

COVID-19 Impacts to CAL FIRE Grant Projects
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
Issued April 2, 2020

Below are frequently asked questions (FAQs) related to CAL FIRE grant projects. If your concern is not addressed below, please contact the CAL FIRE representative designated on your grant agreement so that we can work with you on a solution for your project. We will update this document as additional questions arise.

Q: I was awarded a grant to conduct fuels reduction activities. Is work on my project subject to the Governor's Stay Home Order?

A: Based upon the State Public Health Officer's designation of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers (current as of March 22, 2020), Forest Management, Fuels Reduction work and Utility Clearance work is identified as essential work and is authorized to continue. Please note the following sections in the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers document available on the California Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response website (<https://covid19.ca.gov/>):

- Page 3 – Emergency Services Sector - Essential Workforce - Law Enforcement, Public Safety and First Responders - Fire Mitigation Activities;
 - Page 3 - Emergency Services Sector - Essential Workforce - Public Works - Support, such as road and line clearing, to ensure the availability of needed facilities, transportation, energy and communications;
 - Page 4 – Food and Agriculture- Essential Workforce - Workers who support the manufacture and distribution of forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood products;
-

Q: I was awarded a research grant and am concerned with how to complete my proposed field work for this summer. Is there still an expectation to meet grant objectives with the original timeline?

A: If your field work is not considered essential per the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers guidance issued on March 22, 2020, please reach out to the designated CAL FIRE representative indicated on your grant agreement to discuss the specifics related to your project as early as possible. We will try to accommodate amendment requests for project timeline and/or revising work plans based on the uncertainties of the current field season. Each grant will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Will the grant funds I was previously awarded be taken back to cover state expenses in the face of the pandemic / economic slow down?

A: Funds appropriated through the annual budget act remains for the purposes of the grants that were already awarded as detailed in the individual grant agreements. There is presently no budget bill to change this funding and the Department is continuing status quo.

COVID-19 Impacts to CAL FIRE Grant Projects
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
Issued April 2, 2020

Q: Will there be any delays to processing of grant reimbursement payments?

A: While CAL FIRE staff may be teleworking, we are maintaining business as usual regarding the processing of payments and invoices and any other administrative support needed to continue with your grant project. Prompt, complete and accurate submittals of your grant reimbursements documents, via email if possible, are highly encouraged as this will better assist us in processing your payment.

Q: I need to turn in a grant agreement that requires a signature but am currently unable send documents containing original signatures. Can I send in a scanned copy instead?

A: Yes, we are currently accepting scanned agreements and electronic/digital signatures in lieu of original signatures. If you are experiencing any other challenges related to submitting grant documents, please contact the Grant Analyst identified on the grant agreement you were issued. We will try our best to accommodate your requests.

Q: My grant has expired but I am unable to submit final payment requests and/or required reporting within the timeframe designated in my grant as a result of the COVID-19 situation. Can I have more time to submit the final documents?

A: Please reach out to the CAL FIRE representative designated on your grant agreement as soon as possible so that we can work with you on a solution. The solution depends on the funding source for your specific grant so we will need to address it on a case-by-case basis.

Q: I am realizing that I will not be able to complete my project on time as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions. Would it be possible to extend the deadline?

A: Please reach out to the CAL FIRE representative designated on your grant agreement as soon as possible so that we can work with you on a solution. The solution depends on the funding source for your specific grant so we will need to address it on a case-by-case basis.