



## FUN FACT #6: Aspect

### Target age group

- Grade 5 – High School

### Some wildfire terminology

- Slope: a slanted surface such as a hill.
- Cardinal directions: north, south, east, west are used for giving directions and information on the fire from either the ground or the air (e.g., the west flank or east flank, not right flank or left flank) or to determine aspect.
- Aspect: cardinal direction toward which a slope faces (for the purpose of this activity aspect is defined as the direction in which the *slope faces the sun*).

### Information

- In the northeast portions of the United States and Canada, the **Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact** area, the southern aspects, or direction the mountains and hills face the sun is usually the hottest.

### Activity

- Q: If you are standing on the yellow star, you are on what aspect of the slope? Here are some clues:
  - this is a picture of a small section of the Massachusetts Turnpike which runs in an east/west direction;
  - the highway lies between 2 slopes;
  - what side has no snow?
- Q: If you are standing on the yellow star and looking to the right, what direction are you facing?

