

FEMA Authorizes Funds to Fight Colorado's Grizzly Creek Fire

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DENVER – This morning, FEMA authorized the use of federal funds to help with firefighting costs for the Grizzly Creek Fire burning in Garfield and Eagle counties near Glenwood Springs, Dotsero and Gypsum.

FEMA Regional Administrator Lee dePalo approved the state's request for a federal Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) after receiving the request this morning and determining that the fire threatened such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.

At the time of the request, the Grizzly Creek Fire was threatening more than 4,258 homes, with approximately 162 homes under a mandatory evacuation order. There are 890 buildings along with the Glenwood watershed and utilities in the area also being threatened. The fire started on August 10, 2020, and has burned in excess of 29,000 acres of state and federal land.

The authorization makes FEMA funding available to pay 75 percent of the state's eligible firefighting costs under an approved grant for managing, mitigating and controlling designated fires. These grants do not provide assistance to individual home or business owners and do not cover other infrastructure damage caused by the fire.

Fire Management Assistance Grants are provided through the President's Disaster Relief Fund and are made available by FEMA to assist in fighting fires that threaten to cause a major disaster. Eligible items can include expenses for field camps; equipment use, repair and replacement; mobilization and demobilization activities; and tools, materials and supplies.

With the FMAG authorization, additional funding is made available through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Post Fire for the mitigation of wildfire and related hazards, such as flood after fire or erosion. Some eligible wildfire project types include defensible space measures, ignition-resistant construction,



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and hazardous fuels reduction.

For more information on FMAGs, visit <https://www.fema.gov/fire-management-assistance-grants-program-details>. For HMGP Post Fire, visit <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program-post-fire>.

