

(c) *Submitting a Project Worksheet.* (1) Applicants should submit all Project Worksheets through the Grantee for approval and transmittal to the Regional Director as amendments to the State's application.

(2) The Grantee will determine the deadline for an applicant to submit completed Project Worksheets, but the deadline must be no later than six months from close of the incident period.

(3) At the request of the Grantee, the Regional Director may grant an extension of up to three months. The Grantee must include a justification in its request for an extension.

(4) Project Worksheets will not be accepted after the deadline and extension specified in paragraphs (c)(2) and (c)(3) of this section has expired.

(5) *\$1,000 Project Worksheet minimum.* When the costs reported are less than \$1,000, that work is not eligible and we will not approve that Project Worksheet.

§ 204.53 Certifying costs and payments.

(a) By submitting applicants' Project Worksheets to us, the Grantee is certifying that all costs reported on applicant Project Worksheets were incurred for work that was performed in compliance with FEMA laws, regulations, policy and guidance applicable to the Fire Management Assistance Grant Program, as well as with the terms and conditions outlined for the administration of the grant in the FEMA-State Agreement for the Fire Management Assistance Grant Program.

(b) Advancement/Reimbursement for State grant costs will be processed as follows:

(1) Through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services SMARTLINK system; and

(2) In compliance with 44 CFR 13.21 and U. S. Treasury 31 CFR part 205, Cash Management Improvement Act.

§ 204.54 Appeals.

An eligible applicant, subgrantee, or grantee may appeal any determination we make related to an application for the provision of Federal assistance according to the procedures below.

(a) *Format and content.* The applicant or subgrantee will make the appeal in writing through the grantee to the Regional Director. The grantee will review and evaluate all subgrantee appeals before submission to the Regional Director. The grantee may make grantee-related appeals to the Regional Director. The appeal will contain documented justification supporting the appellant's position, specifying the monetary figure in dispute and the provisions in Federal law, regulation, or policy with which the appellant believes the initial action was inconsistent.

(b) *Levels of appeal.* (1) The Regional Director will consider first appeals for fire management assistance grant-related decisions under subparts A through E of this part.

(2) The Associate Director will consider appeals of the Regional Director's decision on any first appeal under paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(c) *Time limits.* (1) Appellants must file appeals within 60 days after receipt of a notice of the action that is being appealed.

(2) The grantee will review and forward appeals from an applicant or subgrantee, with a written recommendation, to the Regional Director within 60 days of receipt.

(3) Within 90 days following receipt of an appeal, the Regional Director (for first appeals) or Associate Director (for second appeals) will notify the grantee in writing of the disposition of the appeal or of the need for additional information. A request by the Regional Director or Associate Director for additional information will include a date by which the information must be provided. Within 90 days following the receipt of the requested additional information or following expiration of the period for providing the information, the Regional Director or Associate Director will notify the grantee in writing of the disposition of the appeal. If the decision is to grant the appeal, the Regional Director will take appropriate implementing action.

(d) *Technical advice.* In appeals involving highly technical issues, the Regional Director or Associate Director may, at his or her discretion, submit the appeal to an independent scientific

or technical person or group having expertise in the subject matter of the appeal for advice or recommendation. The period for this technical review may be in addition to other allotted time periods. Within 90 days of receipt of the report, the Regional Director or Associate Director will notify the grantee in writing of the disposition of the appeal.

(e) The decision of the Associate Director at the second appeal level will be the final administrative decision of FEMA.

§§ 204.55–204.60 [Reserved]

Subpart E—Grant Administration

§ 204.61 Cost share.

(a) All fire management assistance grants are subject to a cost share. The Federal cost share for fire management assistance grants is seventy-five percent (75%).

(b) As stated in § 204.25, the cost share provision will be outlined in the terms and conditions of the FEMA-State Agreement for the Fire Management Assistance Grant Program.

§ 204.62 Duplication and recovery of assistance.

(a) *Duplication of benefits.* We provide supplementary assistance under the Stafford Act, which generally may not duplicate benefits received by or available to the applicant from insurance, other assistance programs, legal awards, or any other source to address the same purpose. An applicant must notify us of all benefits that it receives or anticipates from other sources for the same purpose, and must seek all such benefits available to them. We will reduce the grant by the amounts available for the same purpose from another source. We may provide assistance under this Part when other benefits are available to an applicant, but the applicant will be liable to us for any duplicative amounts that it receives or has available to it from other sources, and must repay us for such amounts.

(b) *Duplication of programs.* We will not provide assistance under this part for activities for which another Federal agency has more specific or primary

authority to provide assistance for the same purpose. We may disallow or recoup amounts that fall within another Federal agency's authority. We may provide assistance under this part, but the applicant must agree to seek assistance from the appropriate Federal agency and to repay us for amounts that are within another Agency's authority.

(c) *Negligence.* We will provide no assistance to an applicant for costs attributable to applicant's own negligence. If the applicant suspects negligence by a third party for causing a condition for which we made assistance available under this Part, the applicant is responsible for taking all reasonable steps to recover all costs attributable to the negligence of the third party. We generally consider such amounts to be duplicated benefits available to the Grantee or subgrantee, and will treat them consistent with (a) of this section.

(d) *Intentional acts.* Any person who intentionally causes a condition for which assistance is provided under this part shall be liable to the United States to the extent that we incur costs attributable to the intentional act or omission that caused the condition. We may provide assistance under this part, but it will be conditioned on an agreement by the applicant to cooperate with us in efforts to recover the cost of the assistance from the liable party. A person shall not be liable under this section as a result of actions the person takes or omits in the course of rendering care or assistance in response to the fire.

§ 204.63 Allowable costs.

44 CFR 13.22 establishes general policies for determining allowable costs.

(a) We will reimburse direct costs for the administration of a fire management assistance grant under 44 CFR part 13.

(b) We will reimburse indirect costs for the administration of a fire management assistance grant in compliance with the Grantee's approved indirect cost rate under OMB Circular A-87.