

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Approved for Montana's Lolo Peak Fire

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DENVER – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has authorized the use of federal funds to help with firefighting costs for the Lolo Peak Fire in Missoula and Ravalli counties in Montana.

FEMA Region VIII Acting Administrator Nancy Dragani approved the state's request for a federal Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) after receiving the state's request this afternoon.

At the time of the request, more than 1500 homes and businesses were immediately threatened. The fire was also threatening critical infrastructure in the area. Mandatory evacuations have occurred for approximately 750 people and more than 800 people remain under pre-evacuation notification. More than 15,000 acres has burned and no part of the fire had been contained. The fire started on July 15 and was caused by a lightning strike.

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.

Fire Management Assistance Grants are provided through the President's Disaster Relief Fund and 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.



FEMA

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