

# *U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security*

## *Federal Emergency Management Agency*

### **Emergency Management and Wildland-Urban Interface Fires in the United States of America**



Terrorism



Tornado



Earthquake



Tsunami



Winter Storm

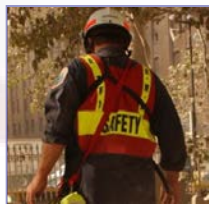


Flooding



Hurricane

**Robert A. Farmer**  
**Director of Operations**  
**Office of Response and Recovery**  
**Tuesday, 28 October 2014**



# FEMA Mission

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders 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.



FEMA

# History of U.S. Federal Disaster Relief

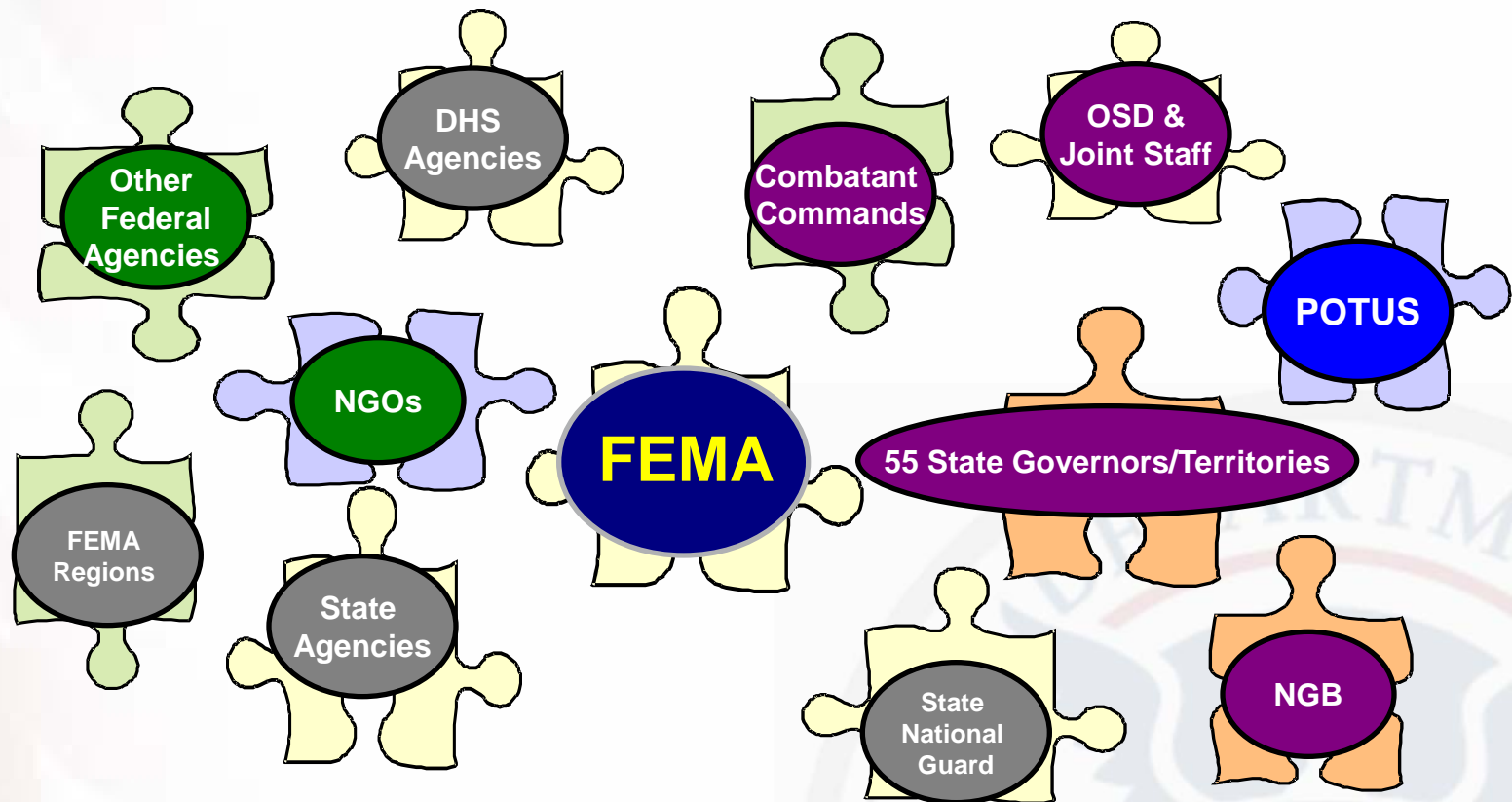
- **The Congressional Act of 1803** was the earliest effort to provide disaster relief. (It provided tax relief to Portsmouth, New Hampshire devastated by fire).
- **Disaster Relief Act of 1950** established the precedent for the role of the Federal government in disaster assistance.
- FEMA was established in 1979 by **E.O. 12176 & E.O. 12148**
- In 1988, **the Stafford Act**, as amended, gave FEMA responsibility for coordinating Federal government response.
- The **Homeland Security Act of 2002** directed the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), FEMA became part of DHS in 2003.
- The **Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006** (PKEMRA) designated the FEMA Administrator as the principal advisor to the President “for all matters related to emergency management in the U.S.”



