

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Granted for Kincade Fire

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Oakland, Calif. – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has authorized the use of federal funds to assist the State of California in combatting the Kincade Fire burning in Sonoma County.

On Oct. 24, 2019, the State of California submitted a request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) for the Kincade Fire. At the time of the request, the fire threatened 600 homes in and around Red Hill and Geyserville, with an approximate population of 1,300. The fire also threatened 20 buildings, the Geyser Geothermal Power Plant, Russian River watershed, and other infrastructure, utilities, and equipment in the area. Mandatory evacuations were taking place for approximately 600 people. Voluntary evacuations were taking place for an additional 200 people.

The fire started on Oct. 23, 2019 and has burned in excess of 10,000 acres of state and private land. There are two other large fires burning uncontrolled within the state.

The FEMA Region IX regional administrator determined that the Kincade Fire threatened such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. The state's request was approved on Oct. 24, 2019 at 8:49 a.m. PDT.

FMAGs provide federal funding for up to 75 percent of eligible firefighting costs. The Disaster Relief Fund provides funding for FMAGs through FEMA to assist in fighting fires that threaten to cause major disasters. Eligible costs covered by FMAGs can include expenses for field camps, equipment use, materials, supplies and mobilization, and demobilization activities attributed to fighting the fire.

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