News Release

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FEMA Region VIII News Desk

(303) 235-4908

**FEMA AUTHORIZES FUNDS TO HELP FIGHT UTAH’S**

**BRIAN HEAD FIRE IN IRON COUNTY**

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 Brian Head Fire in Iron County.

FEMA Region VIII Acting Administrator Nancy Dragani approved the declaration for a federal Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) at 1:44 pm after receiving the state’s request early Sunday afternoon.

At the time of the request, 75 homes and 25 businesses were immediately threatened. The fire was also threatening infrastructure, including 1500 buildings, and four watersheds in the area.  Mandatory evacuations have occurred for approximately 750 people. More than 1000 acres had burned and no part of the fire had been contained. The fire started on Saturday, June 17, and is burning on state and private lands.

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.

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.

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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.*