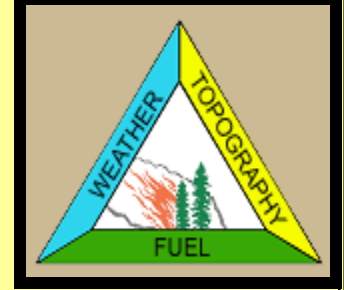




TOPIC 27 SLOPE



Slope, the degree of incline of a hillside, determines the rate of which a fire burns. Fires burn more rapidly uphill than downhill. The steeper the slope, the faster the fire burns. A fire spreading uphill resembles a fire spreading before a strong wind. The rate of fire spread will usually increase as the degree of slope increases. Not only are the flames closer to the fuels (radiant heat), but the movement of heated air (convection) is more likely to carry firebrands that may start spot fires. The fire's position on the slope influences the fire behaviour. A fire starting near the bottom of a slope will normally spread faster and burn more area than a fire that starts near the top of the slope because it has a longer uphill run. However, another concern about steep slopes is the possibility of burning material rolling downhill which can ignite the fuel below the main fire.

Slope %	Slope Factor Estimate
< 10 %	1 X that on level ground
< 20 %	2 X that on level ground
< 30 %	3 X that on level ground
< 40 %	4 X that on level ground
< 50 %	5 X that on level ground
60 %	STAY OFF THE HILL!!