

## Wildfire Prevention, Preparedness and Response: GAP-Eligible Activities and Contact Information

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The following activities are generally GAP-eligible<sup>1</sup> and may help tribes prepare for wildfire events in advance.

- **Complete Vulnerability Assessments**
  - A Tribe's vulnerability assessment may identify wildfires as a concern including mapping the most vulnerable areas, resources, populations, and infrastructure. The assessment can also include a description of any anticipated change in wildfire frequency or intensity.
- **Develop Adaptation Plans**
  - An adaptation plan can *identify*<sup>2</sup> a series of actions that may reduce the intensity of wildfires. Given that a wildfire does not stop at property boundaries, an adaptation planning process may also involve tribal coordination with local, state, and federal fire management and response agencies, and local Fire Safety Councils. Planning can also include identifying steps a tribe could take to build their community's resilience to wildfire smoke impacts.
- **Develop Emergency Response Plans**
  - GAP can support the development of EPCRA-compliant Emergency Response Plans. There may be overlap with certain emergency response measures and toxic release measures that may be applicable in wildfire situations (i.e. identifying chemical hazards and the location of those hazards, identifying measures<sup>2</sup> to mitigate the risks to those hazards given a wildfire event, as well as planning for how to properly remove the hazards after the wildfire event.
  - Environmental Directors can spend time working with EPA GAP Project Officers on what to expect during an emergency (identifying drinking water sources, potential Superfund issues, and/or connecting with emergency response agencies, etc.)
- **Coordinate and consult on EPCRA-related matters with other federal, state and local agencies to help the tribe to build environmental capacity. Examples may include coordination/consultation with:**
  - Air quality agencies and fire departments to understand air quality impacts during wildfires.
  - EPA, BIA, FEMA local and State waste agencies on post-fire debris removal.
- **Develop MOAs on EPCRA-related matters with federal, state and local agencies, in alignment with the following capacity indicators:**
  - F.3.6 Tribe is meaningfully participating in programs administered by other tribal, federal, state, or local governments (including reviewing and commenting on cleanup and response standards/plans).
  - F.3.12 Tribe has established program to coordinate with state and federal agencies on specific spill response trainings (hands on response to oil and chemical hazards).
- **Develop methods, materials and strategies for providing air quality warnings and appropriate actions to members when conditions warrant (e.g. air quality flag program)**
- **Attend training on the above major bullets**
- **Conduct research on emergency environmental funding opportunities from federal, state and local agencies (see back page for resources)**

As a reminder, implementing an all-hazards mitigation plan or responding to an emergency in ways that may be recoverable by the Tribe under a future disaster declaration is not GAP-eligible because such activities are implementation (in the first case) and/or eligible to be reimbursed by another agency (in the second). During a wildfire event, tribes may, in some cases, renegotiate GAP workplans, for example, to cover emergency costs to keep the environmental office running (e.g., rental or purchase of small generator, water jugs, air filter, etc.). Changes to work plan scope require GAP Project Officer prior approval before changes are approved.

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<sup>1</sup> Eligibility does not guarantee approval. Activities will be reviewed for approval on a case by case basis, to assess and confirm they are necessary, reasonable, allocable and aligned with the tribe's ETEP. Disclaimer: In the event of a conflict between the discussion in this document and statutes or regulations, the statutes and regulations, not this document, would be controlling.

<sup>2</sup> Funding would support the identification of measures, but not the implementation of those measures.

## Additional Contact Information<sup>3</sup>

### EPA's spill response line

- If you become aware of oil spills, hazardous wastes spills or incidents, call first responders and EPA's spill response line at **800-424-8802**.

### FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS)

- FEMA provides several funding opportunities for prevention and recovery from wildfire-related harm:
  - <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program-guide-federally-recognized-tribal-governments>
  - <https://www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-grant-program>
  - <https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program>

### NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA)

NRCS offers the following funding programs to support response to wildfires:

- **EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program)**
  - While not designed to be an emergency response program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) can play a vital role in assisting producers recover from natural disasters like floods, hurricanes, wildfires and drought.
  - **Funding for the Catastrophic Wildfire Recovery Incentive Program in California will again be available (<\$4 million);** however, these funds are subject to the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limit which will shut out a number of applicants. (AGI limit is ~ \$900K/yr total income from all sources – low for many farms)
  - <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/?cid=nrcseprd1361073>
- **EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection)**
  - When natural disasters strike, the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program offers vital recovery options for local communities.
  - The program is designed to help people reduce hazards to life and property caused by floodwaters, droughts, wildfires, earthquakes, windstorms, and other natural disasters. NRCS can fund work like erosion control efforts through a local sponsor that is not subject to the AGI limit.
  - <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/#>

### USDA FEMA Coordinator for the fire response

- Mr. Todd Smith is the USDA FEMA Coordinator for the fire response. NRCS has identified him as the person to work with for response efforts.

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<sup>3</sup> Contact information was gathered from government sites and news outlets. Links to news or private/non-profit organizations are not an endorsement by EPA.