



### K51121 - 2025

Fire K51121 was detected on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Peachland Fire Department was the first agency on scene, arriving at 14:19. This wildfire was ignited from a vehicle fire on highway 97C.

Suppression resources found Rank 4 fire behaviour on initial assessment (a highly vigorous surface fire with torching / passive crown fire). This was a wind driven fire, in an open (C7) fuel type. Winds speeds recorded at 10km/hr sustained with gusts of 21km/hr from the Northeast.

At the date of extinguishment, the fire had grown to 57 hectares. This was a multi-agency response effort, with BCWS crews, Peachland Fire Department, and aerial support on site.



Figure 1: Perimeter map of K51121. Fuel treatments are in green outline in the western part of the fire perimeter.

Figure 2: Image of smoke column above K51121. Photo taken July 30<sup>th</sup>, 15:25



## TREATMENT DETAILS



Figure 3: Smoke from fire K51121 and adjacent homes. Photo taken July 30<sup>th</sup>, 15:09

Pruning and Juvenile spacing were completed for this treatment in March of 2021. Objectives were to thin from below to reduce overall fuel loading and subsequent fire behaviour in the event of wildfire, directly adjacent to residences. The treatment was designed with potential for prescribed fire however was never burned.

Work was intended to be completed in the winter months to minimize soil disturbance, with low impact machinery.



## RESULTS

The treated area contributed to the success of air operations, allowing for better canopy penetration with retardant drops and bucketing. Homes adjacent to the treatment unit appeared to be well FireSmarted, supporting suppression efforts.

The fire was contained within one operational period.



Figure 4: Tanker drops on the west side of K51121 adjacent to Peachland.



## LESSONS LEARNED



Figure 5: View from the north of K51121 from birddog.

The Drought Hill (K51121) incident demonstrated the effectiveness of completed fuel treatment projects combined with FireSmart application.

While fuel treatment units around the community allowed for increased responder safety and improved effectiveness of firefighting operations in the Wildland Urban Interface, FireSmart work reduced the likelihood of ember ignition around the homes themselves and limited opportunities for surface and ladder fuels to carry fire toward structures. FireSmart practices also created safer, more workable spaces for firefighters during structure protection operations by reducing combustible materials around homes and critical infrastructure.

