

December 15, 2010

Once again, Explore Information Services has begun the National Fire Station survey collection for all fire departments in Georgia. 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 may be used to support the data needs of the efforts of the Georgia State Fire Marshal's office in such areas as 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 last Georgia survey effort occurred in Sept. 2008 resulted in a response of 63%. Currently, most states have between a 65-75% response rates. Since Explore Information Services, first survey collection, they have improved their data survey efforts, added an online survey option and should be able to increase their survey collection success rate in Georgia.

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].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan R. Shuman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Alan R. Shuman, Chief
Georgia State Fire Marshal