# Package 'pkgFireCARES'

September 11, 2017

Title Useful Functions for FireCARES

Version 0.0.0.9000  Description This package provides some useful functions for estimating community risk models and community risk scores in FireCARES.	
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c\_test

acs.dwnld	Download ACS data	
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### Description

Downloads the ACS data needed for use in model estimation.

### Usage

```
acs.dwnld(conn, year, cols = NULL, states = NULL)
```

### **Arguments**

conn	DBI Connection. The connection to the database where the data will be uploaded.
year	Integer. The year for which to download ACS data
cols	Character vector. Vector of column names (from the ACS) reflecting what ACS columns to download. [optional]
states	Character vector. This allows me to specify a subset of states. If it is not specified, all nationwide data is downloaded. [optional]

### **Details**

This leaves a 'temporary' table on the database. That table will then need to be manually inserted into the main acs\_est table.

### Value

returns a list with the following entries:

table.name.est Name of the table on the database in which the new estimates are stored.

table.name.err Name of the table on the database in which the new error values are stored.

rows Number of rows added to the data set.

elapsed.time Time it took to complete the download

c_test	Merge multiple fcTest objects	

### Description

Merges multiple fcTest objects

### Usage

```
c_test(t1, ...)
```

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### **Arguments**

t1 test object.

... Additional test objects

### Value

Returns a test object that contains all the information in the separate test objects supplied.

### **Examples**

```
## Not run:
    c_test(test.f.L1, test.f.L2)
## End(Not run)
```

fcEstimate

Predict expected values

### **Description**

Predicts expected values based on fitted models and new data.

### Usage

```
fcEstimate(input, output, new.data, subset = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

input	character vector.	This lists the names of the cont	rol objects used to generate the
Input	character vector.	This hats the hames of the cont	ioi objects used to generate the

model(s) used for prediction.

output character vector. This lists the names of the output models created from the

control objects listed in 'input'.

new.data data.frame This is the data that will be used to generate the predictions. It needs

to contain all the input variables used in creating the model.

subset name. This specifies the subset of new.data for which predictions will be made.

If, as I expect, you want predictions for all rows in the new.data object, then the default value (subset=TRUE) will provide that. There is no need to screen out rows with undefined input variables since this routine already takes that into

account.

### **Details**

This function produces tract-level estimates of the modeled information based on models run and output in the "output" object, and using the data in "new.data".

### Value

Returns a data frame with some identifier columns and the predictions from the model for each row. If any row is screened out by the subset parameter, then it will be returned with an NA in the prediction column.

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fcMacro	Run a set of control objects	

### **Description**

This function takes a list of control objects and goes through the steps needed to run the tests for those control objects, and save the outputs.

### Usage

```
fcMacro(npt, conn = NULL, save.tests = NULL)
```

#### **Arguments**

npt character vector. Lists names of the control objects to be run.

conn DBI connection. Connection to the database containing the 'controls' sets. Only

needed if the control objects in npt above are not on the command line. [op-

tional]

save.tests environment. Where to save the test results. [optional]

#### **Details**

The object listed in npt need not exist in the R environment. If it does not, then this function calls the npt function to get the definition of the control object out of the database. That is what the conn variable is used for. If the objects already exist in the R environment, then there is no need to supply the conn variable.

This routine sequentially runs fcRun and fcTest for all the test objects supplied. It then collects summary information from the fcTest output for all the control objects listed and returns it in the list rmse.sum which is created in the global environment.

The function saves the control, output, and test objects to disk and deletes them from the R environment. This step is necessary because some of output objects are quite large.

The function creates a message text file on disk for each control object so as to contain any errors or or messages generated while running the models. The name of the message file is 'message.nn.txt' where nn is a two-digit number. This function finds the message file with the largest such number already on the disk and names the new file with the next-largest number. Note that if a large number of such files already exist on the disk or if fcMacro is called with a long list of control objects, it is possible for the 'nn' in the name above to extend into triple digits.

If the save tests environment is supplied, then the fcTest results (and only the fcTest results) will be retained in the environment specified. The fcTest objects are small enough that they can be retained without much harm. Note again that they are saved (if they are saved) in a separate environment which keeps the global environment less cluttered.

#### Side Effects:

- Creates rmse.sum in the global environment.
- For each control object, creates a .RData file on the disk containing the objects created.
- For each control object, creates a message text file on disk containing any errors or messages generated in the process.
- Optionally saves the outputs of the fcTest function in a specified environment.

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rmse.sum is a named list. Each control object that produces a fcTest object (many will not) has an entry in the list. The name of the entry is the name of the control object. The entry is the .\$se entry in the fcTest object.

### Value

Data frame listing the objects and files created for each control object.

The data.frame has the following structure:

npt.name Name of the control object.

res.name Name of the results output by fcRun.

**tst.name** Name of the test results output by fcTest.

msg.name Text file in which errors and messages associated with this object are output.

save.name Name of the file to which all objects are saved.

Note that if an object is not created (typically due to an error) then an NA will appear in the appropriate cell.

### **Examples**

