

# **BUSHFIRE ATTACK LEVEL**

# FOR FUTURE DWELLINGS

AT STAGE 14 BILLY'S LOOKOUT TERALBA

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Prepared for:	McCloy Teralba					
Reference No.	Teralba - McCloy					
Document Status & Date:	September 2018					

#### Disclaimer

Not withstanding the precautions adopted within this report, it should always be remembered that bushfires burn under a wide range of conditions. An element of risk, no matter how small always remains, and although the standard is designed to improve the performance of such buildings, there can be no guarantee, because of the variable nature of bushfires, that any one building will withstand bushfire attack on every occasion.



## **Executive Summary**

This report provides an assessment of the Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) at Stage 14 within Billy's Lookout, Teralba in accordance with AS3959 (2009) *Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas* Appendix A - Method 1 and Appendix B - Detailed Method 2. This report and mapping are not to be used to place wholesale restrictions on lots reflecting the resulting BAL mapping presented within. Future development of surrounding stages may result in lower BALs than detailed in this report.

This BAL report has shown that any future dwellings within the site will be able to meet the requirements of both AS3959-2009 and the addendum to Appendix 3 of Planning PBP 2006 (NSW Rural Fire Service NSW).



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#### **Disclaimer:**

The BALs as depicted within this report and mapping have been determined by management of vegetation to the east and south where land will be cleared for future stages. It should be noted that conditions may change over time that may result in different BALs for the lots.

Although every care has been taken in the preparation of this BAL Report, McCloy Teralba and the author accept no responsibility in errors in this report or damaged resulting from the information. It should be noted that upon lodgement of a Development Application (DA) with Council or Rural Fires Service they may recommend additional construction requirements (BALs).



# **Terms & Abbreviations**

Abbreviation	Meaning
APZ	Asset Protection Zone
AS2419 -2005	Australian Standard – Fire Hydrant Installations
AS3959-2009	Australian Standard – Construction of Buildings in Bush Fire Prone Areas
BAL	Bushfire Attack Level
BCA	Building Code of Australia
ВРА	Bush Fire Prone Area (Also Bushfire Prone Land)
BPL Map	Bush Fire Prone Land Map
BPMs	Bush Fire Protection Measures
EPA Act	NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
FDI	Fire Danger Index
FMP	Fuel Management Plan
ha	hectare
IPA	Inner Protection Area
LMCC	Lake Macquarie City Council
LGA	Local Government Area
OPA	Outer Protection Area
PBP	Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006
RF Act	Rural Fires Act 1997
RF Regulation	Rural Fires Regulation



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### I INTRODUCTION

Firebird ecoSultants Pty Ltd has been engaged by Teralba McCloys Pty Ltd to undertake a Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) report for Stage 14 at Billy's Lookout, Teralba hereafter referred to as the "site". Refer to Appendix A for Sales Plan.

This BAL report assess the application of Australian Standard AS3959-2009 'Construction of Buildings on Bushfire Prone Land' and Appendix 3 of Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006 (PBP, 2006).

AS3959 (2009) Appendix A – Method 1 and Appendix B - Detailed Method 2 has been used in this assessment. Assessment Method 2 provides for a site specific and accurate determination of the hypothetical radiant heat flux levels a bushfire could be expected to generate under certain environmental conditions. Assessment Method 2 is an approved methodology for bushfire risk assessment as per AS3959 – 2009.

This report has been prepared to provide guidance to prospective purchasers of what Bushfire Attack Levels (BALs) may be required for future dwellings within the site.

#### I.I Site Particulars

Locality:	Stage 14 at Billy's Lookout, Teralba		
LGA:	Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC)		
Forest Danger Index:	100		
Current Land Use:	Approved subdivision		



## 2 METHODOLOGY

The Australian Standard for assessing the BAL and providing the detailed requirements for construction has been reviewed and amended with the latest version being adopted for use in bushfire prone areas of NSW in May 2010. This version is titled AS 3959-2009 'Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas' (standards Australia 2009, incorporating amendment 1 (November 2009) and amendment 2 (February 2011), with amendment 2 being used in this assessment.

In addition, the NSW method of determining the bushfire attack level, found in Appendix 3 of the document 'Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006' (NSW Rural Fire Service 2006) has also been reviewed and amended to come into line with the process within AS 3959. Therefore, in NSW the methodology with AS 3959 is to be used to determine the bushfire attack level.

