Wildfire Cause – includes Cause Classification, General Cause, Specific Cause, Specific Cause Detail, Age Category, Prohibited, and Activity Group

Abbreviation or Acronym: n/a

Data Exchange Name: CauseClassification*; FireCauseGeneral; FireCauseSpecific; SpecificCauseDetail; AgeCategory; ProhibitedFlag; ActivityGroup

Also Known As: Wildland Fire Cause

Short Description: Cause Classification: Broad classification of the reason the fire occurred – identified as human, natural or undetermined. General Cause: Agency or circumstance which started a fire or set the stage for its occurrence. Specific Cause: A further categorization of each General Cause to indicate more specifically the agency or circumstance which started a fire or set the stage for its occurrence. Specific Cause Detail: More specific information about the cause or factors contributing to the ignition. Age Category: Discriminates between children (0-12), adolescents (13-17), and adults (18+). Prohibited: Allows identification of an activity which is unlawful or otherwise prohibited (burn ban, unpermitted, etc.) by local authorities. Activity Group: Further refines information for prevention programs for targeted messaging.

Controls

Collection, Validation, and Exchange Rules

1. For statistical purposes, General Causes are further broken into specific causes.
2. Cause Classification is required for new and historical data.
3. General Cause is required for new and historical data.
4. Specific Cause is required for new data collection only.
5. Specific Cause Detail is optional for new data collection.
6. Age Category is required for new data collection.
7. Prohibited is required for new data collection.
8. Activity/Group is optional for new data collection.

NWCG Data Standard Metadata Definitions and Values

9. When Other or Unknown are used for Specific Cause, Remarks are required.
10. When Other or Unknown are used for Specific Cause Detail, Remarks are required.
11. Remarks are optional for Age Category when Unknown is selected.
12. When Undetermined is selected for General Cause, Remarks are required.
13. When Other or Unknown are used for Activity Group, Remarks are required; for all other selected values Remarks are optional.
14. Identifying something as Prohibited results in a Yes answer.
15. Whether or not an activity was Prohibited is determined by local authorities, not by a national standard or definition.
16. By definition all Arson fires are Prohibited.
17. *Cause Classification is exchanged as FireCause in IRWIN.

Assigned by: n/a

Data Type: String

Case Sensitivity: No

Minimum Length: 2

Maximum Length: 1024

Format/Example: n/a

Valid Values: See following chart

Sensitivity Level: n/a

Steward: Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee

Version: 2

NWCG Data Standard Metadata Definitions and Values

Cause Classification (Required)	General Cause (Required)	Specific Cause (Required for new data collection)	Specific Cause Detail (Optional for new data collection)	Age Category (Required for new data collection)	Prohibited (Required for new data collection)	Activity/Group (Optional for new data collection)
Natural	Natural	Lightning	NA	NA	NA	NA
		Volcano				
		Other (remarks required)				
		Unknown (remarks required)				
Undetermined	Undetermined (remarks required)	Under investigation	NA	NA	NA	Weather
		Not investigated				Suppression activity
		Origin and/or cause not identified				
		Origin destroyed				
Human	Undetermined (remarks required)	Under investigation	NA	NA	NA	Weather
		Not investigated				Suppression activity
		Origin and/or cause not identified				
		Origin destroyed				
Human	Debris and open burning	Branding	Abandoned/unattended	Child (0-12)	Check for Yes	Construction
		Burn Barrel	Burning during poor conditions	Adolescent (13-17)		Electrical utilities
		Burning personal items	Burning prohibited material	Adult (18+)		Farming/ranching
		Distress/signal fire	Defective incinerator	Unknown (remarks optional)		Government/tribal activities

NWCG Data Standard Metadata Definitions and Values

Cause Classification (Required)	General Cause (Required)	Specific Cause (Required for new data collection)	Specific Cause Detail (Optional for new data collection)	Age Category (Required for new data collection)	Prohibited (Required for new data collection)	Activity/Group (Optional for new data collection)
		Ditch/fence line burning	Failure to follow permit instruction			Hunting/trapping/fishing
		Escaped Prescribed Burn	Haystack/hay bales			Law enforcement
		Field/agricultural burning	Improper disposal hot ashes/coals			Logging/forestry
		Hand pile/slash	Improper screening			Military
		Machine pile/slash	Inadequate control line/clearing			Mining/extraction
		Open trash burning	Inadequate mop up			Motorist
		Other land clearing	Inadequate resources to control			Other utilities
		Pest control/deterrent/smoke out	Mulch/chip/sawdust piles			Private/residential
		Right-of-way clearing	Other (remarks required)			Transient
		Yard debris	Unknown (remarks required)			Other (remarks required)
		Other (remarks required)				Unknown (remarks required)
		Unknown (remarks required)				(Optional remarks for all)
Human	Equipment and vehicle use	Electric motor/power tools/battery	Accumulated debris	Child (0-12)	Check for Yes	Construction
		Trailer	Battery	Adolescent (13-17)		Hunting/trapping/fishing
		Aircraft	Brakes	Adult (18+)		Recreation