```
## Not run:
    fcMacro(c("mr.final", "npt.final", "npt.final.L"))

res <- new.env()
    fcMacro(c("mr.final", "npt.final", "npt.final.L"), save.tests=res)

## End(Not run)</pre>
```

fcRun

Fit models described in the supplied control objects

### Description

The function takes the control object specifying a series of regression models and runs those models.

### Usage

```
fcRun(sets, n = 0, sink = NULL)
```

### **Arguments**

sets	Control Object The control object describing the models to run. This will typically be generated by 'npt'
n	Integer. Number of bootstrap replications to run in order to estimate the confidence intervals on parameters. n=0 (the default) will not run any bootstrap replicates.
sink	Character. Specifies the name of the text file to send error messages to. [optional]

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#### **Details**

Creates: an out object listing output of the models.

The reason that out is created in the global environment rather than returned as an object is that if one of the models errors out, I still get the results of the previous models.

This will typically be followed up by a run of fcTest

### **Examples**

```
## Not run:
    fcRun(mr.d.00, sink="messages.13.txt")
    fcRun(mr.f.S0b, n=1000, sink="messages.08.txt")
    fcRun(mr.j.L0a)
## End(Not run)
```

fcSetup

Condition a data set for use in model estimation

### **Description**

Condition a data set for use in model estimation

### Usage

```
fcSetup(dta, seed = 953016876)
```

#### **Arguments**

data.frame. The data set that needs to be condition for use.

seed Intger. A random seed used to ensure consistent results for the partitioning of

the data set into training and test sets.

### **Details**

This takes the 'low.risk.fires', 'med.risk.fires' and 'high.risk.fires' data.frames as pulled from the database and makes the modification needed to use them for analysis.

It also does much of the pre-processing on the 'lr\_mr\_pred' and 'hr\_pred' data frames as well.

This function carries out the following tasks:

- 1. Set any nulls in the outcome variables to zero.
- 2. Turn any categorical predictors into factors.
- 3. Take the log of the income variable.
- 4. Ensure that there is an f\_located column in the table.
- 5. Define any filters that are needed (only for training tables).
- 6. Define training and test sets for the training tables.

#### Value

The conditioned data frame.

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fcTest	Compute out-of-sample RMS Errors for model output	

### **Description**

Compute out-of-sample RMS Errors for model output

### Usage

```
fcTest(input, output, subset = NULL)
```

### **Arguments**

input Control object. The input control object used by fcRun to generate the output.

Output Model Output. The model output produced by fcRun.

subset The subset of the data over which to estimate RMS Errors. I include this because

in some cases the test subset has been different from the training subset in non-

random ways.

#### **Details**

This function takes output from the fcRun function and calculates the out-of-sample Root-Mean-Square Error values for each model in the output object.

### Value

This returns a list with the following members:

**lhs** Name of the left-hand side variable.

**subset** The subset to which the results are applied.

**se** A named vector with the root-mean-square errors on the out-of-sample data for each model in the control object.

**results** A data frame with the row-by-row results.

full_analysis Runs the full analysis of a set of models.	full_analysis	Runs the full analysis of a set of models.	
--	---------------	--	--

### Description

This function runs through the entire process of estimating models and developing predictions at either the census tract level or at the department level. This function can be run with NO inputs. That is, it can be called as full\_analysis() and it will work. Default values exist in some form for all the parameters. Supply the parameters if you want different results.

### Usage