FEMA

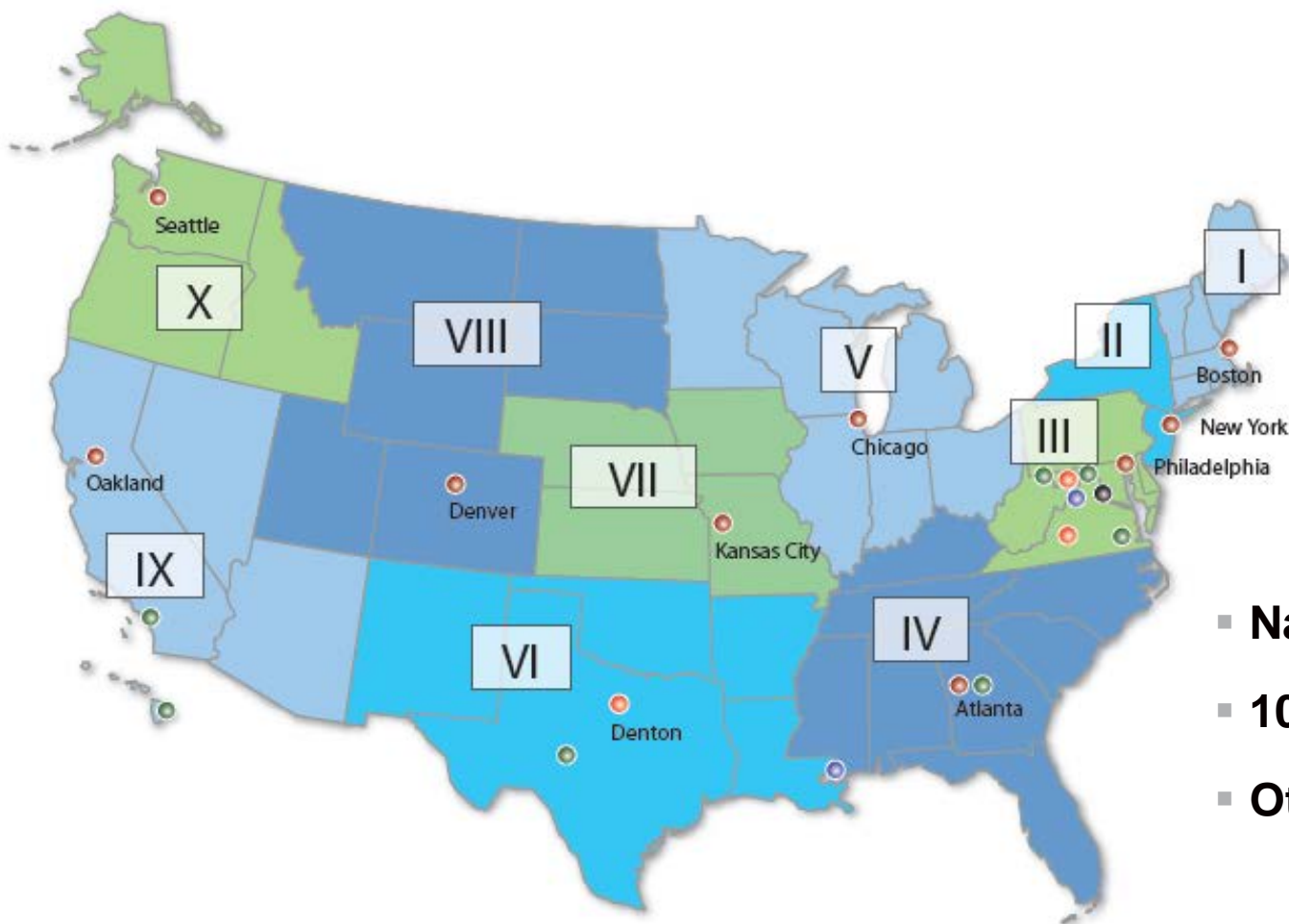


# Complex Operational Environment (The Federalist Construct)



FEMA

# FEMA Regions



- **National Headquarters**
- **10 Regional Offices**
- **Other Support Facilities**

