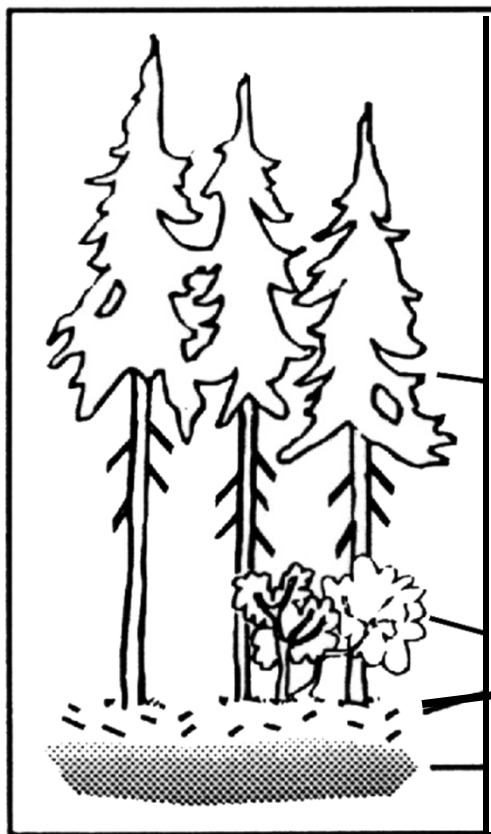
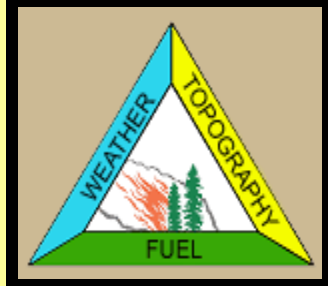




TOPIC 34
SURFACE
FUELS



Consists of the dead leaves, needles, twigs and other litter that have not yet begun to decompose or to compact.

Surface fires are by far the most common type of wildland fire.

SURFACE FUELS

Herbaceous fuels such as grasses and ferns are classed as surface fuels. Green grass is a good fire barrier, but as it gradually cures, it becomes increasingly flammable. Cured grass provides the most flammable fuel and under the right conditions, has the highest rate of spread of any of the fuels. If grass cover is continuous, the grass fuel type rather than the timber fuel type will determine the rate of spread. If dry grass is mixed with brush, it may develop a surface fire with enough heat to trigger a crown fire under dry and windy conditions.