



# Wildfire Impacts and Mitigation

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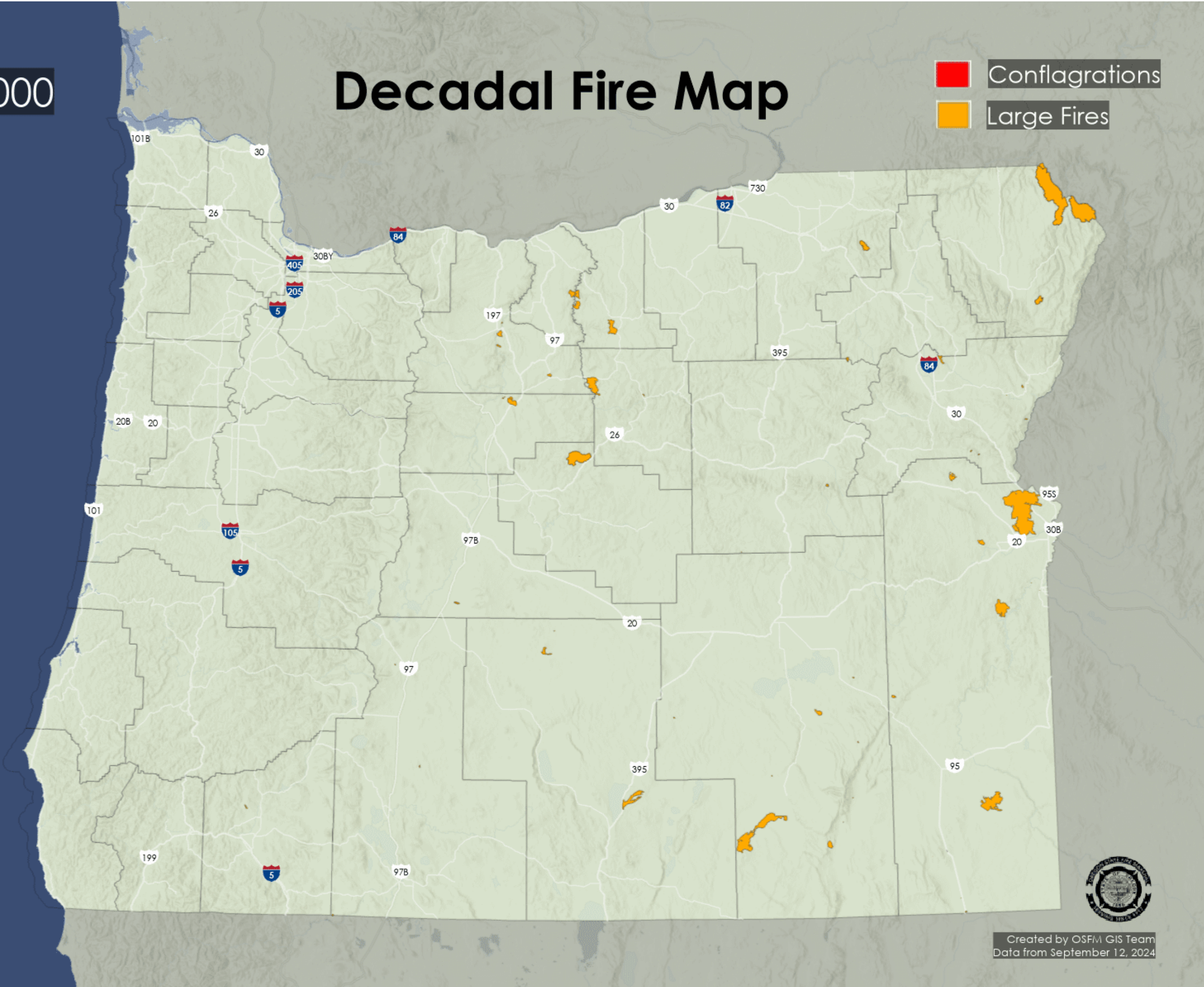


# Oregon's Wildfire Context

2000

## Decadal Fire Map

Conflagrations  
Large Fires



Created by OSFM GIS Team  
Data from September 12, 2024





# The Growing Wildfire Crisis

- In the US since 2000:
  - Nearly 2,000 communities threatened by wildfire
  - Close to 100,000 structures destroyed
- 246% increase in structure loss (1999-2009 vs. 2010-2020)

Fire Season	Structures Lost
2020	3,823 structures lost, 2,267 primary residences.
2021	421 structures lost, 166 primary residences. *
2022	10 structures lost, 2 primary residences. *
2023	127 structures lost, 50 primary residences.

