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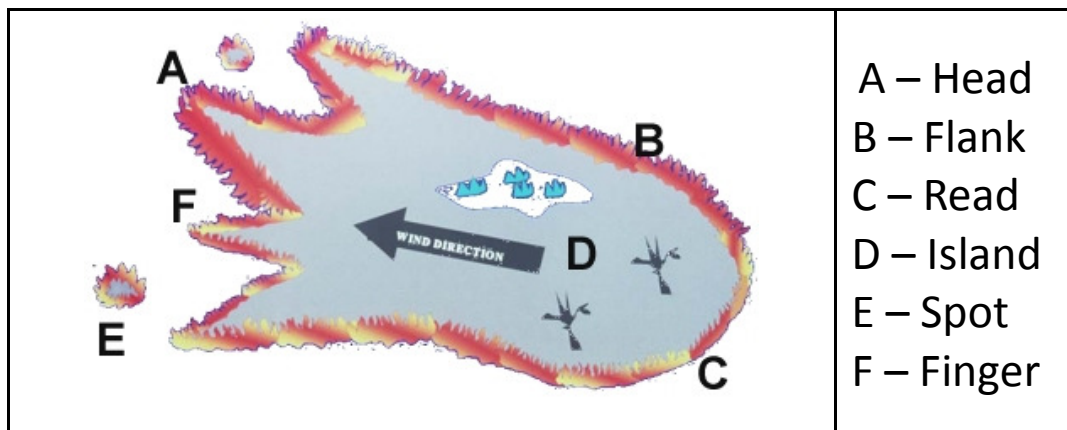
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## Snapshot Size-Up #117



### The WUI Fire Environment

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is defined as the area where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland. The expansion of these areas, due to increased population and real estate development has resulted in significant changes in the way we manage wildfires. The WUI creates an environment that challenges firefighters because the fire can rapidly move from vegetation to structural fuels increasing the likelihood that wildfires will threaten occupied structures and people. The first step firefighters must take when training for WUI fire response is to make sure they correctly identify the various sections of a fire. Doing so will help to ensure proper communications among all personnel working on the scene.



Deputy Chief Frank Viscuso is a twenty-year veteran of the fire service. He is a regular contributor to Fire Engineering Magazine & FireOpsOnline.com. He is also co-author of the book *Fireground Operational Guides* (PennWell 2011). The book features universal tactical worksheets and operational guides for more than 70 incidents that range from water, gas and electrical emergencies to multiple-alarm structure fires.