

BC Wildfire Service - Coastal Region - Fire Weather Forecast

Issued: 1300 PDT Tuesday August 29, 2023.

SYNOPSIS: Moist and unstable southeast flow aloft will prevail over the fire centre today as the main upper trough approaches the southwest coast of Vancouver Island. Cloudy skies and a few showers with isolated wet thundershowers are on tap for the Fraser/Pemberton/Sunshine Coast and Mid Coast zones. Meanwhile Vancouver Island should be lightning free with clouds and chance of showers. It will be cool with below seasonal temperatures everywhere. Cooling will finally reach the Fraser Canyon/Manning/upper Pemberton areas. At the surface, lower pressures in the BC Interior will continue to drive gusty S-SW inflow with speeds increasing to 20-30 km/h gust 40-60 across mainland valleys and inlets later this afternoon; stronger erratic gusts near convective cells are possible. Visibilities will still be limited in the Fraser Canyon from a combination of smoke and precipitation otherwise visibilities should be good across the centre.

Tonight, the upper trough continues inland and cuts off into an upper low which slides towards Spokane overnight. The resulting moist, easterly wrap-around flow will keep the Fraser and eastern Pemberton zones wet tonight. Isolated lightning will continue this evening over Fraser and Pemberton zones but lightning should end overnight. Some gusty inflow winds are expected to continue through mid-evening and then ease somewhat overnight. RH recoveries will be good.

Wednesday looks like an “in-between systems” day with the Spokane low moving into Alberta in the afternoon. Wrap-around showers over the eastern Fraser zone should ease in the morning. The rest of the fire centre looks dry with sunny periods. However, another upper trough moves down the coast to Haida Gwaii bringing late afternoon showers to Mid Coast and N Island with a few showers developing over rest of the south Wednesday night. No lightning is forecast anywhere. It will continue to be on the cool side with elevated RHs. Light and gusty S-SW inflow winds.

OUTLOOK: Thursday to Saturday: On Thursday the next upper trough continues down to the Lower Mainland splitting apart as it goes. Conditions will be mainly cloudy, cool with scattered showers for most of the south. Risk of thundershowers over the southern mainland. Winds will be light W-SW inflow (but lighter than today or Wednesday)

Friday and Saturday will be mainly sunny and warmer (but not hot) as an east-west ridge axis from the Gulf of Alaska works its way down to Vancouver Island. Pressure gradients shift and winds will become light morning N-NE outflow alternating with light afternoon NW inflow. A risk of lightning continues over Manning Park and the east side of the southern Coast Range for Friday afternoon; no lightning anywhere on Saturday. Potential for visibilities to degrade with smoke drift from the Interior.

CONFIDENCE/DISCUSSION: Less confident in the heavier rain amounts that we’ve been advertising for the Fraser Canyon. Still looks like 10-20 mm for many locales across the Fraser Zone tonight through Wednesday morning but high resolution models (in theory the most accurate) are showing ~5 mm or less now over the Canyon complex. But “regular models” still suggesting 10-15mm in that period for the Canyon. Still think the Canyon will take at least some rain but we probably don’t have to worry about slope stability and washouts.

Lightning today is less extensive over the southern mainland than expected, so far. Still expect isolated wet lightning to develop later this afternoon and continue this evening with a focus over

Fraser and Pemberton zones. Good confidence in no lightning for the Island, except near the southern Gulf Islands.

6 TO 10 DAY: Sunday to Thursday: Fair to good confidence. On Sunday the ridge breaks down and a wet cold front rapidly moves across the fire centre. Gustly W-NW winds will be associated with a risk of lightning. Thereafter it looks cool and showery as mean trough sets up over the Gulf of Alaska and sends a series of short waves across the coast.

ZONE FORECASTS

FRASER-PEMBERTON-SUNSHINE COAST

TODAY: Cloudy with a few showers. Isolated thundershowers developing this afternoon. MAX TEMP: 18 to 22C with 25C Fraser Canyon. MIN RH: 50 to 80%.

WINDS: S-SW inflow 20-30 km/h gust 40-60 km/h developing this afternoon. Stronger erratic gusts possible near thundershowers.

TONIGHT: Showers or periods of rain. Isolated evening thundershowers. Rainfall amounts 5 to 10 mm. MIN TEMP: 10 to 15C. MAX RH: 90-100%.

WINDS: S-SW inflow 20-30 km/h gust 40-60 km/h easing to S-SW 10-15 gust 20-30 this evening.

TOMORROW: Cloudy with sunny periods. Eastern sections-showers becoming isolated in the morning. Rainfall amounts 5 to 10 mm eastern sections in the morning. MAX TEMP: 19 to 23C. MIN RH: 40 to 60%.

WINDS: S-SW inflow 10 gust 20 km/h becoming 10-20 km/h gust 30 to 40 in the afternoon.

CHANCE OF LIGHTNING / DRY LIGHTNING Today: 30/0. Tonight: 30/0. Tomorrow: 0/0.

SOUTH ISLAND-MID ISLAND

TOMORROW: Mainly cloudy. Scattered showers. Isolated lightning extreme southern Gulf Islands. MAX TEMP: 18 to 22C MIN RH: 50-70%

WINDS: SW 10-20 km/h gust 30-40 .

TONIGHT: Mainly cloudy with isolated evening showers. MIN TEMP: 12 to 16C. MAX RH: 90-100%

WINDS: W-SW 15 G30 km/h easing overnight

TOMORROW: Cloudy with sunny periods. Chance of light rain in the evening. MAX TEMP: 20 to 25C MIN RH: 50-70%

WINDS: W-SW 10-20 km/h gust 25-35 .

CHANCE OF LIGHTNING / DRY LIGHTNING Today: 10/0. Tonight: 0/0. Tomorrow: 0/0.

MID COAST-N ISLAND

TOMORROW: Mainly cloudy with a few showers becoming isolated near the coast in the afternoon. Mid Coast inland – A few showers or isolated thundershowers. MAX TEMP: 17 to 20C. MIN RH: 50-70% .

WINDS: Becoming W 20-25 gust 40-50 km/h this afternoon especially Mid Coast inland.

TONIGHT. Mainly cloudy. A few evening showers or isolated thundershowers Mid Coast inland. MIN TEMP: near 10-14C. MAX RH: 90-100%.

WINDS: W-NW 20 km/h G40 easing to 10-20 km/h this evening.

TOMORROW: A mix of sun and cloud. Scattered showers developing late afternoon or in the evening. MAX TEMP: 17 to 21C. MIN RH: 50-70%.

WINDS: Becoming W 15 gust 30 km/h Mid Coast inland in the afternoon. S-SE 10-20 km/h exposed coastal areas.

CHANCE OF LIGHTNING / DRY LIGHTNING Today: 30/0 Tonight: 30/0. Tomorrow: 0/0.

HAIDA GWAI

TOMORROW: Partly cloudy. MAX TEMP: near 20C. MIN RH: 55-65%.

WINDS: SE 20 km/h.

TONIGHT: Mainly cloudy. MIN TEMP: near 13C. MAX: RH: 80-100%

WINDS: SE 10-20 km/h.

TOMORROW: Cloudy. A few showers beginning in the morning. MAX TEMP: near 18C. MIN RH: 70-75%.

WINDS: SE 20 km/h.

CHANCE OF LIGHTNING / DRY LIGHTNING Today: 10/0 Tonight: 0/0. Tomorrow: 0/0.

Lightning Descriptor Reference Table:

Description	Spatial Coverage
Nil	No lightning
Risk	Less than 20%
Isolated	20-40%
Scattered	40-60%
Widespread	Greater than 60%

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