

Rain helps firefighters in Burke

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The half inch of rain that fell last night should help speed up firefighters' progress on a fire that has been blazing since April 25 near Linville Gorge, according to public information officer Dyan Bone.

The terrain was too hazardous last night for firefighters to continue, but the rain kept up where they left off. Though the anticipated containment date given yesterday was May 9, Bone said last night the rain should speed things up significantly. Today, the acreage total is 2,265. The containment estimate is still 30 percent, but that figure is subject to change when the weather clears and firefighters can get an aerial view. The Linville River has blocked the spread to the east and firefighters have a handle on the western flank. Today, firefighters are preparing Conley Cove trail to be a potential northern boundary, should the fire spread.