

General Cause

Status: Approved

Description

Agency or circumstance which started a fire or set the stage for its occurrence.

Identity & Classification

Label	General Cause
Data Element Type	String Data Element
Approval Status	Approved

Format Specification

Data Entry	
Format	X(100)
Length	100 characters
Physical Data Type	String

Data Exchange	
Data Exchange Name	FireCauseGeneral
Format	X(100)
Length	100 characters
Physical Data Type	Alphanumeric

Permissible Values

Permissible values for General Cause

Label	Cause Classification	Prohibited
Arson	Human	Yes
Debris and Open Burning	Human	Yes
Equipment and Vehicle Use	Human	Yes
Firearms and Explosives Use	Human	Yes
Fireworks	Human	Yes
Misuse of Fire by a Minor	Human	Yes
Natural	Natural	No
Other Causes	Human	Yes
Power Generation/Transmission/Distribution	Human	Yes
Railroad Operations and Maintenance	Human	Yes
Recreation and Ceremony	Human	Yes
Smoking	Human	Yes
Undetermined	Undetermined, Human	No

Cross-Reference Detail by General Cause

For each General Cause value, the following lists the Specific Cause, Activity Group, and Age Category options permitted when that General Cause is selected.

Arson

Allowable Specific Cause	Cigar/Cigarette/Pipe; Device; Drug Paraphernalia; Electronic Cigarettes; Hot Set; Incendiary Device; Other (remarks required); Unknown (remarks required)
Allowable Activity Group	Other (remarks required); Private/Residential; Transient; Unknown (remarks required)

Allowable Age Category	Adolescent (13-17); Adult (18+); Child (0-12); Unknown (remarks optional); Unknown (remarks required)
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Debris and Open Burning

Allowable Specific Cause	Branding; Burn Barrel; Burning Personal Items; Ditch/Fence Line Burning; Distress/Signal Fire; Escaped Prescribed Fire; Field/Agricultural Burning; Hand Pile/Slash; Machine Pile/Slash; Open Trash Burning; Other (remarks required); Other Land Clearing; Pest Control/Deterrent/Smoke Out; Right-of-Way Clearing; Yard Debris
Allowable Activity Group	Electrical Utilities; Farming/Ranching; General Construction; Government/Tribal Activities; Law Enforcement; Logging; Logging/Forestry; Military; Mining/Extraction; Motorist; Other (remarks required); Other Utilities; Private/Residential; Transient
Allowable Age Category	Adolescent (13-17); Adult (18+); Child (0-12); Unknown (remarks optional)

Equipment and Vehicle Use

Allowable Specific Cause	Aircraft; Chainsaw/Brush Saw/Weed Trimmer; Commercial Transport Vehicle; Electric Motor/Power Tools/Battery; Heavy Equipment & Implements; Hot Work: Welder/Grinder/Torch; OHV/ATV/Motorcycle; Other (remarks required); Other Small Engine Equipment; Passenger Vehicle/Motorized RV; Tractors/Mowers/Brush Hogs; Trailer; UAS Model Rockets & Airplanes; Unknown (remarks required); Watercraft
Allowable Activity Group	Electrical Utilities; Farming/Ranching; General Construction; Government/Tribal Activities; Law Enforcement; Logging/Forestry; Military; Mining/Extraction; Oil/Gas Utilities; Other (remarks required); Other Utilities; Private/Residential; Road Construction/Maintenance; Transient; Unknown (remarks required)
Allowable Age Category	Adolescent (13-17); Adult (18+); Child (0-12); Unknown (remarks optional)

Firearms and Explosives Use

Allowable Specific Cause	Black Powder/Muzzle Loading; Blasting; Exploding Target Shooting; Flares/Fusees; Inert Target Shooting; Military Ordnance;
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	Non-Military Tracer; Other (remarks required); Other Explosives; Other Shooting (only for historical mapping); Unknown (remarks required)
Allowable Activity Group	Farming/Ranching; General Construction; Hunting; Law Enforcement; Logging/Forestry; Military; Mining/Extraction; Other (remarks required); Private/Residential; Recreation; Road Construction/Maintenance; Transient; Unknown (remarks required)
Allowable Age Category	Adolescent (13-17); Adult (18+); Child (0-12); Unknown (remarks optional)

