



# FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT

Fact Sheet

01 March 2012

## Overview

The Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAGP) provides a 75% federal cost-share reimbursement to States for actual costs. FEMA fire management assistance grants are made available to state and local governments, including Indian tribes, to minimize immediate adverse effects, and to manage and control wildland fires that threaten to cause major disasters. The assistance covers fire-related activities, including, but not limited to, firefighting and support services, pre-positioning federal, out-of-state, and international resources for up to 21 days, evacuations, sheltering, traffic control, emergency operations centers, and temporary repairs of damage caused by firefighting activities.

## Process

1. Governor's Authorized Representative makes a verbal request to the FEMA Regional Watch Officer or Regional Fire Liaison Officer, for FMAG assistance.
2. GAR must submit a formal written request to support their verbal request.
3. Request must include the FMAG checklist.
4. Regional Fire Liaison may conduct a conference call with the state officials making the request, regional representatives, and state/federal forest officials to verify the information provided in request.
5. Regional Administrator and other regional staff will brief FMAG Principal Advisor.
6. Regional Administrator will make a declaration determination.

## Eligibility Criteria

- Threat to lives and improved property, including threats to critical facilities/infrastructure, and critical watershed areas, **and**
- State and local firefighting resources are being or have been exhausted, **and**
- High fire danger exists. As indicated by nationally accepted indices, **and**
- Potential major economic impact.

Also,

- Fire or fire complex must be burning uncontrolled at the time of request,
- Must be on public or private forest or grassland,
- Must threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster

## **Fire Cost Thresholds**

Before an initial grant award to the state under a FMAG declaration can be approved, the state must demonstrate that total eligible costs for the declared fire meet or exceed either the individual fire cost threshold, which is applied to a single fire, or the cumulative fire cost threshold, which recognizes numerous fires burning throughout the state. Under the cumulative fire cost threshold, assistance will only be provided for the declared fire responsible for meeting or exceeding the cumulative fire cost threshold and any future declared fires for that calendar year.

In Minnesota, for calendar year 2013, the thresholds are:

- \$363,319 (Individual)
- \$1,089,957 (Cumulative)

## **Grant Management**

The FMAG is managed by the Public Assistance program staff similar to any emergency or major disaster declaration where the Public Assistance Program is made available. In Minnesota, HSEM acts as the grantee and typically, the Department of Natural Resources is the sub-grantee.