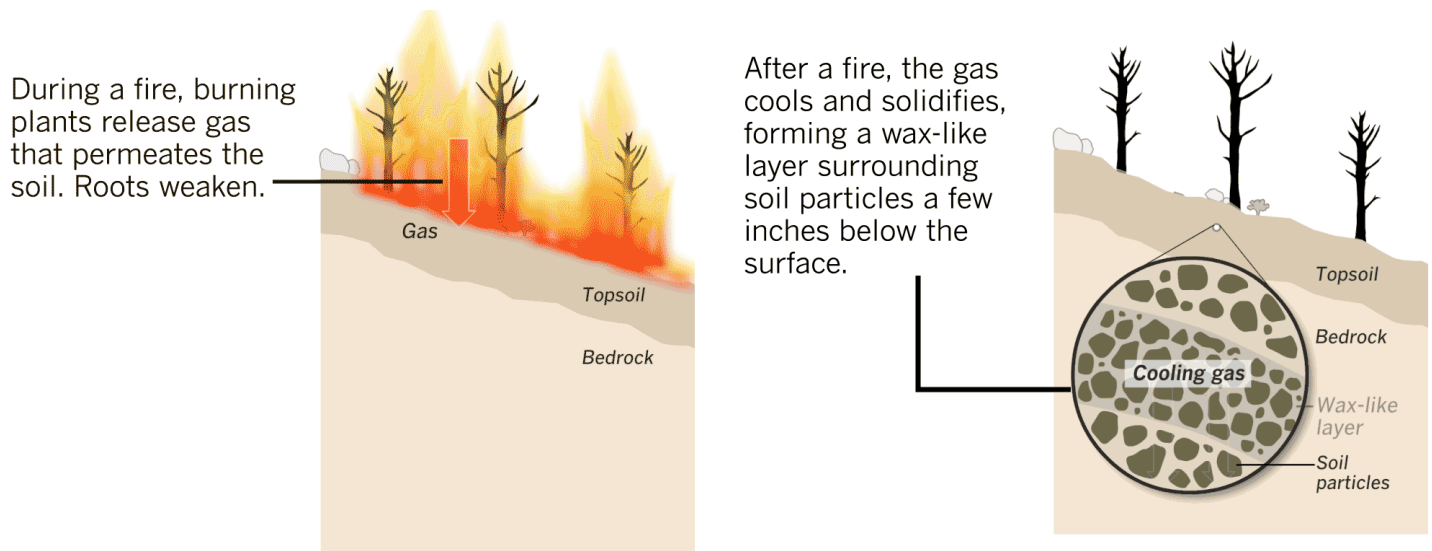


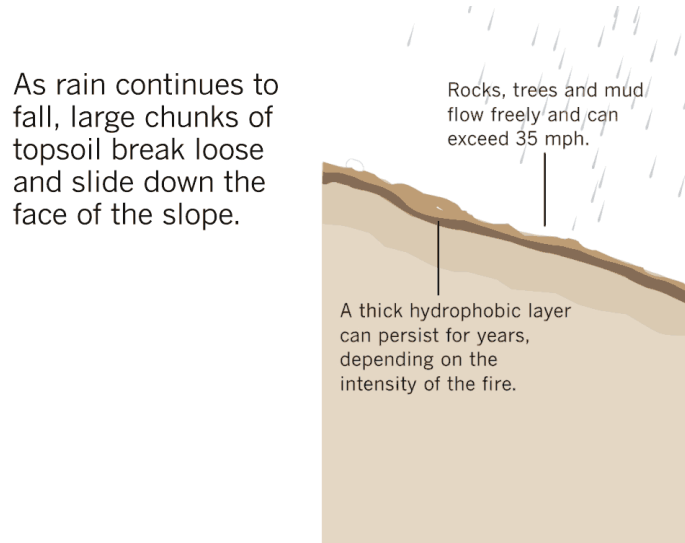
HYDROPHOBICITY—WHAT THE HECK IS THAT???

You've read in the Soil Burn Severity news release about how wildfire's change soils that can increase flood risk and the read the term, hydrophobicity, or water repellent soils caused by fires—how in the world does a fire create soils that are hydrophobic, what does it look like and what is the “so what” of hydrophobic soils? Let's take a look and see...



This wax-like surface creates a condition known as hydrophobicity. The hotter the fire, the deeper the hydrophobic layer that convert normally porous and sponge-like forest soils into hardened cement-like forest soils that readily shed water.

The end result can be what you see below



Fortunately, on the Tunnel Fire there are limited areas with deep fire-induced hydrophobic soils caused by the fire. BAER Team members are currently looking at the current soil burn severity to look at the potential for post-fire flooding, as well as erosion potential.