NWCG Data Standard Metadata Definitions and Values

Cause Classification (Required)	General Cause (Required)	Specific Cause (Required for new data collection)	Specific Cause Detail (Optional for new data collection)	Age Category (Required for new data collection)	Prohibited (Required for new data collection)	Activity/Group (Optional for new data collection)
		Chainsaw/brush saw/weed trimmer	Cable block	Unknown		Farming/ranching
		Commercial transport vehicle	Cable friction			Private/residential
		Heavy equipment & implements	Catalytic converter			Logging/forestry
		OHV/ATV/motorcycle	Chain/dragging object			Government/tribal activities
		Passenger vehicle/motorized RV	Collision/impact			Military
		Tractors/mowers/brush hogs	Electrical system/faulty wiring			Law enforcement
		UAS/model rockets & airplanes	Exhaust system			Mining/extraction
		Watercraft	Fuel/lubricant/fluids			Electrical utilities
		Hot work: welder/grinder/torch/cutter	Overheating/radiant			Other Utilities
		Other small engine equipment	Powertrain			Transient
		Other (remarks required)	Refueling operations			Other (remarks required)
		Unknown (remarks required)	Rock/hard surface strike			Unknown (remarks required)
			Spark arrestor failure/missing			(Optional remarks for all)
			Sparks/metal fragments from cutting/welding			
			Tire/wheel failure			

NWCG Data Standard Metadata Definitions and Values

Cause Classification (Required)	General Cause (Required)	Specific Cause (Required for new data collection)	Specific Cause Detail (Optional for new data collection)	Age Category (Required for new data collection)	Prohibited (Required for new data collection)	Activity/Group (Optional for new data collection)
			Other spark/friction/static			
			Other mechanical failure			
			Other (remarks required)			
			Unknown (remarks required)			
Human	Firearms and explosives use	Black powder/muzzle loading	All-lead projectile	Child (0-12)	Check for Yes	Hunting/trapping/fishing
		Blasting	Copper jacketed projectile	Adolescent (13-17)		Farming/ranching
		Exploding target shooting	Solid copper projectile	Adult (18+)		Private/residential
		Flares/fusees	Steel component projectile	Unknown		Law enforcement
		Inert target shooting	Tracer/incendiary projectile			Military
		Military ordnance	Other (remarks required)			Recreation
		Non-military tracer	Unknown (remarks required)			Transient
		Other explosives				Other (remarks required)
		Other (remarks required)				Unknown (remarks required)
		Unknown (remarks required)				(Optional remarks for all)
		Unspecified shooting (for historical mapping only)				
Human	Fireworks	Aerial fireworks	Personal use	Child (0-12)	Check for Yes	Private/residential

NWCG Data Standard Metadata Definitions and Values

Cause Classification (Required)	General Cause (Required)	Specific Cause (Required for new data collection)	Specific Cause Detail (Optional for new data collection)	Age Category (Required for new data collection)	Prohibited (Required for new data collection)	Activity/Group (Optional for new data collection)
		Ground fireworks	Commercial use	Adolescent (13-17)		Government/tribal activities
		Other (remarks required)		Adult (18+)		Law enforcement
		Unknown (remarks required)		Unknown		Military
						Unknown (remarks required)
						(Optional remarks for all)
Human	Power generation/ transmission/distribution	Electrical transmission/distribution systems	Animal contact	NA	Check for Yes	Electrical utilities
		Oil/gas production/transportation	Arcing/clashing			Other utilities
		Solar utility system	Faulty/damaged wiring/hardware			Other (remarks required)
		Wind turbine/windmills utility systems	Flaring/burn off			Unknown (remarks required)
		Other (remarks required)	Human contact			(Optional remarks for all)
		Unknown (remarks required)	Foreign object contact			
			Ruptured pipe or gas line			
			Transformer			
			Vegetation contact			
			Other infrastructure failure			
			Other (remarks required)			