```
full_analysis(conn = NULL, models.run = NULL, bypass.models = FALSE,
  do.predictions = TRUE, roll.up.2.dept = TRUE, object.list = NULL)
```

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### **Arguments**

conn A DBI Connection. This is a connection to the database containing the data and

model definitions. If none is entered, default connection information is obtained

from the operating system environment.

models.run Either a list or a data frame. This determines what models are run. Its format is

given as an example below. If it is undefined, then a default set of models are run (see below). Note that multiple model objects per risk level does not present

a problem.

object.list List of data frames. The list must contain an entry for every risk level that is

run. The entry for each risk level must contain data frame with the output from fcMacro for that risk level. If bypass.models is TRUE and this parameter is undefined, the function will error out. If bypass.models is FALSE, then this

parameter is ignored.

bypass.models=FALSE

Logical. If it is TRUE, then no models are estimated. If not, then the models listed in 'models.run' above are estimated first. Note that if 'bypass.models' is TRUE, then the 'objects' data frame (output of the fcMacro function) must be

 $\label{eq:supplied.} $$\operatorname{do.predictions}=TRUE$$ 

Logical. If it is TRUE, then predictions are generated from the models run. If not, then no predictions are generated from the estimated models.

roll.up.2.dept=TRUE

Logical. If it is TRUE, then the predictions are rolled up to the department level. If it is FALSE, then the predictions are left at the census tract level.

### **Details**

The models.run parameter can have one of two formats, a list format or a data frame format. The list format is preferred. The data frame format has two columns: risk and lst. Both columns have character format. Each row represents a model set to be run. The risk column specifies the risk level associated with that model set (and can only be one of 'lr', 'mr', or 'hr'). The lst column is the lst value from the controls database for the model set to be run. The default value of models.run (in data.frame format) is listed below.

risk	lst
lr	npt.final
lr	npt.final.L
mr	mr.final
hr	hr.final

The list format contains a named entry for each risk level to be run. The entry contains a character vector listing the lst values from the controls database for the model sets to be run for that risk level.

The object.list list object has an entry for each risk level run. That entry is a data frame with information output from fcMacro. The structure of that data frame is given by the following example:

npt.name	res.name	tst.name	msg.name	save.name
npt.final	npt.final.res	npt.final.tst	messages.00.txt	npt.final.RData
npt.final.L	npt.final.L.res	npt.final.L.tst	messages.01.txt	npt.final.L.RData

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Note that if you are supplying the object.list structure while using the bypass.models option, you can safely leave out the tst.name and msg.name columns.

#### Value

returns a list with the following entries:

models.run The models.run input listing the models run by risk level

bypass.models The input bypass.models value

do.predictions The input do.predictions value

roll.up.2.dept The input roll.up.2.dept value

**object.list** The object.list object described above. If the bypass.models flag is set, then this is the object supplied to the function. Otherwise it is returned by the calls to fcMacro.

**prediction** Data frame containing predictions for all variables requested in the models.run object. The predictions are either by census tract or by department depending on the value of the roll.up.2.dept flag.

**risk.results** This is a list, with an entry for each risk level. Each entry contains a data frame with the raw estimates for that risk level. For low and medium risk fires this contains the predictions at the census tract level (which are redundant with the results in predictions if roll.up.2.dept is FALSE). For high risk fires, this contains predictions at the parcel level.

### **Future Work**

Convert this to a function in the pkgFireCARES package. That requires the following tasks: \* Test everything and make sure I didn't break it.

lasso

LASSO helper function

### **Description**

This is a helper function that fcRun calls whenever a LASSO model is used.

#### Usage

```
lasso(formula, data, subset = NULL, ...)
```

### Arguments

formula Formula. This describes the model that the LASSO fits.

data Data Frame. The data used for the model.

subset Name. This defines the subset of the data the model is evaluated over.

... Additional parameters to the cv.glmnet function.

### **Details**

Basically it takes the standard inputs from the fcRun routine and translates them to work with the glmnet cv.glmnet function.

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#### Value

Returns the glmnet.lasso object with the call slot altered to reflect the call to this function rather than the glmnet function.

mass.npt

Mass Building of Control Objects

### Description

This uses a pattern to collect a set of control files, and then calls 'npt' for each of those control files.

### Usage

