Question: Since you have 6 departments that are currently using the program in the "beta" version, can you show us some screenshots of the program itself?

Answer: There are screenshots available from the NERIS platform in today's slide deck.

Question: Is this replacing NFIRS, or is it an addition to NFIRS?

Answer: Yes, NERIS will be replacing NFIRS.

Question: The dashboard looks like a ArcGIS dashboard. Is it one of the apps, and will the apps be browsr-based?
Answer: Yes.

Question: If NERIS will be based on CAD Data initially, will there be problems since dispatch data is fraught with problems?

Answer: Dispatch Data is only part of the data schema. For example, from CAD we can capture what the call was dispatched as. But in our incident schema, we capture what the call actually was upon response.

Question: Who is going to be the "Owner" of the data? Who determines what is "correct"?

Answer: The local Fire Department that creates the incident report for the incident in their jurisdiction retains ownership of their data.

Question: If a community uses a vendor with its own schema and system, what is the incentive for them to switch over to NERIS? Also, being in a state with large rural areas, the technology and connectivity portion will be as difficult as the human dynamic and resistance to change.

Answer: Absolutely – for departments without CAD and RMS, those departments will be able to report directly to NERIS with the NERIS-provided data collection app. This will be accessible on any mobile device, laptop, or desktop – and using any type of internet service.

Question: Data needs to be "Validated" Field against Field. The cloud is fine, but what happens when the internet is down?

Answer: If a department already has validation rules/workflows within their RMS, those will remain. Additionally, there will be report validation workflows built into NERIS for those departments that don't have the workflows as part of their connected RMS.

Question: Who will provide tech support for NERIS?

Answer: There will be a NERIS Help Desk providing technical support.

Question: So we go through the help desk for tech support instead of our State's program managers? Some new CADs are going to nearest dispatch and are not keeping boundary information.

Answer: State Fire Marshals and State Data Program Managers will also be resources in supporting the roll-out, training, etc. However, technical support will be provided through the NERIS Help Desk.

Question: How many (or which) CAD vendors and dispatch centers have USFA and FRIS had conversations with about this? In our state, due to significant staffing issues across so many dispatch centers, many of them have requested fewer transmissions between FD's and the dispatch centerscafter calls have gone out.

Answer: USFA has engaged with numerous CAD and RMS providers at many public forums/conferences about NERIS over the past ~24 months, and we continue expanding our engagement. There will be dedicated industry forums for CAD/RMS in the ciming months that will be hosted by various partners.

Question: Will there be an opportunity for international involvement/observation?

Answer: The scope of NERIS is national, focused on the US. However, we/the USFA have already started engaging with partners in the European Commission on incident data and analytics, among other Nations.

Question: What if CAD does not capture these "Tactical Timestamps"? Also, it sounds like you're adding many new fields to this syste. So which are you taking away to lessen the load on FFs entering the data?

Answer: There is a minimum set of data fields required for a CAD to connect to NERIS. This "minimum data" from CAD is based on a model that is proven in the wildfire sector. There are also additional data fields that are optional for a CAD to provide in their API connected with NERIS.

Question: If CAD enters time data, do they own the time data?

Answer: The jurisdiction's Fire Department owns their incident reports within NERIS, which includes the quality/accuracy of all the data elements collected. If there's a difference in what came off of CAD, the authorized person from that FD will have the ability to make corrections.

Question: When will the SFMs and state data professionals be included in any of the conversations?

Answer: USFA has had several meetings with the State Fire Marshals via NASFM as recently as last month. Additionally, USFA has had numerous meetings with leaders and stakeholders from NFIC, also as recently as last month. All are working together on the most effective and expedient approaches. All State Fire Marshals were requested and encouraged to participate on a listening session on NERIS with their Senior Data Manager in February 2024. We had a productive discussion with SFMs and State Program Managers then and have continued dialogues. Again, we have continued meeting with leaders and stakeholders who are part of NFIC.

Question: How can local government GIS teams support this project?

Answer: Great question! When a local Fire Department onboards, there will be local/FD level GIS data that will be needed. So once your FD starts using NERIS-derived data, your FD's incident data will be available to you as a GIS data service that you can use to run analysis and produce decision-support products to support your fire department and decision-makers.

Question: Regarding onboarding, can a fire department request/volunteer to be an early adopter?

Answer: Use this link to access the NERIS Early Adopter Form (https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/55176769bb374e59b11bfeb1d962f958)

Question: Would we be able to pull data from NERIS into onsite servers to have access to "live" data?

Answer: AGOL layers would be live. NERIS will be providing data out as interoperable data services.

Question: If there is a vehicle fire, is it a an electrical vehicle, plug-in hybrid, or internal combustion engine?

Answer: Yes, please reference NERIS's approach to "Emerging Hazards".

Question: Is one incident considered a single incident if several agencies responded?

Answer: Yes – for an incident that is a mutual aid response, there will be a single incident record.

Question: Current reports ask for dollar damage, not dollars saved. How is this handled in NERIS?

Answer: Yes, it is a paradigm shift to measure both value of damage and value of life/property saved as a result of effective actions.

Question: Will we still be able to access NFIRS data after 2026? And for how long?

Answer: Yes, the historical NFIRS data will be publicly available.

Question: Will a list of information needed to prepare for NERIS be provided to departments?

Answer: Yes, the "Entity Specification", which is part of the NERIS Data Schemas will include this list.