# OCFIRS-GRAM 10-2
# Firefighter and Civilian Fire Casualty Reports

April 2010

## Why are these reports important?

*For assistance with cause determination:*
*Call the On-Duty Investigator*

*For questions on OCFIRS Coding:*
*Tiffany Woods*
*714.573.6155*

*For FIRE F.R.I.E.N.D.S. forms or questions:*
*Trish Sysak*
*714.573.6700*

**For Training Materials and Sample Reports (Click here):**
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**Report of the Month (click here):**
**Gregory Mastropaolo**
**GREAT REPORT!**

*Fire Sprinklers Save Lives & Property!*

A **fire casualty** is a person (firefighter or civilian) who is injured or killed as a result of a fire, including injuries or deaths from natural or accidental causes sustained while involved in fire control, attempting rescue, or escaping from the dangers of fire.

Since OCFIRS is used to report injuries on the state and national level, failing to complete an OCFIRS firefighter injury shows an incomplete picture of the risks that are involved in firefighting and portrays the career as safer than it actually is. In 2009, nearly 2 in 3 firefighter injuries were not reported in OCFIRS and were not recognized at the state or national level. Similarly, improper documentation of civilian injuries makes fires appear less dangerous than they really are, potentially leading to less support of firefighting efforts.

Properly documenting casualty reports is important because, it allows us to identify and understand our risks, present our problem, prepare for and potentially mitigate future injuries/deaths, adjust training plans, and to properly allocate resources. The statistics below show why reporting is so important:

**2009 HOSTILE FIRES**

Firefighter injuries reported in OCFIRS: **14**
Actual firefighter injuries (***NOT*** *reported in OCFIR but identified by reading workers comp reports*): **22**
**Total: 36**

Civilian injuries reported in OCFIRS : **63**
Actual civilian injuries (***NOT*** *reported in OCFIRS, identified by reading narratives and EMS reports*): **22**
**Total: 85**

**2010 HOSTILE FIRES (1st Quarter only)**

Firefighter injuries reported in OCFIRS: **2**
Actual firefighter injuries: **8**
**Total: 10**

## FAQ's:

**Question: When do I complete a Civilian Fire Casualty Report?**
**Answer:** A report must be completed whenever there are civilian injuries or deaths resulting from a fire related incident. Any civilian injury related to fire must be reported in the EMS module, along with any patient care that was provided.

**Question: When should a Fire Service Injury/Casualty report be completed?**
**Answer:** The Fire Service Injury/Casualty Module is completed to report all fire service injuries or deaths to fire service personnel.

**Question: If there is a non-fatal civilian fire casualty and that person dies subsequent to leaving the scene, what are the criteria for reporting this casualty as a death?**
**Answer:** If the person was injured as a result of the fire and died up to one year after the fire, they must be reported as a fatality. The Investigations Section is responsible for tracking patient injuries and deaths up to 1-year post-incident.