

# FireFamilyPlus 4.1 Beta 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.

New in FFP 4.1 Beta.

The principal addition is the Term Module (Weather->Term) which duplicates the functionality of the Waiting Time functions in the RERAP program. This was added to facilitate S-495 curriculum and hasten retirement of the RERAP program. Existing Term Files may be imported and any number of Term Files can be stored in the database. Term files are associated with the Active Working Set (Station/SIG) when the file was created. There is capability for extensive commenting the term file. Term files in the database can be edited or deleted. Finally, results from the Event Locator can be used to provide initial dates for a term file. See Help Topic "Term."

### **Fixes and Enhancements:**

Interactive Batch:

- User Variables are available
- Overlay Years are available
- Active Working Set dates are used initially instead of all available data
- Most changes made to working set settings in Interactive Batch are saved in the active working set for the station/SIG.

## Data Handling:

- Certain imports of multiple FW9 files would cause: "Operation Failed, No Current Record" Error fixed. This has been fixed.
- Exporting Fires to Shape Files: Fire Numbers were truncated to 12 characters in length and State Fire Cause Codes were being remapped to DOI cause codes. This has been fixed.

**NFDR Calculations:** Certain warm climate stations would not properly green up every year because X1000 not reset to FM1000. Corrected in CFNDRS.dll

**View Observations:** The view observations window is now MDI compliant which means it can be minimized while performing other FFP functions.

A description of changes from FireFamilyPlus Version 4.0.2 can be found in *About FireFamilyPlus*.

## 2. System Requirements

Operating System	Windows 95/98/ /2000/XP/Vista ®
Memory	128 Mb. (64 Mb. free)
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 on the [FireFamilyPlus Downloads](#) page.

## 4. Installation

You must first download the latest FireFamilyPlus 4.1 Beta installation program (*FFP41betaSetup.msi*, ~ 8.8 MB) from the [FireFamilyPlus Downloads](#) page onto your computer.

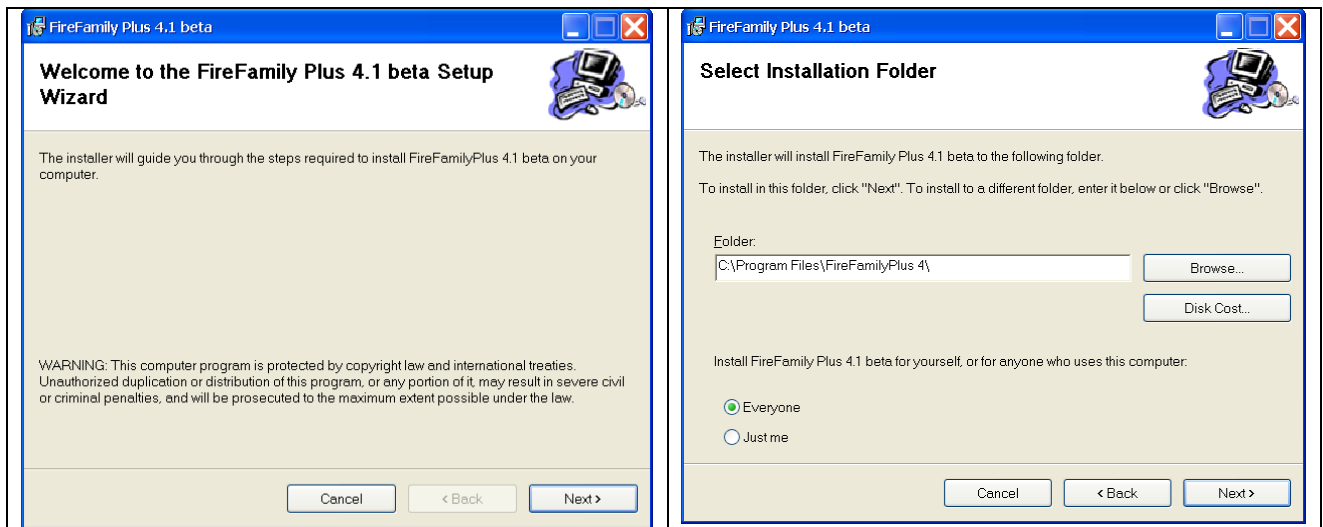
Once you have downloaded the installation program, execute it by:

- clicking **Start** and **Run**, browse to locate *FFP41betaSetup.msi*, and press **OK**, or