\*Data above is only from OSFM available sources.

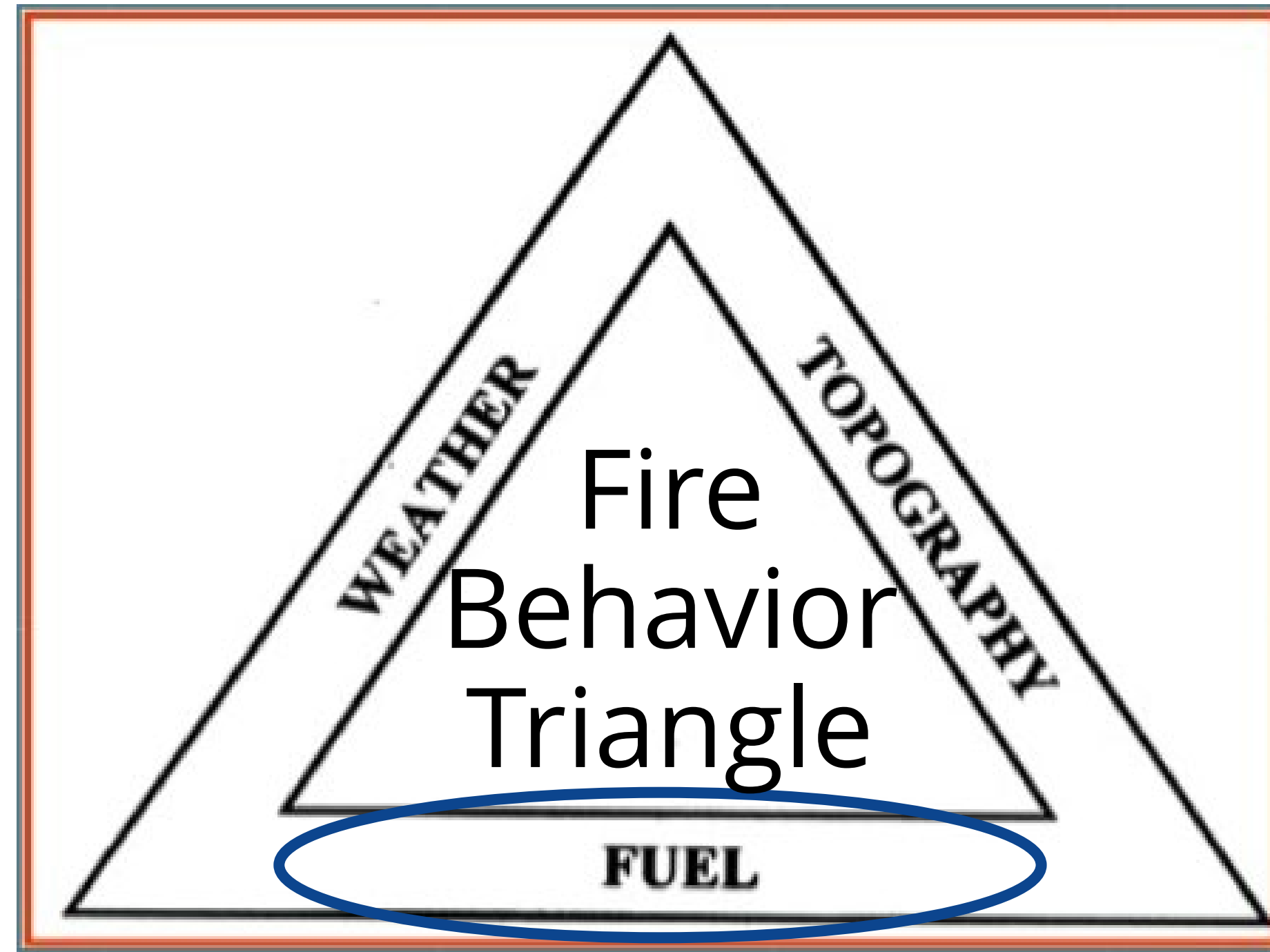
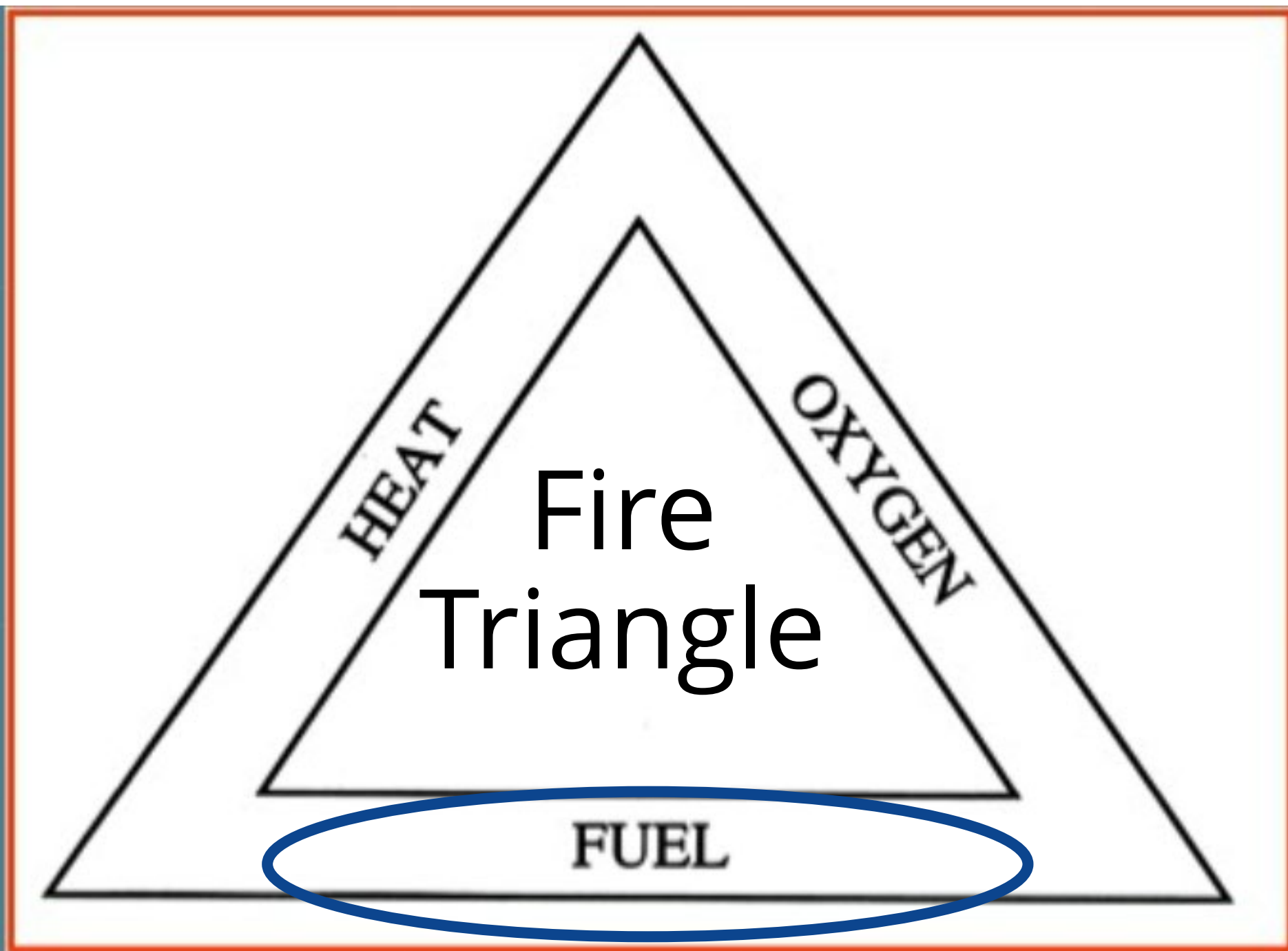


