

Marshall Fire: One Year Later

The Marshall Fire, fanned by hurricane-force winds, started on Dec. 30, 2021 and quickly moved through Boulder County, including the communities of Louisville and Superior. President Biden issued a major disaster declaration the following day, making the county eligible for federal disaster assistance under DR-4634-CO.

Assistance to Individuals

FEMA's Individual Assistance program has provided more than \$2 million in direct financial assistance for residents with damage caused by the fire or accompanying windstorm. In addition, FEMA has provided funding to the state for operation of a crisis counseling program to assist with the mental health needs of fire survivors. FEMA's Voluntary Agency Liaisons have also coordinated with local long-term recovery groups to direct additional resources to address unmet needs.

Table 1: DR-4634-CO FEMA Individual Assistance program highlights

| Category | Number |
|--|----------------|
| Boulder County Households Registering for Assistance | 3241 |
| Disaster Recovery Center Visits | 3085 |
| FEMA Housing Assistance Approved | \$1,387,930.38 |
| FEMA Other Needs Assistance Approved | \$633,910.27 |
| FEMA Total Assistance Approved | \$2,021,840.65 |
| Disaster Unemployed Assistance Provided | \$82,400.00 |

Figures as of December 14, 2022

Assistance to Communities

FEMA's Public Assistance program provides funding to governmental agencies and eligible non-profits performing governmental services. For DR-4634-CO, special legislation allowed FEMA to provide a 90 percent federal cost share for eligible work completed in support of response and recovery efforts. To date, more than \$44 million has been provided to Colorado. The largest segment of that total has been nearly \$33 million in funding for debris removal efforts in Boulder County. The next largest portion of assistance has been \$4.8 million for emergency protective measures. This includes actions like evacuation and sheltering efforts, firefighting costs and managing access to burn areas following the fire.



FEMA

Table 2: DR-4634-CO FEMA Public Assistance totals to largest applicants

| PA Applicant | Funding total |
|---|-----------------|
| Boulder County | \$29,834,288.69 |
| City of Louisville | \$1,566,702.39 |
| Town of Superior | \$1,098,714.73 |
| Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management | \$7,896,357.43 |
| Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control | \$2,396,320.26 |

Figures as of December 18, 2022



Figure 1: FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell came to Colorado on Jan. 2, 2022 to see the fire damage and meet with local officials, confirming federal support for recovery efforts.

Mitigating Against Future Fires

FEMA has supported a number of initiatives to help Colorado rebuild after the fires. FEMA will provide more than \$12 million to the state under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. This program provides dedicated funds for projects identified by the state to limit the impact of future disasters. A FEMA Mitigation Assessment Team also conducted research following the Marshall Fire, the first such effort dedicated to wildfires. Field work was completed in August, with early findings and recommendations scheduled to be released in early 2023. This work will help inform wildfire building mitigation techniques nationwide.

As part of recovery efforts last spring, FEMA had mitigation specialists located at numerous home improvement stores in Boulder County available to meet with individuals and answer questions about rebuilding. To continue with these educational opportunities, a mitigation hotline was also established. For individuals who would like to learn about rebuilding and talk directly with a mitigation specialist, please email FEMA-R8-HMhelp@fema.dhs.gov or call 833-336-2487