Legend:

- FEMA Headquarters
- Regional Offices
- National Processing Service Centers
- Distribution Centers
- Training Facilities



FEMA

# Key Disaster Response Authorities

## Homeland Security Act Stafford Act PKEMRA

**Homeland Security Act:** The Homeland Security Act of 2002 created the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as an executive department of the United States. The Homeland Security Act consolidated component agencies, including FEMA, into the Department.

**Stafford Act:** gives FEMA responsibility for coordinating Federal government disaster response.

**Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA):** Gives FEMA the authority needed to lean forward and leverage the entire emergency management team in disaster response and recovery efforts.

**PKEMRA also requires that each federal agency with responsibilities under the National Response Framework (NRF) develop operational plans to ensure a coordinated federal response.**

## Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) - 8

**PPD-8:** defines five preparedness mission areas, including: prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery. **It mandates the development of policy and planning documents to guide the nation's approach for ensuring and enhancing national preparedness.**

The National Planning Frameworks, which are part of the National Preparedness System, set the strategy and doctrine for building, sustaining, and delivering the core capabilities identified in the National Preparedness Goal.

## National Response Framework (NRF)

**NRF:** a guide to how the nation responds to all types of disasters and emergencies. It is built on scalable, flexible and adaptable concepts identified in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to align key roles and responsibilities across the nation.

The Federal government organizes response resources under the Emergency Support Function (ESF) construct.

# National Response Framework

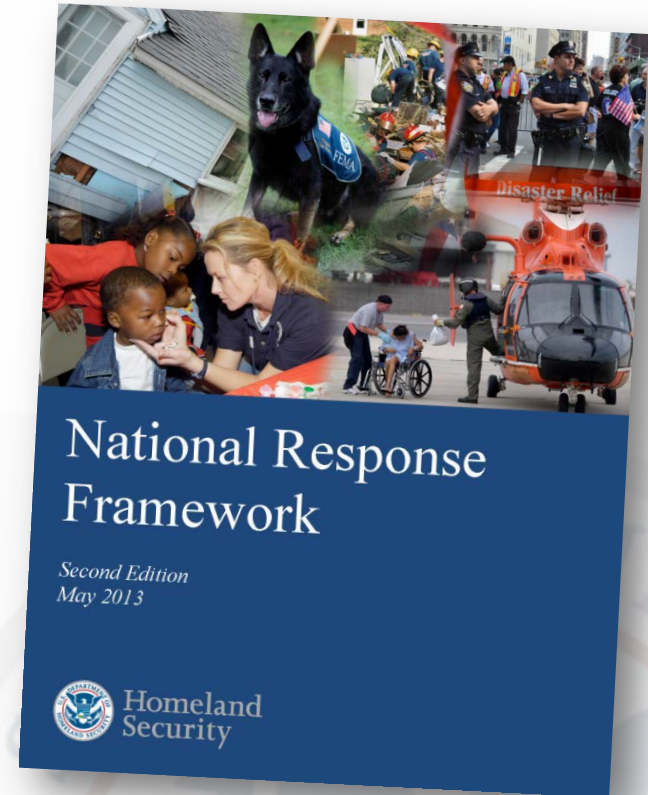
## The Response Framework covers:

- The capabilities necessary to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs after an incident has occurred.

## Guiding principles:

- Engaged partnership
- Tiered response
- Scalable, flexible and adaptable operational
- Unity of effort through unified command
- Readiness to act

FEMA



# Federal Response - *Emergency Support Functions*



President leads national incident response



Secretary of Homeland Security is principal federal official for domestic incidents



FEMA Administrator is principal advisor to the President & coordinates response through ESFs



FEMA

## Emergency Support Functions

|      |                                 |
|------|---------------------------------|
| # 1  | Transportation                  |
| # 2  | Communications                  |
| # 3  | Public Works & Engineering      |
| # 4  | <b>Firefighting</b>             |
| # 5  | Emergency Management            |
| # 6  | Mass Care                       |
| # 7  | Logistics & Resource Support    |
| # 8  | Public Health & Medical         |
| # 9  | Search & Rescue                 |
| # 10 | Oil & HazMat Response           |
| # 11 | Agriculture & Natural Resources |
| # 12 | Energy                          |
| # 13 | Public Safety and Security      |
| # 15 | External Affairs                |

