



FUN FACT #7: Breaking the Fire Triangle

Target age group

- Grade 4 – High School

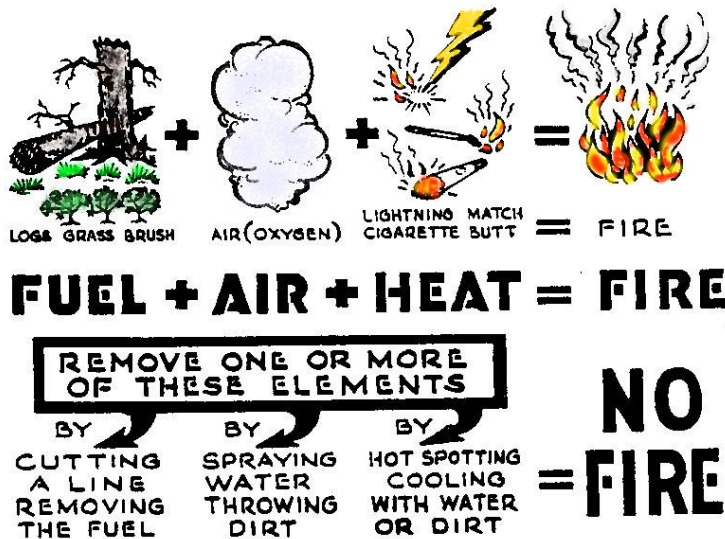
Some wildfire terminology

- Mineral soil: soil with little combustible material.
- Control line: a term used for all constructed or natural barriers and treated fire edges used to control a fire.
- Fireline: the part of a control line that is scraped or dug down to the mineral soil.



Information

- Enough *oxygen*, forest *fuel* (burnable material), and *heat* must be present for fire to exist. This combination is called the Fire Triangle. Take away any one of the three, and the fire goes out.
- We remove *fuel* by building a fire line.
- We remove *heat* by spraying fire with water or by spreading out the burning materials
- We remove *air* or *oxygen* by smothering or drowning the burning material with water.



Activity

- Q1: For what purpose would a fire line be built?
- Q2: What leg of the fire triangle would be broken if this fire line were built to stop a wildfire?

- Q3: When enjoying a campfire with your family, do you first build a fire line around the campfire area? If not, what else can you do to separate the fire from surrounding fuels?



Building a fireline

Answers: 1. to separate fire from surrounding fuels or break the fire triangle 2. fuel leg
3. build a control line by removing all wood, grass, leaves & fuel, then surrounding your
campfire area with rocks