```
mass.npt(conn, pattern = NULL, list = NULL, relocate = NULL)
```

### **Arguments**

conn DBI connection. Connects to the database containing the 'controls' sets.

pattern character. Used to pattern-match the 'lst' values in the control list.

list character. List of control objects to build.

relocate environment. This is an [optional] environment into which to move any existing

test objects.

### **Details**

Creates: A set of control objects in the global environment, as specified in the 'pattern' input.

This is usually followed up with a call to fcMacro

### Value

Vector listing the control objects created.

### **Examples**

```
## Not run:
    conn <- dbConnect("PostgreSQL", host="hostname.com", dbname="nfirs", user="username", password="***")
    mass.npt(conn, "npt.f")
    res <- new.env()
    mass.npt("final", conn, res)
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

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Naive estimator
-----------------

### Description

Generates the naive estimator for any given data set.

### Usage

```
naive(test)
```

### **Arguments**

test

Test object.

#### **Details**

This takes an output object from the test function and computes the Naive predictor. The Naive predictor says that the best prediction for a tract-year is the number of outcomes (fires, injuries, etc.) that occurred for that tract the previous year. It is undefined for the first year in the data set.

### Value

(modified) test object.

npt

Create control objects

### Description

This function creates the specified control objects from the templates maintained in the database.

### Usage

```
npt(conn, group = NULL, risk = NULL, y = NULL, mdls = NULL,
run = "short")
```

### Arguments

conn	DBI Connection. Connects to the database containing the controls tables.
group	character The entry in the 'lst' column. This determines which models get used.
risk	character. This along with 'y' and 'mdls' (and 'run') represent an alternative way of specifying which models get used. If 'group' is specified, this is ignored. This is risk category, and is one of 'l' (for low risk properties), 'm' (for medium risk properties), or 'h' (for
у	character. This is the target variable, and is one of 'f' (for fires), 'j' (for injuries), 'd' (for deaths), 'sz2' (for "size 2" fires), or 'sz3' (for "size 3" fires).
mdls	character This is a character vector of the models to be included for that target variable.

run

character This takes one of two values: 'short' and 'long'. This determines whether a single model is run for all department sizes and regions (typically with dummies for each), or whether separate models are run for each combination of department size and region.

#### **Details**

As written, this creates a single control object regardless of whether multiple groups are specified.

If multiple groups are specified, only the first is processed. If y and mdl are specified, only the first y value (and the first 'runs' value) is processed. The multiple models in the y; mdl formulation are all added to a single control object, so be careful. It is easy to build a control object that will produce an output file so large it will choke the computer.

### Value

control object

### **Examples**

```
## Not run:
    npt(conn, "npt.base")
    npt(conn, "npt.base", run="long")
    npt(conn, y="f", mdls=c("", ""))
    npt(conn, y="d", mdls=c("", ""), run="long")
## End(Not run)
```

pkgFireCARES

pkgFireCARES: A package for estimating community risk in Fire-CARES

### Description

This package creates a series of functions that are used to estimate community risk models and make community risk predictions.

#### **Functions**

Functions included are:

full\_analysis: Runs through complete analysis (depending on the parameters set).

fcSetup: Takes data file (either for model estimation or prediction) and prepare it for use.

npt: Builds a control object from the specified templates in the database.

mass.npt: Builds a collection of control objects. This function calls npt to do most of the work.

fcRun: Uses the control object to run a set of models.

fcTest: Calculates the out-of-sample Root-Mean-Square error on the results for the models in the supplied test object. This function works on output from fcRun.

fcMacro: For a supplied set of control objects, sequentially fcRuns them, runs fcTest on them, summarized the fcTest results in a single data.frame, and saves the results to disk.

naive: Takes a fcTest output and computes the naive estimator and the RMS Error for the naive estimator for that test object.

fcEstimate: Takes output from the fcRun routine and new data and computes predictions by tract or (for high-risk fires) Assessors Parcel.

rollUp2Dept: Takes output from the fcEstimate routine sums over census tracts to the department level

lasso: Helper function for LASSO and ridge regression models.

ranger: Helper function for Random Forest models (using the ranger package).

c\_test: Combines two test objects.

acs.dwnld: Downloads new ACS data from Census for import to the database. This should considerably simplify the process of keeping census data up to date. Note that it requires census API key installed (see the acs package documentation).

