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FEMA Region VIII News Desk
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News Release



FEMA AUTHORIZES FUNDS TO HELP FIGHT INDIAN GULCH FIRE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

DENVER, Colo. -- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has authorized the use of federal funds to help with firefighting costs for the Indian Gulch Fire in Jefferson County.

FEMA approved the state's request for a federal Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) at 6:30 p.m. MDT. At the time of the request, the fire was threatening 265 homes in and around the Golden Gate Canyon subdivision near the city of Golden. The fire was also threatening other buildings, businesses, power utilities, state park facilities, and is impacting the local watershed.

"While we don't send engines or firefighters to battle these blazes, FEMA does help reimburse states for their firefighting costs," said FEMA Region VIII Regional Administrator Robin Finegan. "Whenever a wildfire threatens large numbers of homes and looks like it may become a major disaster, we can help cover costs so the state can do what it needs to do to fight the fire."

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 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.

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders and to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.