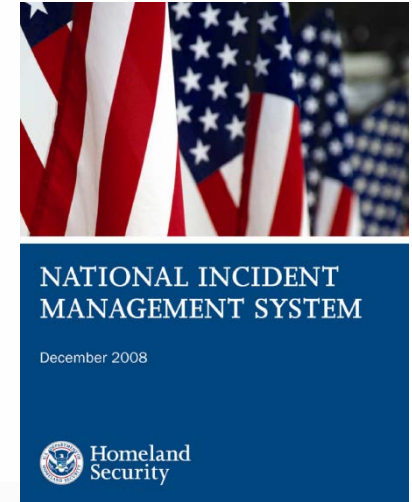


# National Incident Management System

## National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Standardizes command and control, organizational structures, terminology, communication protocols, and resources at every level to enable efficient & effective coordination of response efforts.

- Response begins at the local level
- States supplement local efforts
- Federal Government coordinates assistance when need exceeds local or State resources
- Private-sector and non-governmental organizations are engaged at every level



FEMA



# Command and Management

- **Incident Command System**
- **Multiagency Coordination Systems**
- **Public Information Systems**



FEMA

# Wildland Urban Interface Fires



FEMA

# Wildfire Response in the United States

**Adhering to NIMS, wildfire response in the U.S. has a tiered response structure**

- Local: provided by career and volunteer local fire departments
- State: provided by State Forestry Agencies
- Federal: provided by Federal land management agencies

**Wildfire response is truly interagency at all levels, with shared training, qualifications, and systems.**



FEMA





# Federal Support for Wildland Fire

**Federal support for wildland fire response is coordinated by the U.S. Forest Service**

- The National Interagency Coordination Center manages national resources (incident management teams, “Hotshot” crews (like special forces), large airtankers, etc.)
- 10 Geographic Area Coordination Centers manage other resources, equipment and supplies (engines, dozers, handcrews, etc.)



