

FEMA Authorizes Funds to Fight Red Apple Fire in Washington

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BOTHELL, Wash. - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) authorized the use of federal funds to help with firefighting costs for the Red Apple burning in Chelan County, Washington.

FEMA Region 10 Acting Regional Administrator Vincent Maykovich determined that the fire threatened to cause such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. He approved the State of Washington's request for a federal [Fire Management Assistance Grant](#) (FMAG) on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at 3:36 p.m. PT. This is the third FMAG declared to help fight Washington wildfires in 2021.

At the time of the State's request, the fire was threatening homes in and around the communities of Cashmere and Wenatchee. The fire also threatened critical communication sites for emergency medical services, law enforcement, and cell phone service in the area in addition to roads, bridges, public utility facilities for Chelan County and Douglas County, and environmental resources including the Swakane wildlife refuge and local hiking trails. At the time of the State's request, there were three other large fires burning uncontrolled within the State.

FMAGs 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. 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. These grants do not provide assistance to individual home or business owners and do not cover other infrastructure damage caused by the fire.

With this FMAG authorization, an additional \$778,778 will be available to Washington through the [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\) Post Fire](#) for



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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. The [Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018](#) authorizes FEMA to provide [HMGP Post-Fire](#) funds to eligible states and territories that receive Fire Management Assistance declarations and federally recognized tribes that have land burned within a designated area.

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