NWCG Data Standard Metadata Definitions and Values

Cause Classification (Required)	General Cause (Required)	Specific Cause (Required for new data collection)	Specific Cause Detail (Optional for new data collection)	Age Category (Required for new data collection)	Prohibited (Required for new data collection)	Activity/Group (Optional for new data collection)
			Unknown (remarks required)			
Human	Railroad operations and maintenance	Brakes	NA	NA	Check for Yes	Railroad
		Derailment				(Optional remarks)
		Dynamic grid failure				
		Exhaust particles				
		Rail grinding				
		Right-of-way vegetation maintenance				
		Track replacement				
		Hot work: welder/grinder/torch/cutter				
		Other mechanical failure				
		Other (remarks required)				
		Unknown (remarks required)				
Human	Recreation and ceremony	Barbeque/smoker	Abandoned/unattended	Child (0-12)	Check for Yes	Hunting/trapping/fishing
		Bonfire/party fire	Accelerant misuse	Adolescent (13-17)		Mining/extraction

NWCG Data Standard Metadata Definitions and Values

Cause Classification (Required)	General Cause (Required)	Specific Cause (Required for new data collection)	Specific Cause Detail (Optional for new data collection)	Age Category (Required for new data collection)	Prohibited (Required for new data collection)	Activity/Group (Optional for new data collection)
		Campfire	Burning prohibited material	Adult (18+)		Private/residential
		Ceremonial fire	Failure to follow permit instruction	Unknown		Recreation
		Gas cooking/warming/lighting device	Improper disposal hot ashes/coals			Transient
		Luminary (aerial/ground)	Improper screening			Other (remarks required)
		Outdoor oven/fireplace/metal fire ring	Inadequate clearance			Unknown (remarks required)
		Other (remarks required)	Other (remarks required)			(Optional remarks for all)
		Unknown (remarks required)	Unknown (remarks required)			
Human	Smoking	Cigar/cigarette/pipe	Battery/charger	Child (0-12)	Check for Yes	Private/residential
		Electronic Cigarettes	Discarded smoking material	Adolescent (13-17)		Transient
		Drug paraphernalia	Lighter/matches	Adult (18+)		Other (remarks required)
		Other (remarks required)	Other (remarks required)	Unknown		Unknown (remarks required)
		Unknown (remarks required)	Unknown (remarks required)			(Optional remarks for all)
Human	Misuse of fire by a minor	Lighter/matches	NA	Child (0-12)	Check for Yes	Private/residential

NWCG Data Standard Metadata Definitions and Values

Cause Classification (Required)	General Cause (Required)	Specific Cause (Required for new data collection)	Specific Cause Detail (Optional for new data collection)	Age Category (Required for new data collection)	Prohibited (Required for new data collection)	Activity/Group (Optional for new data collection)
		Glass refraction/magnifying glass		Adolescent (13-17)		Transient
		Incendiary device		Unknown		Other (remarks required)
		Flint/friction				Unknown (remarks required)
		Other (remarks required)		Minor (historical only)		(Optional remarks for all)
		Unknown (remarks required)				
Human	Arson	Device	NA	Child (0-12)	Check for Yes	NA
		Hot set		Adolescent (13-17)		
		Other (remarks required)		Adult (18+)		
		Unknown (remarks required)		Unknown		
Human	Other causes	Electric fence	Animal contact	Child (0-12)	Check for Yes	Construction
		Illegal substance manufacture	Glass refraction/magnification	Adolescent (13-17)		Electrical utilities
		Spontaneous combustion	Haystacks/hay bales	Adult (18+)		Farming/ranching
		Structure	Improper disposal hot ashes/coals	Unknown		Government/tribal activities

NWCG Data Standard Metadata Definitions and Values

Cause Classification (Required)	General Cause (Required)	Specific Cause (Required for new data collection)	Specific Cause Detail (Optional for new data collection)	Age Category (Required for new data collection)	Prohibited (Required for new data collection)	Activity/Group (Optional for new data collection)
		Other (remarks required)	Mulch/chip/sawdust/manure piles			Hunting/trapping/fishing
		Unknown (remarks required)	Oil rags			Law enforcement
			Residential fireplace/woodstove			Logging/forestry
			Structure fire spread to wildland			Military
			Other (remarks required)			Mining/extraction
			Unknown (remarks required)			Motorist
						Other utilities
						Private/residential
						Transient
						Other (remarks required)
						Unknown (remarks required)
						(Optional remarks for all)