FEMA

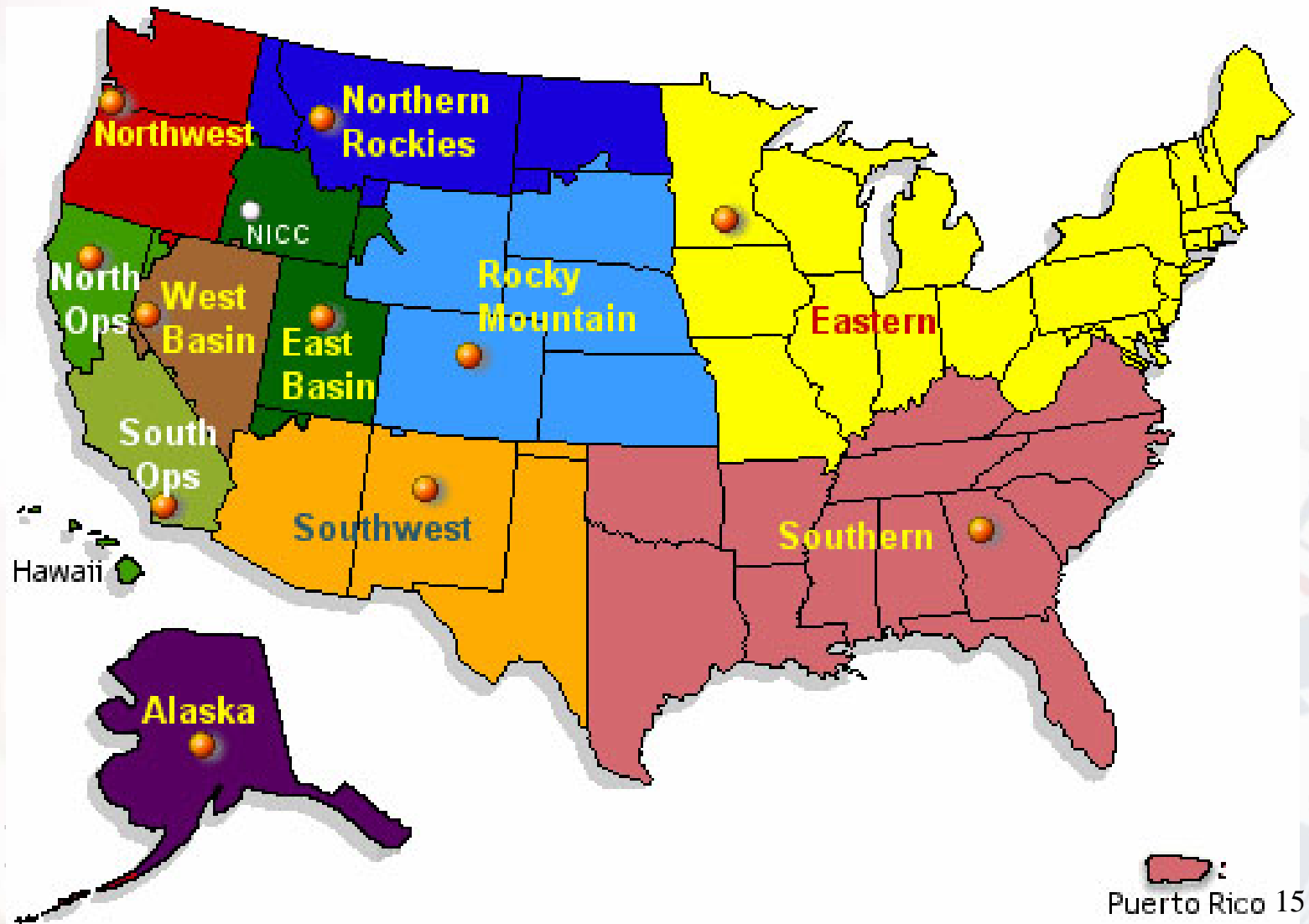


# Wildfire in the U.S.

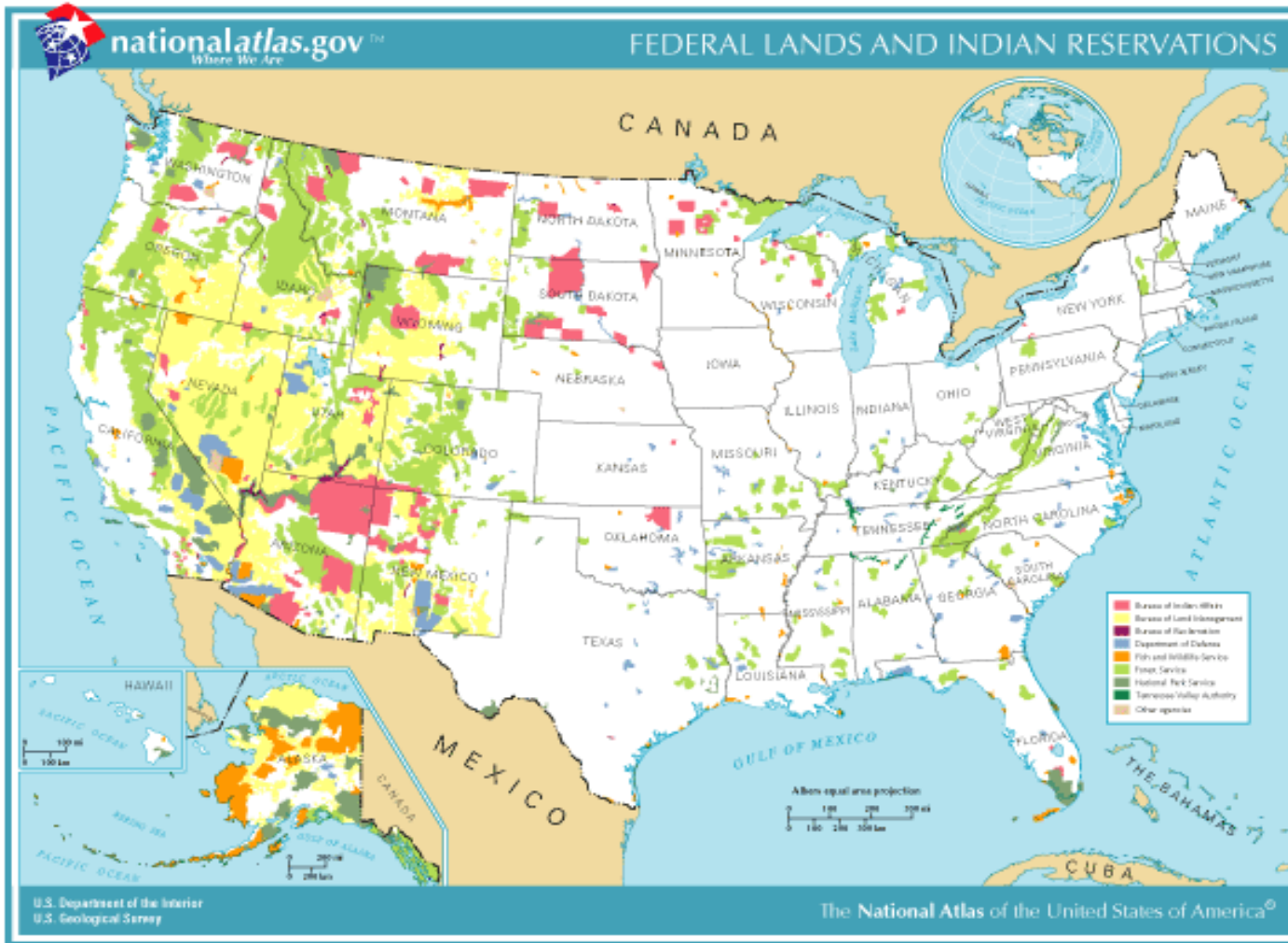


FEMA

# Wildland Fire Geographical Areas



# Wildland Fire in the US – Federal Lands



FEMA



# Wildland Fires – Local Level

**Over 98% of all wildfires in the U.S. are extinguished in the initial attack phase at the local level.**



FEMA

# Significant Wildfires & Values at Risk

- Some fires do become ‘significant wildfires’ (over 100 acres or 40.5 hectares).
  - Ex. In 2013, there were 660 significant fires; 20 of these burned over 40,000 acres.
- Of biggest concern are those fires that endanger “values at risk” such as structures and infrastructure
  - Ex. In 2013, 2,135 structures were lost to wildfires.



FEMA



# Wildland Urban Interface

- **The wildland-urban interface (WUI)** is the area where homes and wildlands meet or intermingle.
- In the U.S., about one-tenth of the land area occupied by housing and about one-third of all housing units (homes, apartment houses, condominiums, etc.) are located in the WUI



FEMA

# Recent Notable WUI Fires

- **2014 – Boles Fire, California (150 houses)**
- **2013 – Black Forest Fire, Colorado (509 houses)**
- **2012, Waldo Canyon Fire, Colorado (346 houses)**
- **2010, Bastrop County Complex, Texas (1,400 houses)**
- **2010, Four Mile Canyon Fire, Colorado (170 houses)**



FEMA



# Wildfires – FEMA Involvement

**FEMA has a role at certain significant wildland fires**

**Under a Presidential Declaration, FEMA supports the State with:**

- Evacuation
- Mass Care
- Recovery
- Public Information



FEMA

# Stafford Act – Response Assistance

**There are three avenues for response assistance under the Stafford Act**

1. Major Disaster Declaration
2. Emergency Declaration
3. Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAGP)
  - Reimbursement for 75% of response costs



FEMA

