



## Thank You

2005 was a great year as we finished distributing FH 6 updates to clients with support and released new solutions to extend FIREHOUSE Software.

- We released FH Mobile, a new suite of applications designed to complement your FIREHOUSE Software system. FH Mobile Preplans and FH Mobile Incident Command are currently available and additional applications are in development.
- We released FH Web, a Web-enabled version of FH that enables record entry using the Internet browser of your choice.
- We conducted two FIREHOUSE Software Education & Training Seminar events that were attended by more than 600 clients.

2006 will be an eventful year, with a major new version of FH (version 7) scheduled for release and an additional FH Mobile application slated for completion. FH Mobile EMS is a patient care reporting application designed for efficient patient care reporting in the field. More information on FH Mobile EMS is included in 'EMS Corner' on page 3.

We will post additional information about new features in FH 7 and the availability of future releases at our website at <http://www.acs-inc.com/firehousesoftware>.

Thank you for choosing ACS FIREHOUSE Solutions.

### ACS FIREHOUSE Solutions to Adopt Microsoft .NET

ACS has formed a strategic alliance with Microsoft to provide development and marketing resources to deliver its fire department records management system, ACS FIREHOUSE Software®, on the Microsoft .NET platform. The partnership between ACS and Microsoft was announced at the Microsoft Fire Symposium in Redmond, Washington, and extends the formidable presence of both companies within the first responder and justice and public safety communities. See <http://www.firehousesoftware.com/new.htm> for a link to the full press release.

### Tip from Rich...

*by Rich Mueller, sales rep in ND, SD, MN, IA, WI, IL, and MI*

In my last "Tip", I discussed System Rules & Default Values and gave a couple examples. In this "Tip", I will cover a couple more examples of system rules departments can add to tailor FH to your specific needs.

#### Scenario 1: Conditionally Require Property Loss Field

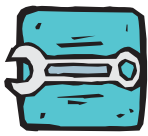
Suppose that the department would like to make the *Property Loss* field in a NFIRS Incident Report required. In a minute I will take you through some steps but first we need to discuss one aspect of numeric fields in FIREHOUSE Software: If you make the *Property Loss* field required, entering a zero (0) does not satisfy the requirement. There is a check box to the right of the *Property Loss* field that enters a zero *Property Loss* value. Now a quick word on check boxes. Check boxes are logical fields that have one of two values: True (.T.) or False (.F.). "True" means the box is checked and "False" means the box is not checked. Now that you know how numeric and logical fields work, you are ready to conditionally require the *Property Loss* field. Under "System Rules" (accessed from the **Administration** menu **System Rules and Default Values** option, then selecting the **Incident** area **Inc\_main** table and pressing **Setup**), we want to add a conditional requirement rule. Select the *Prop\_Loss* field, then press **Add**. Select *Require Field...* then press **OK**. Disable *Require field always*, and type the following in the expression field:

No\_Prop\_Loss=. F.

The expression above will be true (that is, the *Property Loss* field will be conditionally required) when the No\_Prop\_Loss check box (to the right of the *Property Loss* field) is not checked. If the No\_Prop\_Loss check box is checked, then the *Prop\_Loss* field is not required but filled in with a zero by FH. You can exit the system rules and default area and try out your new system rule.

#### Scenario 2: Limit Mutual Aid Given or Received Entries

There are 6 values (1 thru 5 and N) for the *Aid Given or Received* field in a NFIRS Incident Report. Let us assume that a department wants "1", "3", and "N" to be valid *Aid Given or Received* entries. Although the *Aid Given or*



## Tips from the Field

This column details different ways our clients have put FH to work for their department. We encourage clients to submit tips and suggestions for future FireVISION articles.

### No NFIRS Activity Report

You may be required to report NFIRS activity to the state even if there was no NFIRS activity. To do this, run the No NFIRS Activity Report.

