

April 8, 2010

Explore Information Services has begun the National Fire Station survey for all fire agencies in Minnesota. This update is part of an ongoing effort to maintain the National Fire Station Database, a comprehensive database providing an overview of our country's fire infrastructure and emergency response capabilities for more than 50,000 stations across the United States. This database has been used for more than six years, supporting Federal and State agencies with situational awareness and critical infrastructure analysis and for response in times of national emergency. The data collected in the state will also be used to support the data needs of the efforts of MNGEO and the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's office for such areas relating to fire incident data reporting and analysis, fire fighter training, hazardous materials incident response, wild land fire response, fire safety and enforcement, public education, lobbying, grant research and community (or state) benchmarking.

The survey effort is scheduled to begin mid-April and conclude in July. The last Minnesota data collection effort was conducted in September 2006 and resulted in a 55% response rate. The National Fire Station database will provide significant value to our efforts for understanding and maintaining critical infrastructure data. As such, ensuring its accuracy and completeness is critical to the entities who access it and provides benefits to the public as a whole.

This is an important effort, providing critical infrastructure and response information to Federal and State agencies. It is recommended that each Fire Chief complete this survey when they receive it. If you would like to complete the survey electronically, a copy of the survey can be downloaded at <http://www.nationalfirestation.com/>. In addition to the survey, you will also be asked to provide your Primary (responding) boundaries for your station. If these boundaries are available as a digital GIS layer, please email the files to GIS@exploredata.com or send a copy on CD with the survey. We appreciate your support of this effort. If you have questions regarding this survey please contact Explore Information Services at (800) 531-9125 [Option 3].

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Jerry Rosendahl".

Jerry Rosendahl
Minnesota State Fire Marshal