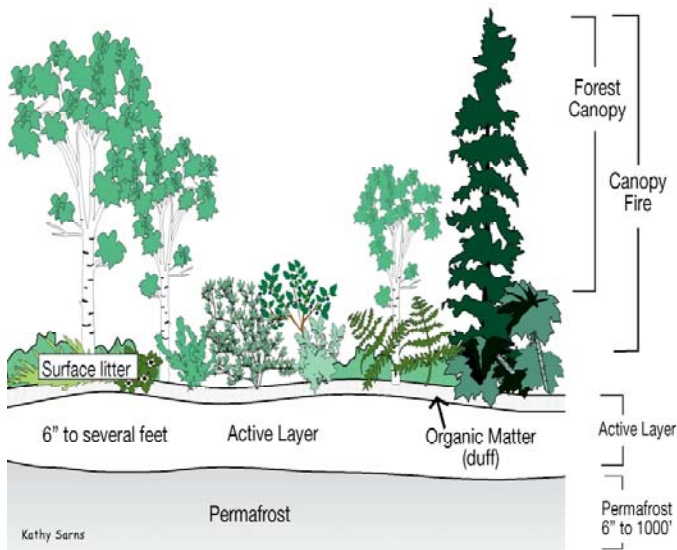


FOREST FIRE FACT SHEET



Canopy Fires: Burn all green and dead materials located in the upper forest canopy
Fuels: Include tree branches and crowns, dead standing trees (snags), old mans beard lichen.

Surface Fires: Burn all materials lying on or immediately above the ground.
Fuels: Include needles or leaves, duff, grass, small dead wood, downed logs, stumps, large limbs and low and high brush.

Ground Fires: Burn all fuels lying within and beneath the organic soil layer.
Fuels: Include deep duff, roots, and other woody materials.

Fire Intensity describes the amount of heat a fire produces. Fires can be low, moderate, or high in intensity. Factors that influence fire intensity include:

Fuel - Fuels that are small in size and very dry (grass) produce cool, fast fires. The more woody the fuel, the hotter the fire. Spruce burns much hotter and faster than most deciduous trees.

Moisture - The more moisture (or humidity) present the cooler the fire will be. Fires that burn in the spring are less intense than fires that burn during the dry summer months. Rain will lessen the intensity of a fire.

Topography - Slopes that face south, southwest, and west tend to be drier because they receive more sun and will burn more readily than north-facing slopes. Fires burning up a steep slope will burn more rapidly than on level ground. The fire creates its own updraft.

Wind - Wind will fan a fire, causing increased intensity.

Temperature - The higher the air temperature, the drier the fuel and the more intense the fire is likely to be.