Fireworks

Allowable Specific Cause	Aerial Fireworks; Ground Fireworks; Other (remarks required); Unknown (remarks required)
Allowable Activity Group	Government/Tribal Activities; Law Enforcement; Military; Private/Residential; Unknown (remarks required)
Allowable Age Category	Adolescent (13-17); Adult (18+); Child (0-12); Unknown (remarks optional)

Misuse of Fire by a Minor

Allowable Specific Cause	Flint/Friction; Hot Set; Incendiary Device; Lighter/Matches; Other (remarks required); Refraction/Magnification; Unknown (remarks required)
Allowable Activity Group	Other (remarks required); Private/Residential; Transient; Unknown (remarks required)
Allowable Age Category	Adolescent (13-17); Child (0-12)

Natural

Allowable Specific Cause	Lightning; Other (remarks required); Unknown (remarks required); Volcano
Allowable Activity Group	Not Applicable
Allowable Age Category	Not Applicable

Other Causes

Allowable Specific Cause	Electric Fence; Illegal Substance Manufacture; Other (remarks required); Refraction/Magnification; Spontaneous Combustion; Structure; Unknown (remarks required)
Allowable Activity Group	Electrical Utilities; Farming/Ranching; General Construction; Government/Tribal Activities; Hunting; Law Enforcement; Logging; Military; Mining/Extraction; Motorist; Oil/Gas Utilities; Other (remarks required); Other Utilities; Private/Residential; Recreation; Road Construction/Maintenance; Transient; Unknown (remarks required)
Allowable Age Category	Adolescent (13-17); Adult (18+); Child (0-12); Unknown (remarks optional)

Power Generation/Transmission/Distribution

Allowable Specific Cause	Electrical Transmission/Distribution Systems; Oil/Gas Production/Transportation; Other (remarks required); Solar Utility System; Unknown (remarks required); Wind Turbine/Windmills Utility Systems
Allowable Activity Group	Electrical Utilities; Oil/Gas Utilities; Other (remarks required); Other Utilities; Private/Residential; Unknown (remarks required)
Allowable Age Category	Not Applicable

Railroad Operations and Maintenance

Allowable Specific Cause	Brakes; Derailment; Dynamic Grid Failure; Exhaust Particles; Hot Work: Welder/Grinder/Torch; Other (remarks required); Rail Grinding; Right-of-Way Vegetation Maintenance; Track Replacement; Unknown (remarks required)
Allowable Activity Group	Not Applicable; Railroad
Allowable Age Category	Not Applicable

Recreation and Ceremony

Allowable Specific Cause	Barbeque/Smoker; Bonfire/Party Fire; Campfire; Ceremonial Fire; Gas Cooking/Warming/Lighting Device; Luminary; Other (remarks required); Outdoor Oven/Fireplace/Metal Fire Ring; Unknown (remarks required)
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Allowable Activity Group	Hunting/Trapping/Fishing; Mining/Extraction; Other (remarks required); Private/Residential; Recreation; Transient; Unknown (remarks required)
Allowable Age Category	Adolescent (13-17); Adult (18+); Child (0-12); Unknown (remarks optional)

Smoking

Allowable Specific Cause	Cigar/Cigarette/Pipe; Drug Paraphernalia; Electronic Cigarettes; Other (remarks required); Unknown (remarks required)
Allowable Activity Group	Other (remarks required); Private/Residential; Transient; Unknown (remarks required)
Allowable Age Category	Adolescent (13-17); Adult (18+); Child (0-12); Unknown (remarks optional)

Undetermined

Allowable Specific Cause	Not Investigated; Origin and/or Cause Not Identified; Origin Destroyed; Under Investigation
Allowable Activity Group	Suppression Activity; Weather
Allowable Age Category	Not Applicable

Source Identifier: ad525779-3645-4aa5-bd60-659d4d0533b1

Permissible values source: wfschema:PVS-preferredLabel-GeneralCause

Wildland Fire Data Standards (edg / wfschema / wfterm namespaces)