The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office issued a Level 2 Evacuation Notice on Monday for 49 residences located along the West Fork Trail Creek Road and other nearby addresses. The area is in the path of the Snowshoe Fire, which is moving to the southeast along the West Fork of Trail Creek.

Firefighters were able to aggressively attack the Snowshoe Fire at the south end directly with dozers on Monday as the layer of atmospheric smoke shaded the fire and decreased the fire intensity. Spotting was still an issue, however, and the smoke lowered visibility to the point that aircraft were not able to fly in the area until very late in the day. Firefighters worked on the ground to locate and suppress the spots, but are hoping the expected clearer air today will allow more hours of flight time. Structure protection is in place today to ensure everything possible is done to keep the fire away from homes. Several crews were added to further strengthen the night-time suppression effort. Oregon Department of Forestry and the Umpqua National Forest continue to share firefighting responsibilities.

In order to reduce travel time to the Snowshoe Fire, approximately 200 firefighters will move today from Team 6’s fire camp at Milo to the fire camp at the Joseph Stewart State Recreation Area that has been established by Team 13.

Crews are mopping up portions of the Miles Fire near residences, and structure protection is in place as needed. Fire activity was reduced Monday by the smoke layer, but is expected to increase as today’s predicted northwest winds clear the smoke from the area.

The Columbus Fire is burning most intensely on the southern flank. Heavy equipment is clearing lines around the fire, and the world’s largest sugar pine remains protected.

There have been some near misses along the Tiller-Trail highway. Travelers are asked to please drive carefully.