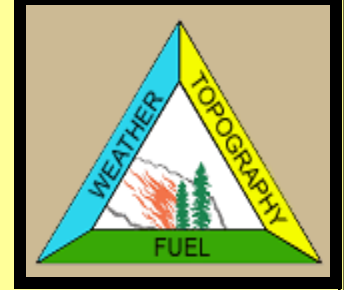


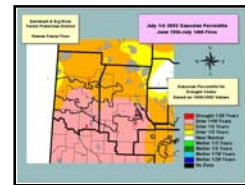


TOPIC 57 PRECIPITATION



PRECIPITATION is often interpreted to be the same as rainfall; however, the term precipitation includes all forms of water falling from the sky including rainfall, snow, sleet, hail, etc. It is important to fire behaviour as a source of moisture for wildland fuels.

Precipitation is often measured in millimetres (mm).



Precipitation, at varying amounts, affects the different fuel layers. For example precipitation of >2.9 mm is needed to affect the deep duff layers (drought code).

The fuel moisture content of the various levels of ground fuels, surface fuels, and canopy all depend on precipitation to varying degrees. The canopy level intercepts a certain amount of rain before it hits the surface. Rain that has fallen to the surface tends to be soaked up by surrounding ground and surface fuels.

DAILY TRENDS IN PRECIPITATION

Precipitation is often associated with large-scale weather features and as such doesn't exhibit a daily trend. Daytime heating, however, can at times influence afternoon convective showers to become stronger in the afternoon. Once daytime heating subsides in the late afternoon, any convective shower development may dissipate in to the evening.

