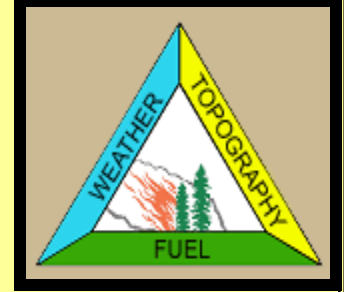




TOPIC 51
**WEATHER -
GENERAL**



WEATHER is the most important variable to be considered in evaluating fire behaviour. Hourly, daily, weekly, monthly and yearly variations in weather conditions all exert some influence on how, when, and where fires will start, how they will behave once ignited, and how difficult they will be to control. Weather is of special importance because it may change quickly and because the changes may result in rapid and very significant differences in fire behaviour.

During very hot, dry and windy weather, fires burn rapidly and are difficult to control. On the other hand, cool, damp weather may create conditions where fires hardly burn at all and are easily controlled. Between these extremes are many variations and firefighters must be able to interpret these conditions to predict probable rate of spread and general behaviour of fires and how difficult they will be to control.

Four variables influence fire weather:

- 1. Relative Humidity**
- 2. Temperature**
- 3. Wind**
- 4. Precipitation**