

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Granted for Kahana Ridge Fire

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Oakland, Calif. – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has authorized the use of federal funds to assist the State of Hawaii in combatting the Kahana Ridge Fire burning in Maui County.

On Oct. 22, 2019, the State of Hawaii submitted a request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) for the Kahana Ridge Fire. At the time of the request, the fire threatened 500 homes in and around communities near Napili-Honokowai, with a combined population of 3,000. The fire also threatened 15 buildings, infrastructure, utilities, and a small airport in the area.

The fire started on Oct. 22, 2019 and has burned in excess of 600 acres of state and private land. Currently, there are no other large fires burning uncontrolled within the state.

The FEMA Region IX regional administrator determined that the Kahana Ridge Fire threatened such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. The state's request was approved on Oct. 22, 2019 at 11:17 p.m. PDT.

FMAGs provide federal funding for up to 75 percent of eligible firefighting costs. The Disaster Relief Fund provides funding for FMAGs through FEMA to assist in fighting fires that threaten to cause major disasters. Eligible costs covered by FMAGs can include expenses for field camps, equipment use, materials, supplies and mobilization, and demobilization activities attributed to fighting the fire.

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