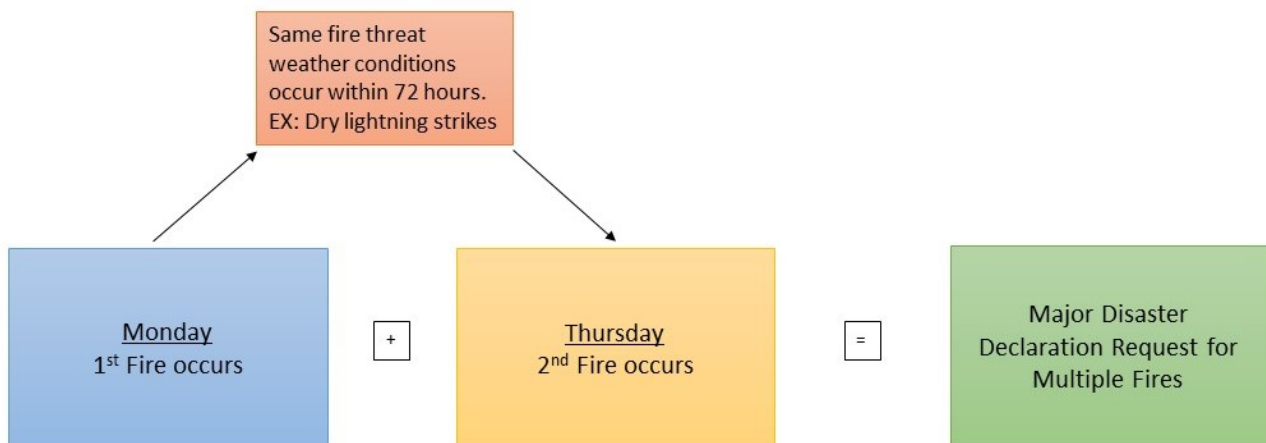


## Multiple Fires and Major Disaster Declarations: How Does it Work?

- The purpose of this fact sheet is to clarify the circumstances under which multiple wildfires within the same state, tribe, or territory may be considered for inclusion within a single Stafford Act Major Disaster Declaration.
- FEMA will consider for inclusion within a single major disaster declaration, multiple wildfires if there is a clear link. FEMA may consider a combination of factors when determining whether there is a clear link:
  - Ignition time proximity
  - Geographic proximity
  - Common weather conditions
  - The effects of cumulative resource constraints
- FEMA will consider combining separate wildfires that ignite or expand in a state, tribe, or territory if the fires:
  - Occur during the same period (generally within 72 hours of each other)
  - Are linked to the same fire threat weather conditions (for examples: Red Flag Warnings, dry lightning strikes, relative low humidity, and other severe fire danger conditions)
- FEMA may also consider for inclusion subsequent wildfires that ignite or significantly expand during fire threat weather conditions that occur with breaks less than 72 hours between such conditions



### Things to Remember when Considering a Major Disaster Request:

- Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Rollup to a Major Disaster Declaration:
  - Major disaster declarations for a wildland fire are only recommended when the fire has significant impacts and costs that cannot be addressed by the FMAG program
  - **FEMA will not include costs that are eligible, or *could* have been eligible, under an FMAG declaration when determining whether the state or countywide per capita indicators for a major disaster are met.** This includes suppression activities, sheltering, and emergency protective measures that were funded under an FMAG

- Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs): Specific counties will be designated for Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, or both based on significant impacts and damages **outside of the costs that are eligible or could have been eligible under the FMAG program**. Fire impacts will be evaluated consistent with the standard declaration evaluation factors prescribed in FEMA regulations
  - Individual Assistance (IA)-FEMA has identified several elements of information that should be collected during damage assessments for IA including, but not limited to, the following:
    - Cause of disaster related damage
    - Jurisdictions impacted and concentration of damage
    - Number of homes impacted and degree of damage
    - Homeownership rate of impacted homes
    - Primary or secondary residences identification
    - Percentage of affected households with insurance coverage appropriate to the peril
  - For Presidential disaster **declaration requests** that include IA, state, tribal, and territorial governments must evaluate and document specific information regarding the extent of damage to local jurisdictions. When evaluating the need for IA, FEMA will consider the following six factors for states and territories:
    1. State or territory fiscal capacity and resource availability,
    2. Uninsured home and personal property losses,
    3. The disaster-impacted population profile,
    4. Impact to community infrastructure,
    5. Casualties, and
    6. Disaster-related unemployment.
  - Public Assistance (PA)-The six primary factors considered when evaluating a request for the FEMA PA program are:
    - Estimated cost of assistance
    - Insurance coverage in force
    - Localized impacts
    - Hazard mitigation
    - Recent multiple disasters
    - Programs of other Federal assistance
- Remember: If a major declaration is approved in addition to an FMAG declaration, the Recipient must ensure that costs claimed under one declaration type are also not claimed and reimbursed under the other declaration