News Release

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FEMA Region VIII News Desk

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**FEMA Fire Management Assistance for Utah’s Uintah Fire**

DENVER – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has authorized the use of federal funds to help with firefighting costs for the Uintah Fire in Weber County.

FEMA Acting Region 8 Administrator Nancy Dragani approved the state’s request for a federal Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) after receiving the state’s request Tuesday afternoon.

At the time of the request, 300 homes are immediately threatened, and various infrastructure, utilities, and a watershed in the area are threatened.  Mandatory evacuations have occurred for approximately 500 people. More than 1200 acres had burned and no part of the fire had been contained. The fire started on Tuesday, September 5, and is burning on Federal, State and private land.

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.

Fire Management Assistance Grants are provided through the President's Disaster Relief Fund and 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.

For your reference, I have attached a fact sheet on the Fire Management Assistance Grant Program.

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*FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders and to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.*