

# FEMA Mitigation Funding Opportunity Ignition Resistant Construction – Infrastructure

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## Overview

- Inadequate infrastructure can hamper fire-suppression efforts and put citizens and firefighters at risk. Reducing the risk of wildfire damage and destruction requires implementing measures beyond those involving an individual building or parcel. It is also essential to enhance mitigation measures at the neighborhood and community levels, which will effectively expand the zone of protection beyond the individual parcel or building. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) has funding available to implement measures that can be taken on a community-wide basis to increase the chances of an entire neighborhood's survival in a wildfire.

## Eligible Activities

- Undergrounding existing utility and equipment connections, including all entry points into the building.
- Sealing gaps and penetrations in exterior walls and roofs with fire-resistant caulk, mortar, or fire-rated expanding foam. Filling large gaps with intumescent or fire-protective sheets or pillows. Fire-resistant wrap may be used around ventilation features that are built into and penetrate exterior walls (such as air conditioners).
- Shielding power cables and other wiring with noncombustible or fire-resistant materials to protect the cables and wiring from convection, radiation, and conduction heat, and direct flame contact.
- Use noncombustible or fire-resistant materials for mounting systems of roof-mounted equipment.
- Burying or shielding fuel lines to protect them from radiation, conduction heat, and direct flame contact.
- Burying pressurized storage vessels underground
- Shielding gas meters from hot air and gases, convection and radiant heat, and direct contact by flame, using noncombustible materials such as masonry or concrete.
- Ensuring pressurized storage tanks have a pressure relief valve. As the outside temperature rises in a wildfire, the pressure inside the tank can increase. When the pressure setting is exceeded, the valve will open and relieve the pressure, preventing an explosion.
- Replacing water tanks made with flammable material with non-flammable water tanks.
- Replacing flammable wooden utility poles with non-flammable steel or concrete.
- Replacing water systems that have been burned and caused contamination.



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## Overall Complexity

Application	Environmental	Legal
Medium	Medium	Low

## Application Requirements

- Must be a local government, Tribe, or Private Nonprofit (PNP\*).
- Must have a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).
- Must fulfill appropriate FEMA and Recipient application requirements including, scope of work, budget, schedule, etc.
- Long-term benefits must outweigh the costs (Benefit Cost Ratio greater than 1).
- 25 percent non-federal match required (Under the BRIC program, small and impoverished communities are eligible for a 10 percent non-federal match).
- Application should include details for all activities including exact location and associated construction activities.
- Structures involved in Ignition Resistant Construction must have documented appropriate defensible space and commit to maintaining defensible space.
- Funding limits are set by FEMA and the Recipient.
- No construction is allowed prior to FEMA award approval.

\* PNPs are eligible only under HMGP and are not required to have an HMP.

## Environmental Requirements

Depending on the specific elements of each structure to be retrofitted, and if combined with additional fire mitigation activities such as the creation of defensible space, the applicable environmental and historic preservation (EHP) laws can differ. Given this, engagement with FEMA EHP is required on a project specific basis, such as compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Basic EHP requirements for this project type (for each structure):

- Location (address, coordinates in decimal degrees)
- List of proposed retrofits
- Age of construction for any existing structure to be retrofitted

## Region 10 WF-3

- Specific scope of the proposed retrofit work on existing structures or any necessary ground disturbance for underground activities.
- At least five photos (each side and another of the structure with surroundings) for any projects involving existing structures.
- Identifying if the structure is within a special flood hazard area (SFHA) and include a map.