FireCode or other cost accounting code; the LOCAL INCIDENT IDENTIFIER, or a sequential number assigned in the unit's fire reporting system.
3. The reporting unit's agency policies and guidelines will determine whether multiple reports are allowed for a single fire. If there are multiple reports associated with a single fire, each report must have a unique LOCAL REPORT IDENTIFIER.
4. To provide consistency and ensure uniqueness of individual records in interagency data sets, the data exchange standard for LOCAL REPORT IDENTIFIER specifies a minimum length of 6 characters. Allowing for a special character such as a period or hyphen, this standard allows every reporting unit to issue up to 99,999 unique LOCAL REPORT IDENTIFIERS for a particular calendar year (assuming the characters used are numbers).