



# FireFamilyPlus 4.1 Release Notice

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## 1. Introduction

FireFamilyPlus (FFP) is a PC-based software system for summarizing and analyzing historical daily fire weather observations and computing fire danger indices based on the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) or the Canadian Fire Danger Rating System (CFDRS). Fire occurrence data can also be analyzed and cross-referenced with weather data to help determine critical levels of fire danger for staffing and other fire management activities.

### Added Features

#### New Analysis Variables:

1. Fosberg Fire Weather Index (FFWI).
2. Live Fuel Index Based Live Herbaceous Fuel Moisture (LFI WoodyFM - Experimental)
3. Live Fuel Index Based Woody Fuel Moisture (LFI HerbFM - Experimental)

#### New Station Metadata:

1. WIMS Regular Scheduled Observation Time (RS)

2. NESDIS Station ID
3. WRCC Station ID

### **New NFDRS Processing Options to more closely align with WIMS Version 2:**

- Process NFDRS for both traditional "O" records and WIMS Version 2.0 "R" records with calculated State of Weather and WetFlag based. These "R" records, for the RS time, are currently only available from **WIMS** via the PLST or Dashboard (FW9/FW13 Export Functions).
- State of Weather can be estimated for the RS observation from hourly weather data as is done in the WIMS RAWS Gateway. Solar Radiation and Precipitation Thresholds can be modified as in WIMS. **See Weather->Hourly Data Analysis->Calculated SOW/WetFlag.**
- WIMS Snow Flag logic in NFDR computations. (The Snow Flag is not yet transmitted externally but should be part of FW13 exports by spring of 2013.)
- Weather Data->Import and Export will accommodate both FW9 and new FW13 Fire Weather Transfer Formats. FW13 adds Solar Radiation, Hourly Gust and Snow Flag.

**TERM:** A Term module has been added (Weather->Term). Term files can be initially populated from the Event Locator or manually. Term files can be imported and exported to text files. **See Help Topic "Term."**

### **Fixes and Enhancements**

**Interactive Batch:** More robust with better continuity between working set in Interactive and Classic modes. Reports in Interactive Batch can be edited and Copy, Cut, and Paste functions work as in the classic mode (Ctrl-C, Ctrl-X, Ctrl-V). Left clicking mouse in Graph Window now returns X and Y values as in Classic mode.

**Stats Graphs:** Overlay Year(s) are now included in File->Export Graph Data.

**Fire Occurrence Graphs:** File->View Graph Data moved to Option->View Graph Data

**Fire Analysis Graphs:** Lines thicker and line types differ for Fire-Day types.

**Fire Analysis Statistics:** Sum of Squares information removed for easier reading.

**Icons** added to Toolbar for Daily List (L), Viewing Daily Observations (D), viewing All Observations (R), and viewing Fire Business Candidates (C). The View Observations windows can now be minimized while performing other FFP functions.

**Data Count Report:** Reformatted for easier reading.

**Selecting Variables:** The display order may be changed by clicking the Variables button. Available orders are: Alphabetical, Grouped (WX/NFDRS/CFDR), and ID (from ffpClimateOptions table).

**Daily List:** Results of Daily List can be directly exported into the current FireFamilyPlus database as a table. Table is always overwritten and named “DL\_Output.” StationID or SIG name is included in each record. Memo field of first record in DL\_Output holds the run parameters.

**Batch\Run Options:** Moved from Options to Batch on the main menu.

**NFDRS Calculator:** Validates field limits and recalls last session.

**Data->Import->Weather (FWX/FW9/FW13):** If the importer detects a station ID from the Western Region Climate Center (WRCC), you have the option to load the data under the WRCC ID (current functionality) or the associated WIMS ID (new functionality).

## 2. System Requirements

Operating System	Windows through Windows 7
Memory	16Mb.
Storage	50 Mb. Will increase with large databases
Display	Minimum 1024 x 768 pixels, 264K (16-bit) colors
Help	The online help is a Compiled HTML Help file and requires Internet Explorer. The file, <i>ffp4.chm</i> will be updated from time to time.
License	There are no licensing requirements.
Data Requirements	FireFamilyPlus comes with a sample database and will automatically upgrade older databases to the Version 4.1 database structure. The <i>Acquiring Data</i> topic in the program’s online Help describes sources of data FFP will import for analysis. The <i>Importing Data</i> topic describes methods for importing data files.

## 3. Download

All FireFamilyPlus programs, documents, and supporting materials are available at [FireModels.org](http://FireModels.org).

## 4. Installation

You must first download the latest FireFamilyPlus 4.1 installation program (*FireFamilyPlus41.msi*, ~ 20 MB) from the [FireFamilyPlus Downloads](#) page onto your computer. Follow the instructions on the download page.

