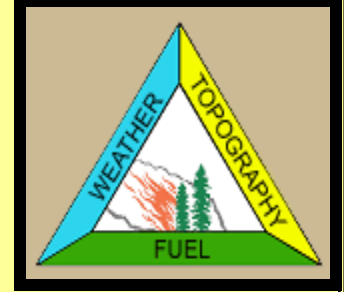




TOPIC 4

FIRE BEHAVIOUR – DEFINITION



Understanding Fire Behaviour is essential for Safety of Firefighters.

The individual at highest risk in a suppression organization is usually the firefighter who does not understand fire behaviour. Fire Behaviour is the combined effects of the fire's environment on how the fire acts or behaves. A fire does not lie.

Fire Behaviour is the manner in which fuel ignites, flame develops and fire spreads as determined by the interaction of fuels, weather, and topography.

Success in fire suppression depends on the ability to be able to make a reliable estimate of fire behaviour under different burning conditions.

You must have a basic knowledge of :

- ✓ How a fire burns
- ✓ Weather
- ✓ Topography
- ✓ Fuels
- ✓ Fire Danger Ratings

Any change in conditions may change the behaviour of the fire and one may have to change strategy and techniques in order to control or hold a fire. You must be able to evaluate the fire behaviour pattern with changing conditions and use techniques to control the fire under these conditions.