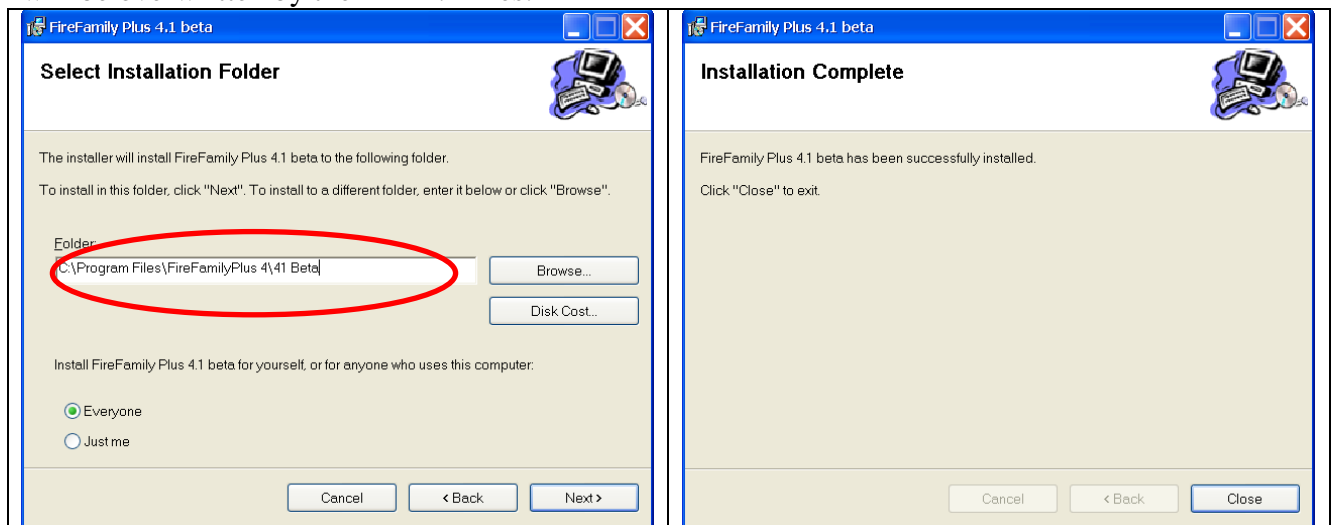
- using *My Computer* or *Windows Explorer*® to locate the file and double-click on the name or icon.

***If you have FireFamilyPlus version 4.0.2 you do not have to uninstall it from your computer.***

Depending on your computer security settings you may need administrative rights. You may also have the option of installing the program for **Everyone** or **Just me**. The default installation directory is shown in the figure below. If you are installing without administrative rights you may need to install the program under your “*My Documents*” folder and will only be able to install it for **Just me**.



C:\Program Files\FireFamilyPlus 4 is the default directory for installation. Although you may use this folder, a different directory is recommended because the FFP 4.0.2 readme and help files will be overwritten by the FFP 4.1 files.



## 4.1 Starting FireFamilyPlus 4.1 Beta

The FireFamilyPlus4.1 Beta installation program **does not** create icons on your desktop. You can start the program via **Start->Programs-> FireFamilyPlus 4->FireFamily Plus 4.1 beta**. You can use standard methods to create a shortcut to the application file, “*fireplus41beta.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.

***There should be no database compatibility issues between Version 4.0.2 and 4.1 Beta.***

Version 4 ships with a new sample database, C:\Program Files\FireFamilyPlus 4\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.

## 4.2 Uninstalling Version 4.1 Beta

To remove FireFamilyPlus Version 4.1 Beta:

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

**Note:** This will only remove the program files; it will not remove the installation directory or previously created databases in the installation directory or elsewhere. These need to be removed separately if desired.

## **5. Support**

The following sources of technical support and training are available.

### **5.1 US Government National Support**

To report problems with FireFamilyPlus 4.1 Beta, please contact the Larry Bradshaw at the Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory. (406-329-4979 / [lbradshaw@fs.fed.us](mailto:lbradshaw@fs.fed.us)).

To report problems with FireFamilyPlus 4.0.2, please contact the USDA, Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management System Help Desk at:

Phone: (800) 253-5559

Email: [fire\\_help@fs.fed.us](mailto:fire_help@fs.fed.us)

### **5.2 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.

### **5.3 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 is currently under development and draft versions are available.