

# Briefing Paper

# MT Financial Code Generator



---

**Date:** 23 December 2020

**Subject:** Montana Financial Code Generator

**Desired Outcomes:**

Replace the F300 functionality of assigning state financial codes (SABHRs #s) to wildland fire incidents in which the state of Montana has a financial interest.

**Background:**

The DNRC has used the F300 (Initial Fire Activity) and F1000 (Fire Report) applications for the last 20 years. These applications have served us well over that time but, as reporting requirements have changed and the software has reached its lifespan, we now struggle to meet our fire data needs; including meeting important federal reporting requirements. In addition, our ability to maintain and update the software has also become an issue. Recently we found OIT no longer has the capability to make routine updates and fix even minor issues as they arise; requiring the use of expensive contracted services.

**Introduction:**

The DNRC intends to replace the current F300 application with the Montana Financial Code Generator (MT FCG). The MT FCG core team has been working with DNRC OIT since October 2020 and has provided the initial fire business requirements for OIT to start developing the FCG application. The MT FCG will read Incident information from the Integrated Reporting of Wildland-Fire Information (IRWIN) service. This connection will allow for the most current incident information to be viewed when generating a state financial code. This function is necessary as state expenses need to be tracked on all incidents where the state has a financial interest in an incident. This includes all DNRC fires, county fires where the DNRC provides response support or financial assistance, prepositioning local or national resources, as well as any incidents that require cost isolation and all hazard incidents to which DNRC resources are mobilized. The DNRC mobilizes state resources all over the country to support other states and federal agencies in managing wildland fires. By linking to IRWIN, the DNRC will efficiently generate state financial codes using the most accurate incident information.

**Key Points / Discussion:**

1. Using IRWIN data, the DNRC will change the current workflows to minimize redundant data entry for DNRC and Interagency dispatch personnel. An updated process will provide the most current information available from IRWIN, which is reading authoritative data from national wildfire information technology applications. The intent is to eliminate the need for dispatchers or other personnel to re-enter wildfire or other



---

incident information, that is already available through IRWIN, into DNRC systems to generate a financial code as is currently necessary.

2. In our current F300 application, a financial code is determined by specific user inputs at the start of an incident. This process creates an incident financial code that indicates to the FDO as to how to handle those incident costs at the end of the incident. Many of us have had the need to go back and change the financial code to better reflect the intended handling of those costs throughout the life of an incident. This issue has been identified as a business practice we would like to eliminate as this user action occurs during peak fire response activity.
3. It is the intent of the core team to minimize the fields required to determine a financial code. The core team is looking to have the ability to make changes to business activity information throughout the life of the incident without needing to change the financial code.
4. The core team is also looking at when the DNRC will assign a specific financial code to an incident. The FDO has documented issues in meeting audit standards and billing requirements for fire finance needs. These were costs in the past that were coded to a generic financial code that transitioned into a billable incident. These being incidents assigned a xxx998 mutual aid or xxx001 miscellaneous financial code. The FCG core team is working with the FDO to determine how best to meet the FDO billing requirements.

### **Actions and Timelines:**

The core team has scheduled a progress meeting in early January to see how the application is coming together and get feedback on current efforts.

As soon as a minimum viable product is developed the core team will work to start onboarding the fire program and interagency personnel requiring the ability to assign a state incident financial code. These dates are not yet established but best estimates are for mid-February.

### **Other Resources:**

Draft 2021 DNRC Financial Codes