AS3959 (2009) Appendix A – Method 1 and Appendix B - Detailed Method 2 has been used in this BAL assessment. Assessment. Method 2 provides for a site specific and accurate determination of the hypothetical radiant heat flux levels a bushfire could be expected to generate under certain environmental conditions.

#### 2.1 Vegetation Assessment

Vegetation surveys and vegetation mapping carried out on the site has been undertaken as follows:

- Aerial Photograph Interpretation to map vegetation cover and extent.
- Confirmation of the vegetation assemblage typology present via a site inspection.

#### 2.2 Slope Assessment

Slope assessment has been undertaken as follows:

- Aerial Photograph Interpretation in conjunction with analysis of electronic contour maps with a contour interval of 10m.
- On site confirmation of slope measurements.



### **3 SITE ASSESSMENT**

A site inspection was undertaken on the site. The following assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of PBP (RFS, 2006) and AS3959-2009.

#### 3.1 Vegetation and Slope Assessment

An assessment of the slope affecting the bushfire behaviour was undertaken for a distance of 100m from the edge of the lot boundaries in the direction of the bushfire hazard. The slopes leading away from the site have been evaluated to identify both the average slope and by identifying the maximum slope present. These values help determine the level of gradient which will most significantly influence the fire behaviour of the site. Refer to Table 1 for Vegetation and Slope Assessment.

Direction from Site	Vegetation Classification	Effective Slope
North	Vegetation classified as open forest occurs adjacent to the site	7 Degrees Upslope
East	Land managed as an APZ until such time that development occurs	N/A
South	Vegetation classified as open forest occurs greater than 68 m away from the site	Downslope 0-5 degrees
West	Land managed as an APZ until such time that development occurs	N/A

#### Table 1 – Vegetation & Slope Assessment



## **4 BUSHFIRE ATTACK ASSESSMENT**

#### 4.1 Bushfire Attack Assessment

To determine the bush fire attack and required Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) for the proposed subdivision the following steps were followed:

- 1. Determination of the vegetation types within 100m of the site, as assessed in section 3 of this report.
- 2. Determination of the distance between the vegetation and future dwellings has been assessed in section 4.2 of this report.
- 3. Determination of the effective slope as assessed in section 3 of this report.
- 4. A FDI of 100 was determined for LMCC LGA.

#### 4.2 Determination of Bushfire Attack Levels

The results from the above steps were used to calculate the required BAL in accordance with both Method 1 and Method 2 of AS 3959 – 2009. Method 2 provides for a site specific and accurate determination of the hypothetical radiant heat flux levels a bushfire could be expected to generate under certain environmental conditions. Assessment Method 2 is an approved methodology for bushfire risk assessment as per AS3959 – 2009.

The results from this bush fire attack assessment are detailed below in Table 4-1– Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) Assessment and Figure 4-1 Bushfire Attack Level Map refer to Appendix B for Bushfire Attack Calculations used for the Open Forest to the north of the site. Method A was used for vegetation to the south.

Lot Number	Vegetation Type within 100m & Direction from future dwellings	Average Slope of Land (degrees)	Separation Distance from Identified Vegetation	Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)	Construction Section
	Open Forest to	pen Forest to Upslope 7 the north degrees	18-25m	BAL-29	Sect 3 & 7 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
	the north		26-47m	BAL-19	Sect 3 & 6 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix

Table 4-1:	Bushfire	<b>Attack Level</b>	Assessment
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Lot Number	Vegetation Type within 100m & Direction from future dwellings	Average Slope of Land (degrees)	Separation Distance from Identified Vegetation	Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)	Construction Section		
					3		
Lot 1402	Open Forest to	Upslope 7	18-25m	BAL-29	Sect 3 & 7 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3		
	the north	degrees	26-47m	BAL-19	Sect 3 & 6 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3		
Lot 1402	Open Forest to the north	Open Forest to	Open Forest to Upslope 7	Upslope 7	18-25m	BAL-29	Sect 3 & 7 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
Lot 1403		the north degrees	26-47m	BAL-19	Sect 3 & 6 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3		
Lot 1404	Lot 1404 Open Forest to the north	Open Forest to Upslope 7	18-25m	BAL-29	Sect 3 & 7 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3		
LOI 1404		the north degrees	26-47m	BAL-19	Sect 3 & 6 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3		
Lot 1405	Open Forest to the north		18-25m	BAL-29	Sect 3 & 7 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3		
				26-47m	BAL-19	Sect 3 & 6 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3	



