FEMA - FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

(See §204.41 thru §204.43 of the Federal Register for complete eligibility verbiage)

The following entities are eligible to apply through a State Grantee for a subgrant under an approved fire management assistance grant.

Eligible Applicants: • State agencies • Local governments • Indian tribal governments

Ineligible applicants are governmental entities that do not have legal responsibility for the firefighting activities, privately owned entities and volunteer firefighting organizations. However, ineligible applicants **may** be reimbursed through a contract, compact or mutual aid agreement with an eligible applicant for eligible costs associated with a declared fire or fire complex.

Eligibility is contingent upon a finding that:

- Incident Commander or comparable State official **must** have requested the applying entity's resources.
- The activities performed **must** be the legal responsibility of the applying entity, required as the result of the declared fire, and located within the designated area.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

General:

- All eligible work and related costs must be associated with the incident period of a declared fire.
- Before obligation of Federal funds, the Regional Administrator must approve the initial grant application along with Project Worksheets submitted with the application.
- Grantees will award Federal funds to subgrantees under State law and procedure.

Equipment and Supplies:

- Personal comfort and safety items normally provided by the State under field conditions.
- Firefighting supplies, tools, material, expended or lost, to the extent not covered by reasonable insurance, will be replaced with comparable items.
- Operation and maintenance costs of publicly owned, contracted, rented, or volunteer firefighting department equipment used in eligible firefighting activities to the extent any of these costs are not included in applicable equipment rates.
- Use of U.S. Government-owned equipment based on reasonable costs as billed by the Federal agency and paid by the State. (Only direct costs for use of Federal Excess Personal Property vehicles and equipment on loan to the State Forestry and local cooperators may be eligible.)
- Repair of equipment damaged in firefighting activities to the extent not covered by reasonable insurance. (Using lowest applicable equipment rates to calculate cost of repairs.)
- Replacement of equipment damaged in firefighting activities to the extent not covered by reasonable insurance, will be replaced with comparable equipment.

Labor and Travel Costs:

- Overtime labor costs for permanent or reassigned State and local employees.
- Regular time and overtime for temporary and contract employees hired to perform fire related activities.
- Travel and per diem of employees who are providing services directly associated with eligible fire related activities may be eligible
- Provision of field camps and meals when made available in place of per diem

Pre-positioning Costs:

- The actual costs of pre-positioning Federal, out-of-state (including compact), and international resources for a limited period may be eligible when those resources are used on a declared fire.
- Regional Administrator must approve all pre-positioning costs.
- State must notify the Regional Administrator of its intention to seek funding for pre-positioning resources upon the approval of the State's request for a fire management assistance declaration.
- Based upon the information supplied by the State, the Regional Administrator will determine the number of days of pre-positioning to be approved for Federal funding up to a maximum of 21 days before the fire declaration.

Emergency work:

- FEMA may authorize the use of section 403 of the Stafford Act, Essential Assistance, under an approved fire management assistance grant when directly related to the mitigation, management, and control of the declared fire. Essential assistance activities that may be eligible include, but are not limited to, police barricading and traffic control, extraordinary emergency operations center expenses, evacuations and sheltering, search and rescue, arson investigation teams, public information, and the limited removal of trees that pose a threat to the general public.

Temporary Repair of damage caused by eligible firefighting activities:

- Minimal repairs to bulldozer lines, camps, and staging areas to address public safety concerns.
- **Minimal repairs** to facilities damaged by firefighting activities such as fences, buildings, bridges, roads, etc.
- All temporary repair work must be completed within 30 days of the close of the incident period for the declared fire.

Mobilization and Demobilization:

- Costs may be eligible for reimbursement on a declared fire.
- Demobilization may be claimed at a delayed date if deployment involves one or more declared fires. Mobilization and demobilization must be claimed against the first declared fire.

Fires on co-mingled Federal/State lands:

- Reasonable costs for the mitigation, management, and control may be eligible on co-mingled Federal/State lands in cases where the State has responsibility for suppression activities under an agreement to perform such action on a non-reimbursable basis. (This

provision is an exception to normal FEMA policy under the Stafford Act and is intended for rare instances that involve State firefighting on a Stafford Act section 420 fire incident involving Federal/State and privately owned forest or grassland.)

INELIGIBLE COSTS

- Costs not directly associated with the incident period are ineligible.
- Costs incurred in the mitigation, management, and control of undeclared fires.
- Costs related to planning, pre-suppression (i.e. cutting fire breaks without the presence of an imminent threat, training, road widening, and other similar activities).
- Recovery (i.e., land rehabilitation activities, such as seeding, planting operations and erosion control, or salvage operations of timber and other material, and restoration of facilities damaged by fire.)
- Costs for the straight or regular time salaries and benefits of a subgrantee's permanently employed or reassigned personnel.
- Costs for mitigation, management, and control of a declared fire on co-mingled Federal land when such costs are reimbursable to the State by a Federal agency under another statute.
- Fires fought on Federal land are generally the responsibility of the federal agency that owns or manages the land. Costs incurred while fighting fires on federally owned land are not eligible under the Fire Management Assistance Grant Program except as noted in section §204.42(i) in the Federal Register.