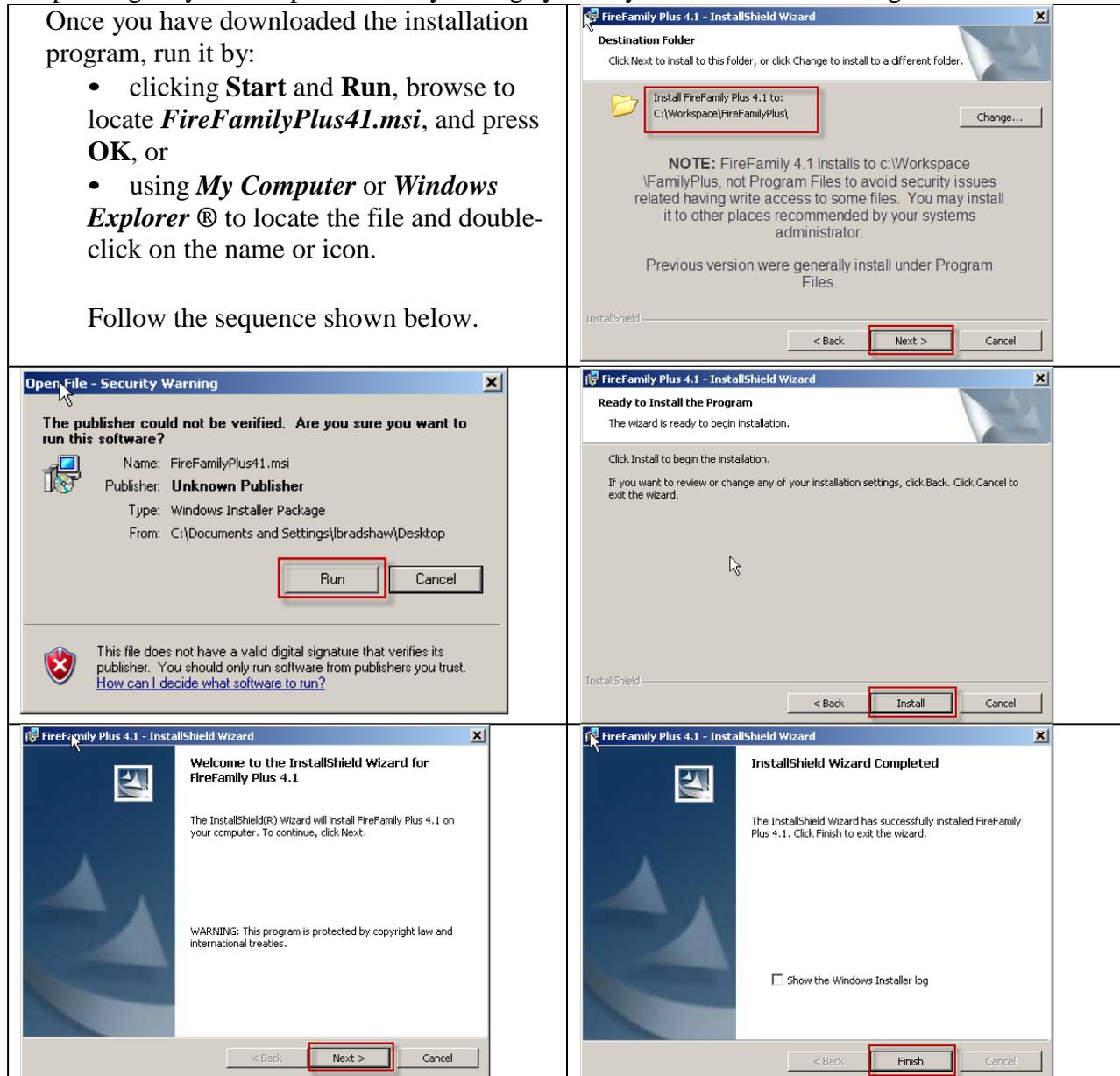
*If you have prior versions of FireFamilyPlus you do not have to uninstall them from your computer, although you may.*

Depending on your computer security settings you may need administrative rights.

Once you have downloaded the installation program, run it by:

- clicking **Start** and **Run**, browse to locate *FireFamilyPlus41.msi*, and press **OK**, or
- using *My Computer* or *Windows Explorer*® to locate the file and double-click on the name or icon.

Follow the sequence shown below.



## Starting FireFamilyPlus 4.1

The FireFamilyPlus4.1 installation program should create a desktop icon. You can start the program via **Start->Programs-> FireFamilyPlus 4->FireFamilyPlus 4.1**. You can use standard methods to create a shortcut to the application file, “*fireplus.exe*.”



If you have a previous version of FireFamilyPlus installed on your computer, the last database used will likely be opened and upgraded when you start Version 4.1.

***There should be no database compatibility issues between previous Versions but if after the upgrade process but if you get an error, try closing and reopening the database.***

Version 4.1 includes a sample database, C:\WorkSpace\FireFamilyPlus\ffplus4. The database contains:

- daily weather observations from Moose Creek, ID (101028) from 1996 to 2008
- hourly observations, with wind gust and solar radiation from Moose Creek for 2008 (May through July)
- fire records from USFS, Region 1, Nez Perce NF (17) for 1996 to 2007, associated with Moose Creek
- daily weather observations from Libby, MT (240107) from 1996 to 2007
- fire records from USFS, Region 1, Kootenai NF (14) for 1996 to 2007, associated with Libby.

## Uninstalling Version 4.1

**Note:** Uninstalling Version 4.1 will remove all distribution files from the installation directory, ***including the sample database ffplus4.md***. If you need ffplus4.mdb you should make a copy of it prior to uninstalling FireFamilyPlus 4.1. Uninstalling will not remove any database files you may have created in this directory.

You may remove FireFamilyPlus 4.1 using the Start Menu Option or



by standard Window Add/Remove Programs

- click the *My Computer* icon,
- click the *Control Panel* icon,
- click the *Add/Remove Programs* icon, and
- locate the **FireFamilyPlus 4.1** entry in the program list and click **Remove** (Windows 2000 and later).

## 5. Support

The following sources of technical support and training are available.

### National Support

To report problems with FireFamilyPlus, please contact the USDA, Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management System Help Desk at:

Phone: (866) 254-7677

Email: [helpdesk@dms.nwcg.gov](mailto:helpdesk@dms.nwcg.gov)

### Training Material

There is currently no single FireFamilyPlus course but several Tech Tips and self-study modules are available at [www.firemodels.org](http://www.firemodels.org) and more are being developed.

### User's Guide

The FireFamilyPlus User's Guide covers all aspects of the program operation and is available in Adobe ® PDF format. The document for Version 4.1 is currently under development and draft versions are available.