### **Basic Setup**

This package works with data on the nfirs database on the FireCARES server. In particular, it works with the information in the 'nist' and 'controls' schemas. Most of that, however, is transparent to the functions in this package. Any function that accesses the database takes a DBI Connection as one of its parameters. That connection will contain all the connection parameters and must be supplied. Note that while I assume that the database is a PostgreSQL one (as is currently the case), there is nothing in these functions that is specific to PostgreSQL. So any DBI connection can be used. There are packages in R that create DBI connections for MySQL, SQLite, Oracle, the ODBC Interface, SQLServer, and others. So these functions should continue to work even in the server hosting the database is changed.

### **Typical Workflow**

This section takes you through the basic work flow that will typically be followed in using this package. The function full\_analysis automates this process.

Build the definitions of the models to be estimated. That will typically be done by a call to mass.npt, although it could be done by calling npt directly. Either will leave one or more control objects in the working environment.

Download data for analysis. That will be done outside these routines.

Prepare the data for analysis. This is done by a call to fcSetup.

Estimate the models and calcuate the RMS Error for all the models queued up for estimation. That is typically done by a call to fcMacro. However it can be done by sequentially calling fcRun and fcTest, although that is not recommended. Note that fcMacro takes all the objects created by either fcRun or fcTest, saves them to file and deletes them from the working environment. It leaves behind a summary data frame summarizing the RMS Errors of the models run.

*Estimate the naive model for comparison.* To do that, you will need the output of fcTest from one of the sets of models estimated, and will use the naive function.

Estimate predictions for each tract or parcel. That occurs in three steps. First, download the data to be used to make predictions. That will occur outside any of these functions. Second, prepare the new data for analysis. That occurs through a call to fcSetup. Finally, compute the predictions based on the selected models. That occurs through a call to fcEstimate.

Optionally, roll the census tract predictions up to the department level. A call to rollUp2Dept completes this task.

### **ACS Data**

These models and estimates rely on data from the American Community Survey maintained by the Census Bureau. New data is released for the survey annually. The function acs.dwnld is a utility function that simplifies the process of downloading new data. In order to use it you will need a Census API key installed on the server (see the acs package documentation for more details). It leaves a set of tables on the server (in the 'nist' schema) that are formatted the same as the master ACS tables already on the server. Those tables will need to be appended to the existing ACS tables already on the server.

### **IMPORTS**

acs,boot,glmnet,ranger,RPostgreSQL,utils

### **SUGGESTS**

doParallel

#### **Notes**

These functions do assume that the information they need is in the 'controls' and 'nist' schemas, so if that changes, these functions will need to be rewritten.

The 'controls' schema is assumed to contain the definitions of all models that are used by these functions. The format for the tables in the 'controls' schema is very specific, and is hard-coded into these functions. There are three tables assumed to exist in the 'controls' schema: models, and inputs and runs. Their layouts are described below.

### **Table models**

This table specifies information about each model to be run.

Name	Type	Details
index	integer	primary key.
lst	text	Typically the name of the control object.
model	text	Name of the model to be estimated.
library	text	Name of the library needed to estimate the model.
ff	text	Name of the function that estimates the model.
target	text	Name of the dependent variable estimated.
runs	text	One of '0', 'S', or 'L'. Whether the model is estimated over the whole data set ('0' or 'S') or separately

### **Table inputs**

This table specifies the parameters for the model to be run.

Name	Type	Details
index	integer	primary key.
lst	text	Typically the name of the control object.
model	text	Name of the model to be estimated.
input	text	Name of an input parameter for the estimation function (ff above).
class	text	Class of the input parameter.
value	text	Value of the input parameter.

Note that for practical purposes, the (lst, model) pair serve as keys to the list of models, and they are a foreign key that the inputs table uses to link to the models table.

