U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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FEMA

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional Mitigation Division Directors

FROM: Deborah Ingram
Division Director
Risk Reduction Division

SUBJECT: Update of Wildfire Mitigation Policy for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program, and release of *Home builder's Guide to Construction in Wildfire Zones (P-737)*

The purpose of this memorandum is to update the Wildfire Mitigation Policy (MRR-2-08-1) for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program, and to release of the attached technical fact sheet series titled, *Home Builder's Guide to Construction in Wildfire Zones (P-737)*. Due to new technical information, the word "ceramic" on page five of the previous Wildfire Mitigation Policy has been removed.

As a reminder, the Wildfire Mitigation Policy establishes the parameters to implement wildfire mitigation under sections 203 and 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act). This policy will ensure national consistency in the use of HMGP and PDM funds for wildfire mitigation projects. In particular, it describes the availability of these funds for (1) defensible space, (2) structural protection through the application of ignition-resistant construction, and (3) limited hazardous fuels reduction to protect life and property. The policy is located on SharePoint at https://extranet.ursdcmetro.com/sites/hma/default.aspx. The policy number and date of issuance have not changed.

Following the 2008 wildfires in Southern California FEMA Region IX utilized HMTAP to develop a series of technical fact sheets titled, *Home Builder's Guide to Construction in Wildfire Zones (P-737)*. The Home Builder's Guide discusses wildfire behavior and provides recommendations for building design and construction methods in the wildland/urban interface. Implementation of the recommended design and construction methods can greatly increase the chances of a building's survival in a wildfire. A copy Home Builder's Guide is enclosed for you. Additional copies of this document can be ordered through the FEMA Warehouse.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact Cecelia Rosenberg, Chief, Grants Policy Branch via email at Cecelia.Rosenberg@dhs.gov or by telephone (202) 646-3428.

Attachment