

Wildfire Vocabulary List

Word	Glossary Definition
Fuels	<p>Plant or tree matter such as grass, leaves, pine needles, twigs, branches, and fallen trees that can burn when dry. Fuels are broken into categories based on diameter. Size affects the rate fuels dry out in the spring, summer or fall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. less than ¼ inch: Grass, leaves, and pine needles dry in one hourb. ¼ - 1 inch: twigs and branches dry in ten hoursc. 1-3 inches: branches dry in 100 hoursd. Greater than 3 inches: branches and logs dry in 1000 hours
Nutrients	<p>Nutrients are the minerals and substances plants need for healthy growth. When fire burns organic matter or fuels, it releases carbon dioxide and nitrogen gas into the air and deposits ash on the soil. Ash is more soluble than the organic matter from which it originated. Thus fire increases available minerals, phosphorous, exchangeable bases, and total soluble salts as well as increases soil pH.</p>
Volatile	<p>Readily vaporizable at a relatively low temperature. Some trees contain resins which in their vapor or gas form are highly flammable (burn easily).</p>
Relative humidity	<p>A measure of the amount of water in the air compared with the amount of water the air can hold at the temperature it happens to be when you measure it.</p>
Temperate climate	<p>Having a climate intermediate between tropical and polar; moderate or mild in temperature.</p>
Precipitation	<p>Rain, snow, sleet, dew, etc., formed by condensation of water vapor in the atmosphere. The deposition of these on the earth's surface.</p>