#### Table runs

This table specifies how the data is partitioned. Each partition will have a separate model built for it. Other than the partition, all other inputs are identical.

```
Name Type Details
grp text One of 'long' or 'short' This matches 'L' (for 'long') or 'S' or '0' (for 'short') in the in the models table.
tier1 text This combined with 'tier2' below serve as a name for the subset to be evaluated.
tier2 text See above.
value text Definition of the subset to be evaluated.
```

### **Parallel Processing**

Both LASSO and Random Forest (through the **ranger** package) can use parallel computation if multiple processors are available. The **ranger** package has support for multiple processors built in by default. I have made no adjustment to the defaults, so it will use them if they are there and the package supports them. LASSO (through the **glmnet** package) can also use it, but setup is required. LASSO here is set up to use the **doParallel** package if it is set up. Note that for LASSO to use multiple processors, **doParallel** must be set up separately. That is, the package must be installed and loaded (typically with a call to library) in advance. It that is done (and works—doParallel only works on certain types of systems) the LASSO will make use of it. If not, it will not.

### Author(s)

Maintainer: Stanley Gilbert <stanley.gilbert@nist.gov>

### Examples

## End(Not run)

```
conn <- dbConnect("PostgreSQL", host="some.host.com", dbname="nfirs", user="user", password="pwd")</pre>
low.risk.fires <- dbGetQuery(conn, "select * from nist.low_risk_fires")</pre>
low.risk.fires <- fcSetup(low.risk.fires)</pre>
med.risk.fires <- dbGetQuery(conn, "select * from nist.med_risk_fires")</pre>
med.risk.fires <- fcSetup(med.risk.fires)</pre>
high.risk.fires <- dbGetQuery(conn, "select * from nist.high_risk_fires")</pre>
high.risk.fires <- fcSetup(high.risk.fires)</pre>
models <- mass.npt(conn, pattern="final")</pre>
tables <- fcMacro(models)</pre>
tables
lr.mr.pred <- dbGetQuery(conn, "select * from nist.lr_mr_pred")</pre>
lr.mr.pred <- fcSetup(lr.mr.pred)</pre>
e <- new.env()
npt.final <- e$npt.final</pre>
npt.final.res <- e$npt.final.res</pre>
lr.pred <- fcEstimate("npt.final", "npt.final.res", lr.mr.pred, quote(fd_size %in% paste("size_", 3:9, sep=""]</pre>
head(lr.pred)
```

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### **Description**

This is a helper function that fcRun calls whenever a ranger model is used.

### Usage

```
ranger(formula, data, subset = NULL, ...)
```

### **Arguments**

formula	Formula. This describes the model that the Random Forest fits.
data	Data Frame. The data used for the model.
subset	Name. This defines the subset of the data the model is evaluated over.
	Additional parameters to the ranger function.

### **Details**

Basically it takes the standard inputs from the 'run' routine and translates them to work with the ranger function.

There are two reasons why this helper function exists: first, the default ranger function does not have a subset argument. Second, the weights, when they are used, need to be converted from symbol (or quote) to a vector.

### Value

Returns the ranger object with the call slot altered to reflect the call to this function rather than the ranger function.

rollUp2Dept Roll up census-tract predictions	to the department level
--	-------------------------

### **Description**

This function takes output from the fcEstimate function and rolls up the census-tract level predicitons that that function produces and rolls them up to the department level.

### Usage

```
rollUp2Dept(predictions, fire.col, sz2.col, sz3.col)
```

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### **Arguments**

predictions	data frame containing predictions as output by the fcEstimate function. See details below.
fire.col	character vector containing names of the columns with fire predictions.
sz2.col	character vector containing names of the columns with predicted percentages of fires that go beyond the room of origin.
sz3.col	character vector containing names of the columns with predicted percentages of size 2 fires that go beyond the structure of origin.

### **Details**

This routine is intended to work with a data frame containing multiple estimates (think low-medium-and high-risk estimates all contained in the same data frame). When that is the case, the first entry in fire.col goes with the first entry in sz2.col and sz3.col. The second entry in in fire.col goes with the second entry in sz2.col and sz3.col. And so on. See the example below.

This function takes output from the fcEstimate function and rolls up the census-tract level predicitons that that function produces and rolls them up to the department level. What makes this more complicated than a simple call to aggregate is that the sz2 and sz3 columns are percentages rather than estimated counts. So, summing those columns produces nonsensical results.

What this function does is create temporary columns for the estimated counts for medium and large fires. It then sums over census tracts (rolling up to the department level), and back-calcuates the percentages from the accumulated estimated counts.

#### Value

A data frame with the department-level predictions.

### **Examples**

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