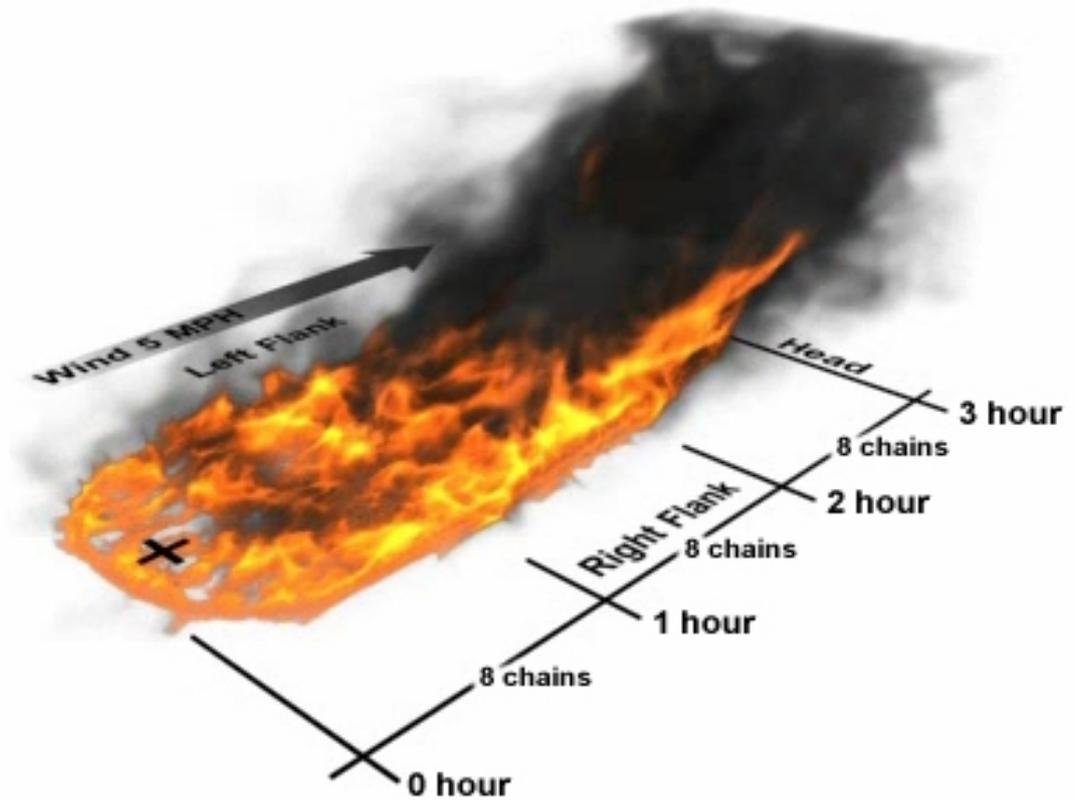


Head, Flank, and Rear Fire Terms

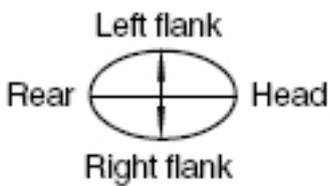
Each side of the fire is described in terms of head, flank, and rear. The head is the fastest spreading part of a fire's perimeter. The head is usually the side toward which the wind is blowing, and will also often be the upslope side of a fire. The head of the fire is of primary interest.

The right and left flanks describe the sides of the fire. Flanks are perpendicular to the head of the fire.

The rear of the fire is the side of the fire opposite the head.



Click on the Photo of Fire to view a brief overview of fire spread along the head, flanks and rear. NWCG



Head of the fire is the leading edge of the fire. The distance from the rear to the head of the fire's forward