Lot Number	Vegetation Type within 100m & Direction from future dwellings	Average Slope of Land (degrees)	Separation Distance from Identified Vegetation	Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)	Construction Section
Lot 1406	Open Forest to	Upslope 7	18-25m	BAL-29	Sect 3 & 7 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
LOUT406	the north	degrees	26-47m	BAL-19	Sect 3 & 6 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
Lot 1407	Open Forest to the north	Upslope 7	18-25m	BAL-29	Sect 3 & 7 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
		degrees	26-47m	BAL-19	Sect 3 & 6 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
Lot 1408	Open Forest to	Forest to Upslope 7	18-25m	BAL-29	Sect 3 & 7 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
	the north		26-47m	BAL-19	Sect 3 & 6 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
Lot 1409 Open Forest t the north	Open Forest to	Upslope 7	26-47m	BAL-19	Sect 3 & 6 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
		degrees	48-100m	BAL-12.5	Sect 3 & 6 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
Lot 1410	Open Forest to the north	Upslope 7 degrees	48-100m	BAL 12.5	Sect 3 & 5 of AS3959 and Sect



Lot Number	Vegetation Type within 100m & Direction from future dwellings	Average Slope of Land (degrees)	Separation Distance from Identified Vegetation	Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)	Construction Section
					A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
Lot 1411	Open Forest to the north	Upslope 7 degrees	48-100m	BAL 12.5	Sect 3 & 5 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
Lot 1412	Open Forest to the north and south	Upslope 7 degrees	48-100m	BAL 12.5	Sect 3 & 5 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
Lot 1413	Open Forest to the north and south	Upslope 7 degrees	48-100m	BAL 12.5	Sect 3 & 5 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
Lot 1414	Open Forest to the north and south	Upslope 7 degrees	48-100m	BAL 12.5	Sect 3 & 5 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
Lot 1415	Open Forest to the north and south	Upslope 7 degrees	48-100m	BAL 12.5	Sect 3 & 5 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
Lot 1416	Open Forest to the north	Upslope 7 degrees	48-100m	BAL 12.5	Sect 3 & 5 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
Lot 1417	Open Forest to the north	Upslope 7 degrees	48-100m	BAL 12.5	Sect 3 & 5 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix 3
Lot 1418	Open Forest to the north	Upslope 7 degrees	48-100m	BAL 12.5	Sect 3 & 5 of AS3959 and Sect A3.7 of PBP Addendum Appendix

