



Sasamat Fire Department Incident Report



Incident: Structure Fire Turtlehead Rd, Belcarra

Date: April 9, 2017

Time: 12:52-19:09

Responding Members: 35

The SVFD was dispatched to a structure fire in Belcarra: likely the largest fire in community history.

The two homes were unoccupied at the time. As flames breached the first home, there were multiple 911 calls from North Vancouver and Belcarra residents. At 12:54, our Dispatch paged out our volunteers. Also at 12:54, the VPD Marine Unit, patrolling the area, took the first photograph of the incident (photo above). One house was engulfed in flames and the second was now on fire.



Our first engine arrived eight minutes later, roughly as the second photo was taken. Quickly surveying the scene, our crews focused on two things: attacking the fire spread on the second structure, and keeping the fire from spreading up the surrounding slopes to the rest of the peninsula.

As more firefighters arrived with additional trucks, hose lines, and equipment, our water flow reached its peak. Just over an hour into the fight, the municipal reservoir began to get low. Moving to “Plan B,” we shifted to secondary water sources.

Using hale pumps, crews attacked the fire from the ocean. Using tender shuttles, firefighters fed one engine with water, while our second engine continued to top up its supply from the nearest municipal hydrant.



Multiple trees did go up in flame and the fire threatened several times to migrate elsewhere, but the flames did not escape our defensive perimeter. After battling and containing the blaze, our crews moved onto a mop-up and overhaul phase, extinguishing hotspots and drowning embers. A fire patrol remained overnight, knocking down any areas that reignited. Final mop-up ended on April 10th. All together, 35 SVFD firefighters and all four of our fire trucks responded.

This fire was a tragic loss for the tenants and homeowners. One family lost their pet and business. Another tenant lost all their possessions. Two homeowners lost their houses. Fortunately, however, nobody was injured or killed. Containment also worked – the incident commander and firefighters did a spectacular job of holding the line.