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News Release

FEMA Authorizes Funds to Fight Montana’s Horse Gulch Fire

DENVER – Earlier this evening FEMA authorized the use of federal funds to help with firefighting costs for the Horse Gulch Fire burning in Lewis and Clark and Broadwater counties in Montana, between the town of York and Canyon Ferry.

FEMA Region 8 Administrator Nancy Dragani approved the state’s request for a federal Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) after receiving the request this evening and determining that the fire threatened such destruction that it would constitute a major disaster.

At the time of the request, the Horse Gulch Fire was threatening nearly 500 homes, with mandatory evacuations taking place for more than 400 people. The fire started on July 9, 2024 and has burned nearly 11,000 acres with 0-percent containment.

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. It is a reimbursable program. 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.

When there is an 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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