- From the **Reports** menu, select the **Incident Reports** option. The **Reports** form is displayed.
- Select the **NFIRS Incident Reports** category **No NFIRS Activity Report** option.
- Press **Run**. The **Output Report To** form is displayed.
- Select an output format.
  - If you are sending the report to a printer, select *Default Printer* or *Select Printer*. The **Printer** form is displayed if you select **Select Printer**. If you need to change default printer settings and you selected *Default Printer*, press **Printer Setup...**
  - If you selected *PDF* or *HTML (Graphical)*, specify the location and name for the file. Optionally check *Send File via Email* or *Send File via FTP*.
- Press **OK**. The **Query Parameters** form is displayed.
- Select the starting and ending date for the date range during which no NFIRS activity occurred.
- Press **Run Query**.

Note that state specific information for NFIRS and EMS incident reporting is available (if your state has special requirements) at <http://www.firehousesoftware.com/sup/state>.

### Data Archiving

Departments have typically archived FH data periodically because previous FH versions slowed down as more records were added. This is no longer an issue with FH 6. FH 6 is designed to allow users to select specific records to view. The browse query displays available records, and can be customized to limit displayed records to recently entered records, or you can select a system query that filters based on date. Below is an example for NFIRS incidents:

- From the **Tools** menu, select **Queries...** The **Queries** form is displayed.
- Select the *Incident Report Queries Category*, then select the *NFIRS Incidents Queries* category and highlight *List NFIRS Incidents in the Last 30 Days* query.
- Press **Set as Default**. The default query for NFIRS incidents now displays only incidents with an alarm date in the last 30 days.

When browsing for fire incidents entered more than 30 days ago, access the *List by Alarm Date* query, which still lists all available incidents regardless of the incident alarm date.

### Back Up Your FH Database

A surge protector, uninterruptible power supply, and virus protection software go a long way toward protecting your FH data but not all the way. You should always keep up-to-date backups of your FH data to use in case of (or more accurately, WHEN) unforeseen circumstances arise. The FH database backup should be stored in a safe location.

## ACS FIREHOUSE Software Notes

### Congratulations

Long-time employees Dave Stanton and Sanjay S. Kalasa have new roles at ACS FIREHOUSE Software. Dave is now Technical Support Manager. Sanjay, Director of Sales & Business Development, will manage all FIREHOUSE Software sales and product direction going forward.

### FHETS Expansion

The ACS FIREHOUSE Education and Training Seminar (FHETS) will be combined with the ACS Government Solutions Client Forum to create a combined government, justice and public safety event expected to draw more than 600 attendees from across the nation and internationally. Location and dates for the 2006 ACS Client Forum / FHETS event will be posted at <http://www.firehousesoftware.com/fhets> as soon as possible.

### FireVISION Online

Recent quarterly FIREHOUSE Software newsletters are available at the website. Check <http://www.firehousesoftware.com/dwnld/newsletter.htm> to review recent newsletters.

### Phone System

We implemented a new phone system for FIREHOUSE Software support and sales in December. Thank you for patience as we implemented the new phone system.

### Rich Mueller Retirement

Rich Mueller has been a sales representative for FIREHOUSE Software since September 1993. Rich will retire effective March 31, 2006. Sales and support in Rich's area will be handled by Roger DeDoncker and Jason Trotter at the main FH office. Specific details about the transition will be posted at <http://www.firehousesoftware.com/contact/rich.htm>.

## Rich Tips, from Page 1

*Received* field is required, we also want to allow the field to be empty when a new NFIRS Incident Report is first opened. Access the rules area for the `Inc_main` table `MUTL_AID` field, add a *Define Field Error Condition* rule, then type the following in the expression area:

```
!empty(Mutl_aid) and Mutl_aid<>"N " and Mutl_aid<>"1 " and Mutl_aid<>"3 "
```

Also specify a message to inform the user of what values are valid, and make the error *Severity Level* "Critical" to force the person entering the information to correct the value. Try it.

Hope this provides some more insight on how a department can tailor FH to their specific needs. Good luck.

