For HMGP wildfire mitigation projects, Applicants and sub applicants must comply with FEMA Mitigation Policy MRR-2-08-1, *Wildfire Mitigation Policy for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)* dated September 8, 2008. MRR-2-08-1 is available at [http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hma/mrr-2-08-1.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hma/mrr-2-08-1.shtm). This fact sheet provides more information about eligible mitigation activities.

**Wildfire Mitigation**

Projects to mitigate at-risk structures and associated loss of life from the threat of future wildfire through:

**Defensible Space for Wildfire**

Defensible space activities involve creating perimeters around residential and non-residential structures through the removal or reduction of flammable vegetation, including vertical clearance of tree branches. Specifically, this involves minimizing the volume of combustibles (e.g., surface litter such as dry leaves, pine needles, dead and dying foliage, and trees, and removal of propane tanks) in the safety zone around the structure. The description of requested defensible space activities must be provided for each property.

The required radius of defensible space around the building or structure is directly related to the degree of the hazard and, therefore, the radius for defensible space may also vary from one jurisdiction to another. Local codes and standards may provide specific requirements for defensible space; however, the International Code Council’s “International Wildland-Urban Interface Code” can be used as the default code.

**Application of Ignition-resistant Construction**

These are projects that apply ignition resistant techniques and/or non-combustible materials on new and existing homes, structures, and critical facilities. These activities involve using non-combustible materials and technologies on new and existing structures. FEMA will only consider a subapplication for an ignition-resistant construction project when:

The property owner has previously created defensible space and agrees to maintain the defensible space. The subapplicants must include a description of the defensible space for each property in the application. FEMA will provide funding for ignition-resistant construction projects only after the subapplicant has demonstrated that the defensible space activity is complete and has provided documentation (e.g., photographs and description of the defensible space) if requested by the Applicant; or

The subapplication includes both the defensible space and ignition-resistant construction projects as part of the same project subapplication. The subapplicant must include a description of the defensible space for each property in the subapplication. Each property owner must agree to maintain the defensible space in accordance with this policy. Protection of homes, structures, and critical facilities through the use of ignition-resistant construction techniques or non-combustible building material are eligible if they meet or exceed local codes, and are in conformance with appropriate fire-related codes and standards. Eligible activities include:

- Installation of roof coverings, roof sheathing, roof flashing, roof skylights, roof and attic vents, and roof eaves and gutters that conform to any of the following ignition-resistant construction standards: 1) construction materials are fire-resistant in accordance with nationally recognized testing standards, 2) construction materials are non-combustible, and 3) construction materials constitute an assembly that has a minimum 1-hour-fireresistant rating;
- Installation of wall components such as the fascia, windows, window glazing, doors, window frames, and insulation that conform to any of the following ignition-resistant construction standards: 1) construction materials are fire-resistant in accordance with nationally recognized testing standards, 2) construction materials are non-combustible, and 3) construction materials constitute an assembly that has a minimum 1-hour-fireresistant rating;
- Protection of propane tanks or other external fuel sources; and
• Purchase and installation of external, structure-specific water hydration systems (sprinklers), a dedicated power source, and a dedicated cistern if no water source (e.g., lake, river, or swimming pool) is available. FEMA will only consider the project when assurances are provided in the operations and maintenance plan that a GIS system will be maintained to identify property addresses with wildfire sprinkler systems and that this information will be made available to the fire department.

For homes and structures constructed or activities completed prior to the establishment of the local building codes, FEMA may fund activities that meet or exceed codes currently in effect. For communities with no local fire codes in place, FEMA may fund activities when the materials and technologies are in accordance with the International Code Council, FEMA, U.S. Fire Administration, and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise recommendations as appropriate. Additional fire-related information and tools can be found at www.firewise.org or www.nfpa.org.

Wildfire mitigation activities will be in accordance with the applicable fire related codes and standards, including but not limited to the following:

International Code Council Publication:
- 2009, or 2012 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code;
- 2009, or 2012 International Fire Code®;

National Fire Protection Association Publications:
- NFPA 1144: Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards for Land Development in Suburban and Rural Areas;
- NFPA 1141: Standard for Fire Protection Infrastructure for Land Development in Suburban and Rural Areas;
- NFPA 703: Standard for Fire-Retardant Treated Wood and Fire-Retardant Coatings for Building Materials;

FEMA Publication:

Hazardous Fuels Reduction
Projects that remove vegetative fuels proximate to the at-risk structure that, if ignited, poses significant threat to human life and property, especially critical facilities.

