

Getting Started with FIREMON



The following instructions are provided to help you get started using the FIREMON database. Steps marked *Optional* may be completed at a later time and are not required prior to data entry. Most of these instructions are related to the initial setup of FIREMON. For example, once you have entered species and item codes you will not need to enter them again, however you may need to add additional codes as new species and items are encountered. The **FIREMON Database Users Manual** and individual FIREMON methods documents provide supplemental information.

- 1) **Determine a Registration Code.** This is a four-character code that will be used for all of your databases. You can register a code at the FIREMON Website on FRAMES (<http://frames.nbi.gov/firemon>). Registering is not required but allows us to contact you about updates and training.
- 2) **Open FIREMON.** Double-click the JFIREMON icon on your desktop or click *Start* → *Programs* and select *JFIREMON*. JFIREMON is the Java-based data entry application that moves data into the FIREMON Microsoft® Access database.
- 3) **Start a new FIREMON database.** The first time JFIREMON opens you will not see the data entry screens until you start a new database. Click *File* → *New* from the main JFIREMON toolbar. In the filename field type a name for your database and click *Open* (leave the extension as an .mdb file). Select a filename that is descriptive so that it will intuitively link the data and the project the data was collected for. The new database will be the default that opens when you use JFIREMON in the future. You can store all your data in one database or you can have multiple databases for multiple projects. Note: The FIREMON Analysis Tools software will only do analysis for plots that use the same RegistrationID and ProjectID. If you have data that will be summarized across plots make sure the plots all use the same RegistrationID and ProjectID.
- 4) **Add plant species into the Species Codes table.** Users must populate a species list before entering data in FIREMON. Species codes entered in the table will be displayed in *Item* field dropdown lists in JFIREMON. To populate the species list click *Data Entry* → *Plant Species Codes* from the main JFIREMON toolbar. It may take a few seconds for the window to open as the list contains over 82,000 records. When it opens, click the *List* button at the bottom. When the *Record List* window opens click the *Find* button on the lower left. Arrange the three windows so you can see all the fields on the *NRCS Plants Codes*, *Record List* and *Find* windows. To add a species, type a common or scientific name in the *Find What* field on the *Find* window, select the appropriate search field from the *Search*

- Column* dropdown list and click *Find Next*. The first match will be highlighted in the *Record List* window. If it is not the species you want to add, search again or scroll through the list to find desired species, then click on it to highlight. When the species you want to add is highlighted in the *Record List* window click the *Add to Local Code* button on the *NRCS Plants Codes* window to add the species to the Species Codes table. Repeat these steps for every species you want to add to Species Codes table. You do not have to enter every species you think you will encounter however you will not be able to enter a species code in a *JFIREMON Item* field until the code has been entered in the Species Codes table. Close out by clicking the X button on the upper right of the *Find* and *Record List* windows, clicking the *Save* button on the lower part of the *NRCS Species Codes* window and clicking the X button on the upper right.
- 5) **Add Item Codes in Item Codes Table (Optional).** Users can enter general codes, such as “gravel”, “grass”, “sagebrush” and so forth, to be used for ground cover in the Other Item Codes table. These items will be included with your species codes on the *Item* dropdown lists. To add items, click *Data Entry* → *Other Item Codes* from the main *JFIREMON* toolbar. The table in the upper half of the *Other Item Codes* window contains a many item codes; the table in the lower half of the window lists the items that will be included on the *Item* dropdown lists. As you scroll through the upper table and locate item codes you want to use, click the code to highlight and then click *Add to Other Items*. If you want to add an item code not shown in the upper table, type the unique code you want to use in the *Selected Ground Cover Code* field, enter a short description in the field to the right and click *Add to Other Items*. Close out by clicking *Save Settings* at the bottom of the *Other Item Codes* window and clicking the X button in the upper right. As with species codes, you do not need to enter all of the item codes you think you will use at this time, however you will not be able to add a new item code in an *Item* field until the code has been entered in the Other Item Codes table.
- 6) **Start a Metadata table (Optional).** Metadata describes how data was collected. This information is not required but it is extremely important that you specifically describe your sampling methods in the Metadata table. Click *Data Entry* → *Metadata* from the main *JFIREMON* toolbar. Enter a unique, descriptive Metadata ID in the field at the top left of the *Metadata Entry Form* window. You will enter this same Metadata ID in the *MDID* field of the *JFIREMON PD* form to link plot information to the metadata that is associated with it. Type a title in *Subject* field to indicate what method or discussion the text relates to. Text can be pasted into the *Comments* window from other applications. Figures cannot be pasted into the *Comments* field but you can link to documents or image files by entering their file name in the *Document Link* field (or browse to the document using the button to the right of the field). Once the field is populated *Document Link* will turn blue indicating it is now a hyperlink to the file name in the adjacent field. When the named document or image file is stored in the default *Documents Base Directory* it will be displayed when the hyperlinked *Document Link* text is clicked. Add a new *Subject* by clicking the new record button (right-facing dark triangle and asterisk) on the *MDData* record selector. To close the Metadata

- Table, click the X in the upper right corner of the *Metadata Entry Form*. You are not required to enter metadata before entering plot data but you will not be able to fill in the *MDID* field on the PD form until a Metadata table has been started.
- 7) **Start a Fire Behavior table (Optional).** The Fire Behavior table includes data describing the weather and fuel conditions at the time of a fire. Click *Data Entry* → *Fire Behavior* from the main JFIREMON toolbar. Enter a unique, descriptive Fire ID in the field at the top left of the *Fire Behavior Entry* form. You can record fire behavior data multiple times during a fire by clicking the new record button (right-facing dark triangle and asterisk) on the *FBData* record selector. Data collected pre- and post-fire is linked to the Fire Behavior table using the *FireID* field on the JFIREMON PD form. Click the X in the upper right corner of the *Fire Behavior Entry* form to close the window. You will probably not be entering fire behavior data the first time you open the database. You may enter data in the Fire behavior table at any time but you will not be able to fill in the FireID field on the PD form until a Fire Behavior table has been started.
 - 8) **Start entering data.** If not already selected, click the *PD* tab at the top of the *Plot Data Form*. Start by entering the required fields – *RegistrationID*, *ProjectID*, *PlotID*, *Date*, *Plot Type*, *Sampling Event* and *Units*. The *Plot Type*, *Sampling Event* and *Units* fields are in the *Plot Info* section of the PD form. After you have entered data for the PD form you can enter data on any of the other data entry forms, in any order, by clicking the appropriate tab. The **FIREMON Database User Manual** and individual FIREMON methods documents contain further data entry information.
 - 9) **Practice first.** Though we have tried to make JFIREMON as user friendly as possible it may take a few minutes to get comfortable using it. Enter some made-up data in the different forms you will be using. Try the *Delete* button on the different forms to see what data gets deleted. Note that if you enter data on a number of forms, then hit the *Delete* button on the PD form, **ALL** of the data for the current plot will be removed from database. This is because the required fields in the FIREMON Access database are on the PD form. Deleting those fields means the database cannot keep track of the plot data on other forms so it will also be deleted.