

FEMA AUTHORIZES FUNDS TO FIGHT MONTANA'S BOBCAT FIRE

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DENVER – This evening, FEMA authorized the use of federal funds to help with firefighting costs for the Bobcat Fire burning in Musselshell and Yellowstone Counties, Montana.

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

At the time of the request, the Bobcat Fire was threatening 500 – 700 residences and businesses along with the Bull Mountain Coal Mine. The fire was also threatening infrastructure, utility transmission lines, cell phone towers, coal loading facilities and major roadways and bridges in and out of the area. Voluntary evacuations are taking place for approximately 2,100 people. The fire started today and has burned in excess of 20,000 acres of state, federal and private 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, 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>.



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