Hazardous fuels reduction may be accomplished using community-owned equipment, rental equipment, or use of contract resources and equipment for mechanical treatments such as diskimg, mowing, and/or chopping (e.g., chippers, saws, etc.). Equipment used by communities for hazardous fuels reduction activities must not pose an additional risk of fire ignition (i.e., spark arrestor). Eligible activities include:

- Community-level vegetation management;
- Vegetation removal;
- Vegetation clearing and/or thinning;
- Slash removal; and
- Vertical clearance of tree branches.

Such activities reduce the risk to human life and structures from future wildfires. Such activities may be no farther than 2 miles from structures and may include the following techniques:

- Chemical treatments, including herbicide applications with appropriate safeguards to ensure protection of human life, the environment, and watersheds;
- Grazing or biomass conversion;
- Mechanical treatments such as diskimg, mulching, grinding, mowing, chopping, and removal of such material; material left onsite must meet appropriate depth practices;
- Biomass removal including clearing straw, removing dead or dry vegetation, thinning, removing bush and pine straw, or removing blown-down timber from wind throw, ice, or a combination thereof; and
- Other industry-accepted techniques at the discretion of FEMA.
Operations and Maintenance Plan

Long-term maintenance requirements, frequency of required maintenance, responsibility for project maintenance, and funding source of project maintenance costs. **The sub grantee is responsible for maintaining the project after implementation.**

FEMA will only consider HMGP wildfire projects for which (a) the application includes a draft operations and maintenance plan at the time of application, including information demonstrating that the requested wildfire project will be maintained to achieve the proposed hazard mitigation; and (b) a final operations and maintenance plan has been submitted to FEMA prior to performing any activities as part of the funded project and after the Grantee has affirmed that the plan is consistent with this policy, meets or exceeds local codes, and is in conformance with appropriate fire-related codes.

Duplication of Programs

The Applicant must ensure, prior to submission of the grant application that DOP between Federal agencies will not occur. FEMA requires that the Applicant include documentation in the grant application to ensure that no DOP will occur. This includes demonstrating the Applicant has coordinated with other appropriate Federal agencies. With regard to land adjacent to Federal lands, FEMA will coordinate with other Federal agencies to ensure the proposed project does not fall within the scope of another Federal agency’s grant authority, as well as to ensure consistency with Federal policy and priorities.

In addition, the following general program information must be included in the subapplication:

- A description of the wildfire mitigation activities and the method to accomplish the activities;
- Map(s) showing the project area and relationship of structures to wildland/urban interface or forested, range, or grassland area; and
- Consultation with the Texas Forest Service to identify the level of wildfire risk for each community, and concurrence with the requested activity.

Ineligible Wildfire Activities

Certain project activities and their associated costs are not eligible for funding:

- Projects that do not protect homes, neighborhoods, structures, or infrastructure;
- Projects on federally owned land, as well as on land adjacent to Federal lands, when the proposed project falls within the scope of other Federal agencies’ grant authority - FEMA does not have authority to fund projects on Federal lands owned by another Federal entity;
- Projects for hazardous fuels reduction in excess of 2 miles from structures;
- Projects to address ecological or agricultural issues related to land and forest management (e.g., insects, diseases, weather-related damages, and infestations);
- Irrigation of vegetation to avoid disease or drought-related infestation;
- Projects to protect the environment, watersheds, or forest management;
- Projects for burning activities, such as prescribed burning or pile burning;
- Projects for clear-cutting;
- Projects for maintenance activities;
- Projects for the purchase of fire-related equipment (e.g., vehicles and fire trucks) or communications equipment;
- Projects for creation and maintenance of fire breaks, access roads, and staging areas;
- Purchase of equipment to accomplish eligible work (e.g., chainsaws, chippers);
- Projects for irrigation systems; and
- Development or enhancement of fire suppression capability through the purchase of equipment or resources (e.g., water supply or sources, dry hydrants, cisterns not related to water hydration systems, and dip ponds).