# What is the Wildland Urban Interface?

- Where does it come to mind when we say Wildland Urban Interface or WUI? Is it a specific location?
- For today and the information we will be covering, let's consider this definition
  - The WUI is any location where a wildfire can spread from vegetation to structures. Homes and communities can ignite and burn totally independent of a wildfire.



Fire does not behave capriciously: it either meets the requirements for combustion or not – Jack Cohen







Ember Ignitions

Structure to  
Structure

Surface Fire

Ember Ignitions

# Hardening Techniques

- Roofing and siding materials
- Windows
- Venting structure
- Fences or decks





# What the vent is covered with can make a difference

$\frac{1}{2}$  inch

$\frac{1}{4}$  inch

$\frac{1}{8}$  inch







# Defensible Space

- Start at the structure and work out to 100 feet or the property line.
  - Focus on the first 5 feet around the building to stop flames from directly touching the home.
- Outside the first 5 feet, recommendations will focus on a few main components:
  - Plant health, spacing, and species
  - Tree spacing and limbing
  - Ground fuels
  - Other flammable materials in the yard.









# Ladder Fuels

These are plants that could carry a ground fire to the canopy of the trees.





# Tree Spacing

- Thin or remove trees as needed
  - An average of 10 feet between trees or small clumps of trees
  - Prune or limb trees 6 feet up from the ground.

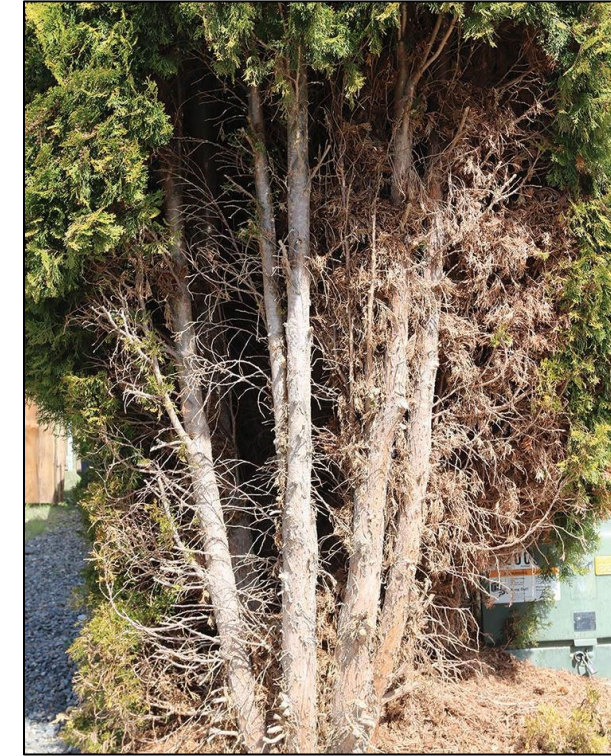






## Fire Resistant Plants

- Open, loose branching patterns
- Little dead wood
- Tend not to accumulate dry, dead material
- Sap is waterlike, no strong odor
- Sap or resin are minimal
- Leaves are wide, flat, moist and supple



## Highly Flammable Plants

- Fine, dry or dead twigs, needles and leaves
- Contain volatile waxes, terpenes or oils
- Leaves are aromatic (strong odor when crushed)
- Sap is gummy, resinous and has a strong odor
- Bark is loose or papery





**Consider  
Mitigation  
Around all  
Buildings**





**Working  
together  
makes the  
difference**



It all  
starts  
with a  
plan



**Thank you.**

