

# Understanding A Brush Fire #2

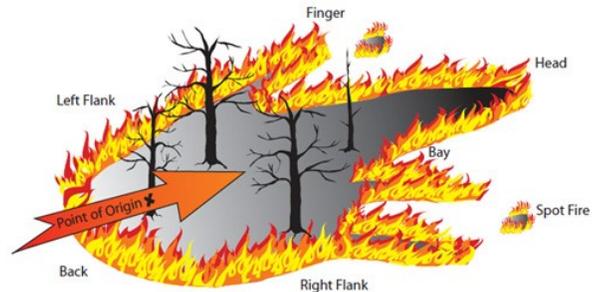
## Anatomy of a Brush Fire

### Types of brushfire

**Ground Fire:** smoldering materials which typically move very slow

**Surface Fire:** fire which moves along the surface carried by leaves, grass and dead wood.

**Crown Fire:** Fire in the tops of trees that ignites from below or moves from tree to tree.



### Parts of a brush fire

**Head:** The fastest moving portion of the fire and typically the greatest flame length and rate of speed. Firefighters generally attack this portion of the fire.

**Heel or Tail:** slowest moving portion of the fire, usually near the origin point

**Flanks:** side of the fire

**Fingers:** small areas that reach out from the main fire body

### How Fire Spreads



Fire spreads by reaching out to available fuel. The head will move the fastest and flanks can grow outward while the heel moves slower.

Fire can also spread by spotting. Embers, carried by wind or picked up in the smoke plume, can skip considerable distances over pockets of unburned fuel and fire breaks. This is how wildfires can become very large in a small amount of time.

Big Pine Key has plenty of fuel to spread fire with existing pine and debris from Hurricane Irma. The anatomy of the Big Pine Key Brush Fire started in a wooded area and quickly spread through the fuel. Wind most likely picked up embers and spotted over, spreading the fire in a rapid manner.

