Most recent forecast for Cariboo

Valid as of 1140am Wednesday July 7 2021

SYNOPSIS: An upper trough will cross the southern Okanagan today. This will destabilize the airmass over the fire centre beginning early this afternoon. Scattered thundershowers will develop mostly over the Chilcotin and 100 Mile areas. Don't except much convection north and east of Williams Lake. Pressure gradients will increase over the Coast Range causing light- moderate and gusty westerlies over the Chilcotin and later in 100 Mile. Lighter winds east of the Fraser. Much stronger wind gusts can be expected anywhere near thundershowers today. Highs in the upper twenties to low thirties with RHs in the upper teens and twenties.

Isolated showers or thundershowers will continue well into this evening over the Chilcotin and south of Williams Lake east of the Fraser. Light-moderate and gusty westerlies will continue this evening with stronger gusts possible near thundershowers. A few clouds overnight. Lows in the upper single digits to low teens. Mostly fair RH recoveries; locally good.

On Thursday the airmass will be convectively unstable over much of the fire centre. Isolated thundershowers will develop with daytime heating. Sustained winds won't be quite as strong as today but strong wind gusts are possible again near convective cells. Temperatures and RHs similar with highs in the upper twenties to low thirties and RH's in the upper teens and twenties.

OUTLOOK: Friday to Sunday: On Friday a flat ridge develops over fire centre; atmosphere should be more stable with no convection or a very low probability of convection. Continuing warm with highs in the upper twenties to the low 30's ; RHs in the twenties and upper teens. Winds will be light and gusty westerlies in the Chilcotin; light southwesterlies east of Fraser.

On Saturday it looks like a weak trough or ripple in the upper flow will bring an increasing chance for isolated afternoon lightning or thundershowers east of the Fraser. Winds might pick up a little to light to moderate and gusty westerlies. But otherwise staying warm and dry with temperatures and RHs similar to Friday.

Sunday looks warm and mostly dry. There are hints of of convection in the models but too early to say where or how intense. Winds look lighter.

CONFIDENCE/DISCUSSION: Confident on light to moderate sustained westerly winds increasing especially over the Chilcotin. Looks like convection could be strong today with strong wind gusts and potential for 5 to 10 mm rainfall from the cells. With fairly, dry low levels in the atmosphere there could be wind gusts of 60 -70 km/h also possible near convection.

WINDS ALOFT PUNTZI:
2000m - NW 35 km/h
3000m - NNW 20 km/h

6 TO 10 DAY OUTLOOK: MONDAY TO FRIDAY of next week: As usual not a lot of confidence this far ahead. Can say pretty confidently that it WON'T be hot and temperatures should gradually drop down to seasonal values. A number of models are hinting that by the middle of next week 500mb heights could drop significantly with the 570 line dipping into or below the fire centre; an upper low ends up over northern BC Thursday or Friday. That would suggest below normal temps. Any associated rainfall amounts will depend on the exact track of the low.

ZONE FORECASTS:
WEST OF FRASER
TODAY: Becoming partly cloudy this afternoon. Scattered showers or thundershowers developing early this afternoon. Rainfall amounts 5 to 10 mm near convective cells. Winds becoming W 15-25 km/h gust 35-45. Possible gusts to 60-70 km/h near thundershowers. MAX TEMP 26-32 C. MIN RH 18-28%.

TONIGHT: Partly cloudy with isolated evening showers or thundershowers. A few clouds overnight. Winds W 15-25 km/h gust 35-45 easing to light after mid-night. MIN TEMP 7 to 13 C. MAX RH: 50%-75%.

THURSDAY: Sunny becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon. Isolated afternoon showers or thundershowers. Winds becoming W 10-20 km/h gust 30-35. Possible gusts to 50 km/h near thundershowers. MAX TEMP 26-32 C. MIN RH 16-26%.

CHANCE OF LIGHTNING/DRY LIGHTNING
Today: 40/20% Tonight 40%/20% Tomorrow: 30%/10%
Venting: Good due to daytime heating

EAST OF FRASER:
TODAY: Partly cloudy except mainly sunny north of Williams Lake. Isolated showers or thundershowers developing this afternoon south of Williams Lake and over 100 Mile area. Rainfall amounts 5 to 10 mm near convective cells. Winds W-NW 10-20 km/h G 20-25 this afternoon. Possible gusts 60 km/h near thundershowers. MAX TEMP: 26-33c . MIN RH: 15-25%.

TONIGHT: Partly cloudy. Isolated shower or thundershowers south of Williams Lake and over 100 Mile area this evening. Winds W-NW 15-20 G 30-35 easing after midnight. Potential wind gusts to 60 km/h near thundershowers. MIN TEMP: 8-14. MAX RH: 50-75%.

ThursDAY: Mainly sunny. Becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon with isolated showers or thundershowers. Winds W-NW 10-15 km/h G 20-25. Possible gusts 50 km/h near possible thundershowers. MAX TEMP: 26-32c . MIN RH: 18-28%.

CHANCE OF LIGHTNING/DRY LIGHTNING:
Today 30%/20% Tonight 30%/20% Tomorrow 30%/10%

Venting: Good during the afternoons due to daytime heating.

Qualifier	Strike Density Per 100KM x 100KM	Probability of Lightning	Probability of Intense Lightning
Isolated (ISOL)	1 - 5	< 40	Near 0
Scattered (SCT)	6 - 15	40 - 80	0 - 40
Frequent (FREQ)	15 - 30	60 - 100	40 - 80
Severe (SEV)	> 30	100	100

Only the qualifier will be used in the forecast.
Each describes the conditions listed to the right of it in the table

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