

# WHY FIRES BURN

To have a fire, you must have a combination of three things: *fuel*, *oxygen* and *heat*.

- The fuel is the forest
- The oxygen comes from the air
- The heat comes from lightning or from man.

If any one of these three elements is missing, there can be no fire. The basic principal of firefighting, therefore, is to remove one or more of these elements in the quickest and most effective way.

## **How do you decide which fires to allocate resources to?**

Fires are prioritized. Obviously fires that put people's lives and homes at risk are always the first concern.

Wildfire threat analysis consists of four components: fire behaviour, fire occurrence, suppression capability and values at risk. All these components are considered when determining fire priorities.

## **What is the difference between an air tanker and a water bomber?**

Air tankers are land-based aircraft which leave the base with a load of fire retardant and must return to the base for additional loads. Water bombers are amphibious aircraft that skim over large water bodies and scoop up water which is then dropped on the fire. All air tankers have basically the same function on a fire, however, some will have more carrying capacity than others.