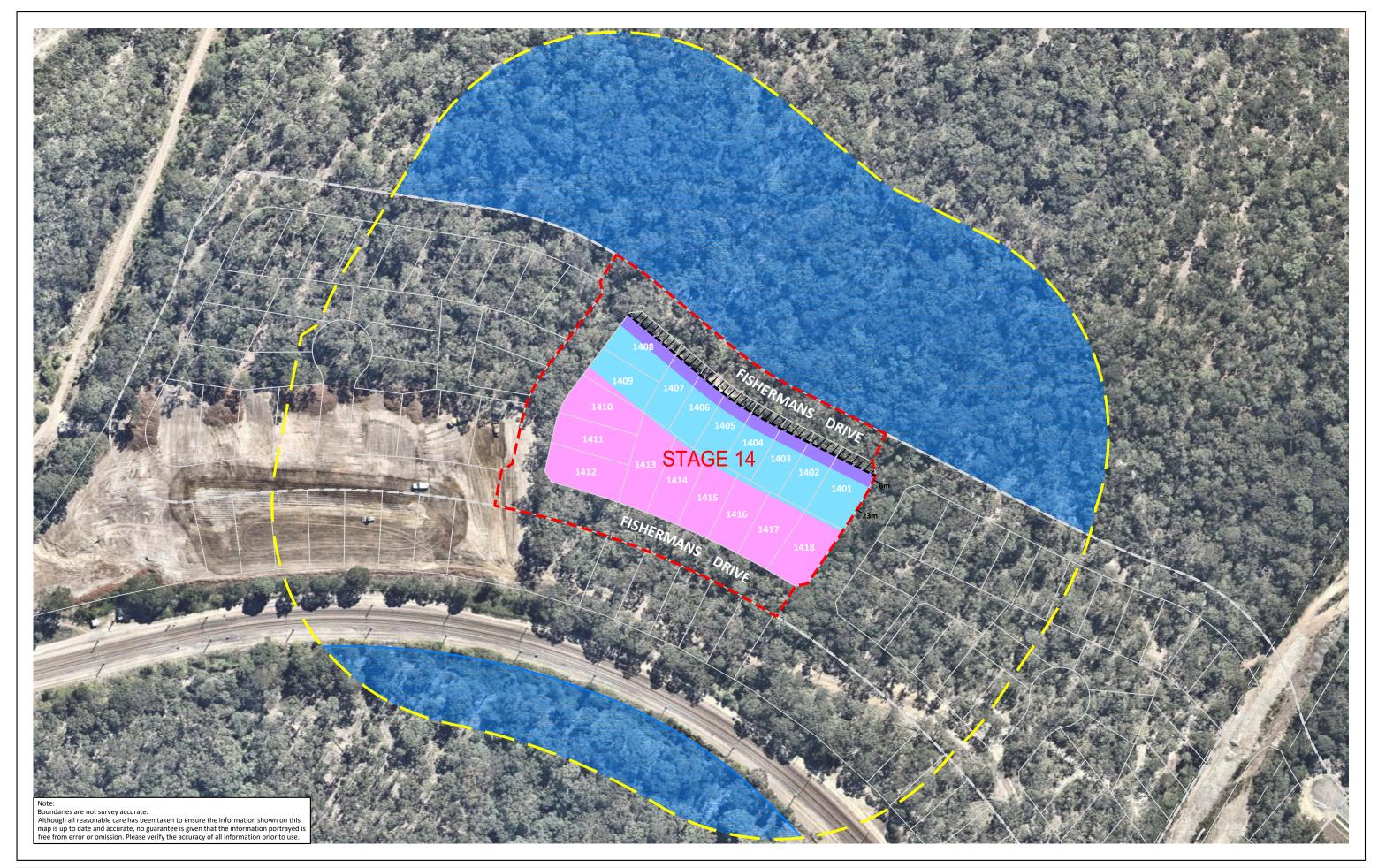


Lot Number	Vegetation Type within 100m & Direction from future dwellings	Average Slope of Land (degrees)	Separation Distance from Identified Vegetation	Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)	Construction Section
					3

\*To Note: The construction requirements for the next lower BAL than that determined for the site may be applied to an elevation of the building where the elevation is not exposed to the source of the bushfire attack. An elevation is deemed to be not exposed to the source of bushfire attack if all the straight lines between that elevation and the source of bushfire attack are obstructed by another part of the building. However, this does not apply to BAL-12.

No BALs applies to any future dwelling built greater than 100m from the Open Forest.

This report and mapping are not to be used to place wholesale restrictions on lots reflecting the resulting BAL mapping presented within. Building location and design will influence the application of the required BALs. For example, a lot indicated as being affected by BAL-29 may have those facades that are not exposed to the bushfire threat constructed to a lower BAL (i.e. BAL-19), reducing the costs of construction and providing more flexibility in choice of external building materials. Refer to Appendix B for Summary of AS3959-2009 Construction Standards and Appendix C for Additional Building Requirements.



#### FIGURE 4-1: BUSHFIRE ATTACK LEVELS

CLIENT SITE DETAILS DATE

McCloys Pty Ltd Stage 14 Billy's Lookout Teralba 11 October 2017









Level 1, 146 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW 2300 P O Box 354 Newcastle NSW 2300

Ref No 2198

Firebird ecoSultants Pty Ltd ABN - 16 105 985 993



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### 5 CONCLUSION

This report provides an assessment of the Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) in accordance with AS3959-2009 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas for Stage 14 at Billy's Lookout, Teralba.

This BAL report assess the application of Australian Standard AS3959-2009 'Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Land' and Appendix 3 of Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006 (PBP, 2006).

AS3959 (2009) Appendix B - Detailed Method 2 has been used in this BAL assessment. Assessment Method 2 provides for a site specific and accurate determination of the hypothetical radiant heat flux levels a bushfire could be expected to generate under certain environmental conditions. Assessment Method 2 is an approved methodology for bushfire risk assessment as per AS3959 – 2009.

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This BAL report has shown that any future dwellings within the site will be able to meet the requirements of both AS3959-2009 and the addendum to Appendix 3 of Planning PBP 2006 (NSW Rural Fire Service NSW).



