



FEMA

SEP - 8 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: FEMA Regional Administrators
Regions I – X

ATTENTION: Regional Mitigation Division Directors

FROM: *David I. Maurstad*
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Mitigation

SUBJECT: Wildfire Mitigation Policy for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
(HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program

The purpose of this memorandum is to issue the attached Wildfire Mitigation Policy for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program. The 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), 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207. 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.

This policy applies to PDM and HMGP projects for which the application period is open on or after the date of this memo, as well as PDM FY08 eligible projects. We will be providing additional tools to facilitate implementation of this policy through our updated Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) module for fire projects. Along with the release of the new BCA toolkit, the fire module will be released in October 2008.

The Mitigation Directorate will be developing a Programmatic Environmental Assessment while the policy is in place. This will provide an opportunity to evaluate the impacts of this policy to the human environment and to explore opportunities to improve the policy. As a result, all wildfire mitigation projects will require their own environmental assessment or environmental impact statement and will be required to meet the typical set of environmental and historic preservation compliance requirements.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact Michael Grimm, Deputy Director, Risk Reduction Division Director via email at Michael.Grimm@dhs.gov or by phone (202) 646-2878.

Attachment