

TEMPERATURE OF THE DWELLINGUP FIRE

by W.R. Wallace

Mr. Williamson has given the temperature of the Dwellingup fire as at least 1214°F at 5'3" above ground level.

In the January, 1961 issue of "Fire Control Notes" there is a rather interesting article by Davis and Martin of the South Eastern Forest Experimental Station, U.S. Forest Service, which inter alia quotes some temperatures associated with head fires.

"At the 1' level the head fire temperatures rose abruptly to a maximum of about 1600°F . At the 4' level head fire temperature peaks barely exceeded 500°F ."

This would seem to indicate that under the conditions associated with these experimental fires, the temperature at 1' from the ground was roughly three times that at 4' and if this same comparison could be made between our temperature at 5'3" it could be assumed that the temperature at 1' from the ground was of the order of $3,500^{\circ}\text{F}$ to $4,000^{\circ}\text{F}$. While there is no valid reason for this assumption, it will be apparent to all foresters that the temperature close to the ground must be higher than that reached at 5'.
