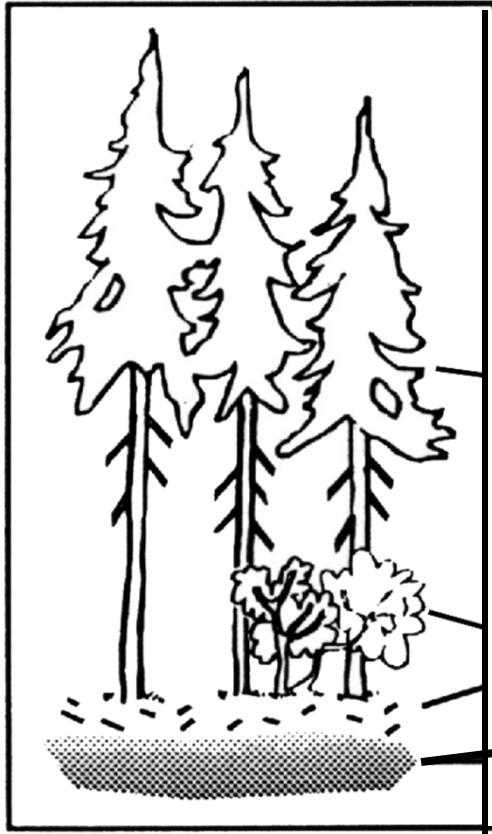
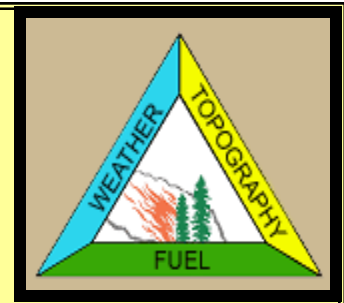




TOPIC 35
GROUND FUELS



Ground fuels are the duff and roots lying beneath the current years accumulation of fallen material. Ground fuels are generally highly compacted and partially decomposed.

GROUND FUELS

“Duff” is partially decayed vegetative matter laying against the soil. The duff layer may be several cm to several meters deep (peat moss). Usually, it is moist and lightly compressed. It is flammable, but it burns slowly. Duff allows fire to creep between other types of fuels and its smouldering characteristics require specific treatment in control and mop-up of fires. Failure to extinguish or isolate all burning ground fuels near the fireline have been the cause of many fires escaping days or weeks after being declared under control.