



NERIS Version 1.5

NERIS Version 1.5 is an expansion of information that can be captured in NERIS incident records. The update follows national engagement and feedback from fire departments using the system. It adds new fields and new choices to existing fields rather than creating new reporting rules or a new structure.

What does this mean for fire departments?

You will see additional ways to describe locations, incident types, firefighter actions, fire conditions, and tactical information. The intent is to better represent the work fire departments are already doing.

1. Stations and units

NERIS can now identify a station or unit as in service or out of service. This is intended for situations such as renovations, repairs, or seasonal moves. It is **not** intended to be a real-time unit-availability status.

2. Location information

NERIS adds location modifiers and new location-use categories. Examples include short-term rentals, excessive fuel loads, hoarding conditions, data centers, fitness gyms, mega-warehouses, agricultural greenhouses, automated storage/retrieval facilities, and aquatic facilities. A new indicator can also be documented when a response includes interaction with a person or people experiencing homelessness.

3. Incident types

Several new incident types make specialized responses easier to identify. These include agricultural vehicle fires; aviation emergencies; ice rescues; rescues involving tidal/surf water or flooding; micromobility vehicle collisions; and human-powered vehicle collisions. New public-service choices include certain water leaks/floods and obstruction/debris calls.

4. Actions and tactics

The update adds more specific ways to document work performed at an incident. Examples include controlling utilities; establishing rapid intervention; providing EMS support without patient care; disconnecting vehicle electrical systems; stabilizing vehicles, structures, or unstable earth; using ground or aerial ladders; and establishing an aircraft landing zone.

5. Fire information

Outside fires can now be identified when they violate a local ordinance, such as a burn ban, while still being reported as a fire. New structure-damage choices include **Affected** for minor/superficial damage and **Inaccessible** when a property cannot be physically reached for evaluation. Fire investigation terminology is also updated, and aerial master streams can be specifically identified.

6. Tactical timing

NERIS adds a specific timestamp for when rapid intervention is established. This provides a clearer way to document when a firefighter rescue capability is put in place.

7. Solar and outdoor-fire information

A new photovoltaic option identifies plug-in solar systems. Outdoor-fire reporting also gains fuel-group choices such as grass, grass/shrub, shrub, timber understory, timber litter, slash/blowdown, and non-burnable.

What NERIS 1.5 Means for Reporting

The purpose of these changes is not to ask firefighters to document things that did not happen. The purpose is to provide better choices when something *did* happen. More choices do not mean more guessing. The same basic principle applies to document what happened, use the most accurate available choice, and do not select a more specific option simply because it exists.

Use the new options when they accurately describe the incident.

For example, if crews establish a rapid intervention team, the new action and timestamp provide a more specific way to document that work. If an incident involves an ice rescue or a micromobility vehicle, the new incident types provide a more precise description than a broad category.

The big picture

NERIS 1.5 expands the picture. It gives the fire service more ways to describe **where we responded, what we encountered, what we did, and what happened.**

For more details: The official NERIS Schema V 1.5 documentation provides the complete technical definitions and data specifications.

Source: NERIS Schema V 1.5, August 31, 2026. This document is intended as a high-level fire-service reading resource and is not a replacement for official NERIS documentation.