

FEMA AUTHORIZES FUNDS TO HELP FIGHT STRAWBERRY FIRE IN PONDERA AND TETON COUNTIES, MONTANA AND BLACKFEET NATION

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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 Strawberry Fire in Pondera and Teton Counties, Montana and a portion of the Blackfeet Nation.

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

At the time of the request, the fire was threatening 165 homes. The fire is also threatening tribal cultural resources, power distribution facilities, irrigation, and the Birch Creek watershed in the area. The fire started on August 25, 2017, and has burned in excess of 19,486 acres of state and private land. The fire is zero percent contained.

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 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.

