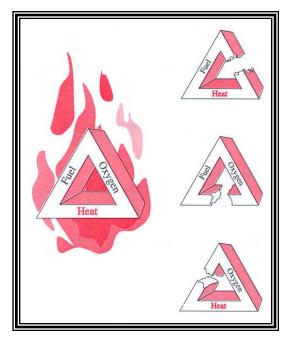


TOPIC 3A FIRE TRIANGLE



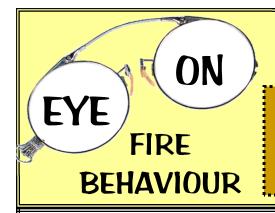


Variations in balance among heat, oxygen, and fuel governs the violence of the fire. If one of these is missing, ignition or combustion will not occur.

Most fuels are largely composed of carbon and they ignite and burn quite readily if conditions are right. These fuels ignite at relatively low temperatures (260° C to 400° C) provided the moisture content is low and the fuel is freely exposed to the air.

Fuels exposed to the sun are already heated and do not have as far to go to reach heat of combustion.

A wildfire converts living and dead fuels into carbon dioxide, water vapour and heat energy (flame) through the process of combustion.



TOPIC 3B FIRE TRIANGLE





BREAKING THE TRIANGLE

OXYGEN is removed by covering with dirt, retardant or foam

HEAT is removed by cooling with water, foam, retardant or dirt

FUEL is removed by cutting a fireline between the burning and unburned fuel