

Colorado – High Park and Waldo Canyon Wildfires FEMA-4067-DR

Declared June 28, 2012

On June 28, 2012, Governor John W. Hickenlooper requested an expedited major disaster declaration due to the High Park and Waldo Canyon Wildfires beginning on June 9, 2012, and continuing. The Governor requested a declaration for Individual Assistance, including crisis counseling and disaster unemployment assistance for 12 counties and two Tribal Lands, Public Assistance (Category B), for 12 counties and two Tribal Lands, and Hazard Mitigation statewide. The Governor further requested direct federal assistance. This event was of the severity and magnitude that the need for supplemental federal assistance was determined to be necessary prior to the completion of joint federal, state, tribal, and local government Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs). Per 44 C.F.R. § 206.33(d) and § 206.36(d), the requirement for a joint PDA may be waived for those incidents of such unusual severity and magnitude that formal field damage assessments are not required to establish the need for supplemental federal assistance under the Stafford Act.¹

On June 28, 2012, President Obama declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Colorado. This declaration made crisis counseling and disaster unemployment assistance requested by the Governor available to affected individuals and households in El Paso and Larimer Counties. This declaration also made Public Assistance requested by the Governor available to State and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency protective measures (Category B), including direct federal assistance for El Paso and Larimer counties impacted by the High Park and Waldo Canyon Fires.

Summary of Damage Assessment Information Used in Determining Whether to Declare a Major Disaster

Individual Assistance –

- Total Number of Residences Impacted:² N/A
 - Destroyed - -
 - Major Damage - -
 - Minor Damage - -
 - Affected - -

- Percentage of insured residences:³ -
- Percentage of low income households:⁴ -
- Percentage of elderly households:⁵ -
- Total Individual Assistance cost estimate: N/A

Public Assistance

- Primary Impact: N/A

- Total Public Assistance cost estimate: -
- Statewide per capita impact:⁶ -
- Statewide per capita impact indicator:⁷ \$1.35
- Countywide per capita impact: -
- Countywide per capita impact indicator:⁸ \$3.39

¹ The Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) process is a mechanism used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and resulting needs of individuals, businesses, public sector, and community as a whole. Information collected is used by the State as a basis for the Governor’s request for a major disaster or emergency declaration, and by the President in determining a response to the Governor’s request (44 CFR § 206.33).

² Degree of damage to impacted residences:

- Destroyed – total loss of structure, structure is not economically feasible to repair, or complete failure to major structural components (e.g., collapse of basement walls/foundation, walls or roof);
- Major Damage – substantial failure to structural elements of residence (e.g., walls, floors, foundation), or damage that will take more than 30 days to repair;
- Minor Damage – home is damaged and uninhabitable, but may be made habitable in short period of time with repairs; and
- Affected – some damage to the structure and contents, but still habitable.

³ By law, Federal disaster assistance cannot duplicate insurance coverage (44 CFR § 206.48(b)(5)).

⁴ Special populations, such as low-income, the elderly, or the unemployed may indicate a greater need for assistance (44 CFR § 206.48(b)(3)).

⁵ Ibid (44 CFR § 206.48(b)(3)).

⁶ Based on State population in the 2010 Census.

⁷ Statewide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY12, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2011.

⁸ Countywide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY12, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2011.