

Good news for the approximately 300 firefighters in Linville- both the 500-acre Dobson Knob wildfire and the third blaze, 70 acres located near Cold Mountain in Avery County, had rain overnight.

According to spokesman Terry Seyden, firefighters are busy completing control lines on those fires.

While the fires are not contained, they are well on their way, he said.

In the meantime, the 700 acre wildfire near Shortoff Mountain is still causing problems.

The dry soil and kindling, as well as the steep conditions, are making the fight difficult for ground crews.

So what's the plan?

According to Seyden, firefighters today will be establishing fire lines outside the wildfire's perimeter. Bulldozers will be employed. Depending on tomorrow's weather, back-burning may be the next step.

Back-burning is where crews burn potential kindling to better establish containment lines. While firefighters do not have an estimate as to when the Shortoff fire will be contained, the Dobson Knob and Cold Mountain fires should be contained in the next few days. The forecast today calls for rain in the Shortoff area. Seyden, and the rest of the firefighters, hopes it holds true.