## FHETS 2005 Denver

Thanks again to FHETS participants for another fruitful session in Denver. Based on participant feedback, we will continue to emphasize the areas you rated highly and work toward improving areas with room for improvement. The largest area of improvement between the last two FHETS sessions was in the area of session size. After Charlotte, we made some adjustments to sessions and finding a facility with larger session rooms was a priority. Our efforts paid off as 'session size' was favorably rated. We will continue to keep our focus on sites with adequate facilities. We will post the location and dates for FHETS 2006 as soon as possible at <http://www.firehousesoftware.com/fhets>.

## EMS Corner

We are in the midst of developing FH Mobile EMS, an application designed to take patient care reporting to the field. The specification for FH Mobile EMS is based on the experience and advice of our clients, and a preliminary version of the FH Mobile EMS application was sent to a steering committee of fire departments and EMS agencies. Key attributes of FH Mobile EMS are:

- **Integration.** Synchronize supporting detail records from FH (EMS lookup codes, staff scheduling (if purchased), staff roster, and staff information, etc.) then update FH with complete EMS patient information with a single click. Memorized templates set up in FH are available in FH Mobile EMS. FH Mobile EMS is completely integrated with FH.
- **Versatility.** Define the data elements included in a patient record and the specify the order the data elements are displayed in. User-defined protocols. Add action plans that drive the data entry views. FH Mobile EMS is so versatile you can adopt it to meet your record entry requirements.
- **Efficiency.** FH Mobile EMS is designed to provide effective patient care documentation. Press a single button to add a procedure or medication record. Create auto-generated narratives. Use memorized record templates to quickly fill in standard information. Add crew members for a mobile workstation, or use information from the FH Staff Roster or FH Staff Scheduling. Print a patient report at the hospital. FH Mobile EMS is designed to make patient care reporting as simple as possible.
- **Power.** Add timed warnings for specific detail records (notifications, vitals, procedures, medications, etc.). Associate usage records with Vitals/Procedures/Medications records. Signature capture forms. FH Mobile EMS has powerful features that can be used to adapt patient care reporting to your department's requirements.

We anticipate that FH Mobile EMS will be available sometime in early 2006.



## Stop By and See Us

<i>Date</i>	<i>Show</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Show</i>
01/11/06	Mississippi Mid-Winter Fire	02/24/06	Virginia Fire Chiefs,
01/12/06	Chiefs Conference, Oxford, MS	02/25/06	Virginia Beach, VA
01/28/06	Long Island Fire, Rescue &	03/12/06	Southwest Fire Rescue,
01/29/06	EMS Show, Uniondale, NY	03/14/06	Austin, TX
02/03/06	Missouri Winter Fire School,	03/30/06	Louisiana Fire Chiefs
	Columbia, MO	03/31/06	Conference, Bossier City, LA
02/21/06	Firehouse World,	04/27/06	FDIC,
02/23/06	San Diego, CA	04/29/06	Indianapolis, IN





## Department Profile

Each quarter, we profile a different department. If you would like your department profiled, send us some information about your department.

Fire Department:	Steese Area Volunteer Fire Department
Location:	Fairbanks, Alaska
Fire Chief:	Mitch Flynn
Personnel:	6 Paid/52 Volunteer
Stations:	3
Pop. Served:	9,800
Calls:	400/year
Apparatus:	3 engines, 3 tankers (including 1 50' quint), 1 brush truck, 2 squads, 2 ambulances, 1 off road rescue.
Software:	FIREHOUSE Software Version 6
Comments:	Established in 1979, Steese Area Volunteer Fire Department serves the small communities of Fox, Two Rivers, and other residents just north of Fairbanks. The Steese Area Volunteer Fire Department is a member of the Fairbanks North Star Borough. We provide fire suppression, emergency/non-emergency medical transports and off road rescue with the use of snow machines and four wheelers. Currently we use the NFIRS and EMS Incident, Staff and Training, and Inventory modules.



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Let us know if we have incorrect contact information  
 An online version of this newsletter is available at  
<http://www.firehousesoftware.com/dwnld/newsletter.htm>