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#### Disclaimer:

The BALs as depicted within this report and mapping have been determined by vegetation within 100m of Stage 14 at the time of the assessment September 2018. It should be noted that conditions may change over time that may result in different BALs for the lots.



### 6 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) 2006. Planning for Bushfire Protection: A guide for Councils, Planners, Fire Authorities, Developers and Home Owners. Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.
- Standards Australia. 2009. Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone Ares, AS3959, Third Edition 2009, Incorporating Amendment 1, Standards Australia International Ltd Sydney



# APPENDIX A SALE PLAN





# APPENDIX B BUSHFIRE ATTACK CALCULATIONS

AS3959	) (2009) Appendix I	3 - Detailed Method 2			04/00/0040	
( Print	Date: 19	/02/2019	Assessment Dat	:e:	24/09/2018	
Site Street Address:	Billys Looko	ut, Teralba				
Assessor:	Sarah Jones	; Firebird Eco				
Local Government Area:	Lake Macqua	arie	Alpine Area:		No	
Equations Used						
Transmissivity: Fuss and F Flame Length: RFS PBP, 3 Rate of Fire Spread: Noble Radiant Heat: Drysdale, 1 Peak Elevation of Receive Peak Flame Angle: Tan et	2001/Vesta/Cato e et al., 1980 985; Sullivan et r: Tan et al., 200	al., 2003; Tan et a	al., 2005			
Run Description:	/egetaation to	the north				
Vegetation Information	-					
Vegetation Type:	Forest		getation Group:		and Woodland	
Vegetation Slope:	7 Degrees		getation Slope Type:	• •	е	
irface Fuel Load(t/ha): 25		Ove	Overall Fuel Load(t/ha): 35			
Vegetation Height(m): 2		On	Only Applicable to Shrub/Scrub and Vesta			
Site Information						
Site Slope	0 Degrees	Site	e Slope Type:	Downs	slope	
Elevation of Receiver(m)	Default	AP	Z/Separation(m):	18		
Fire Inputs						
Veg./Flame Width(m):	100	Fla	me Temp(K)	1090		
Calculation Parameters	<u>s</u>					
Flame Emissivity:	95	Rel	ative Humidity(%):	25		
Heat of Combustion(kJ/kg	<b>g</b> 18600	Am	bient Temp(K):	308		
Moisture Factor:	5	FD	l:	100		
Program Outputs						
	ligh	Pea	ak Elevation of Recei	ver(m):	7.17	
Level of Construction: B	AL 29	Fire	e Intensity(kW/m):		33468	
Radiant Heat(kW/m2): 2	8.82	Fla	me Angle (degrees):		62	
Flame Length(m): 1	6.23	Ма	ximum View Factor:		0.446	
Rate Of Spread (km/h): 1	.85	Inn	er Protection Area(m	ı):	12	

Run Description:	Vegetation to the north			
Vegetation Information	on			
Vegetation Type:	Forest	Vegetation Group:	Forest and Woodland	
Vegetation Slope:	7 Degrees	Vegetation Slope Type:	Upslope	
Surface Fuel Load(t/ha)	: 25	Overall Fuel Load(t/ha): 35		
/egetation Height(m): 2		Only Applicable to Shrub/Scrub and Vesta		
Site Information				
Site Slope	0 Degrees	Site Slope Type:	Downslope	
Elevation of Receiver(n	n) Default	APZ/Separation(m):	26	
Fire Inputs				
Veg./Flame Width(m):	100	Flame Temp(K)	1090	
Calculation Paramete	ers			
Flame Emissivity:	95	Relative Humidity(%):	25	
Heat of Combustion(kJ/	′ <b>kg</b> 18600	Ambient Temp(K):	308	
Moisture Factor:	5	FDI:	100	
Program Outputs				
Category of Attack:	MODERATE	Peak Elevation of Receiver(m): 7.63		
Level of Construction:	BAL 19	Fire Intensity(kW/m):	33468	
Radiant Heat(kW/m2):	18.81	Flame Angle (degrees):	70	
Flame Length(m):	16.23	Maximum View Factor:	0.301	
Rate Of Spread (km/h): 1.85		Inner Protection Area(m	ו): 17	
Transmissivity:	0.822	Outer Protection Area(n	n): 9	