# FMAG Requests and Declarations

| Action (since last report) |                   | Total             | FMAG No. and State |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Requests DENIED            |                   | 0                 |                    |                                  |                                  |
| Requests APPROVED          |                   | 0                 |                    |                                  |                                  |
| Approved FMAG Data         |                   |                   |                    |                                  |                                  |
| Year                       | Current YTD       | MTD               | Monthly Average    | Cumulative Acres Burned YTD      | Cumulative Denied FMAGs YTD      |
| 2015                       | 1                 | 1                 | ≥ 1                | 500                              | 0                                |
| Year                       | Total Previous FY | ++ Yearly Average |                    | Total Acres Burned Previous Year | Total Denied FMAGs Previous Year |
| 2014                       | 31                | 37                |                    | 152,648                          | 2                                |



\* Reflects the 3-year average for current month/ \*\* Reflects 3-year total average

FEMA

# Resource Management Activities

Effective resource management, founded on the guiding principles of NIMS, involves five key activities:

- Resource Typing
- Credentialing
- Inventorying
- Planning
- Resource Identification and Ordering



FEMA



# Southern California Fire Siege in 2007

**The Southern California Fire Siege in 2007 resulted in one of the largest mass evacuations in U.S. history.**

- Nearly 1 Million people were forced from their homes because of 22 separate significant wildfires throughout the Los Angeles and San Diego areas.
- **FEMA assisted California with the evacuation and Mass Care.**



FEMA



# FEMA