

BC Wildfire Service - Coastal Region - Fire Weather Forecast

Issued: 1210 PDT Thursday August 31, 2023.

SYNOPSIS: An upper trough lies over the south coast today while an upper ridge is building over the Gulf of Alaska. An upper low near Abbotsford will maintain wrap around moisture over the Fraser and Pemberton zones through the afternoon. Showers will persist over the Fraser Canyon a little longer than thought yesterday. Elsewhere across the rest of the fire centre looking at sunny periods and, with some shallow instability, pop up showers redeveloping with daytime heating. Over the southern mainland where breaks in cloud occur there's a slight risk of afternoon lightning too. Seasonal or below seasonal temps today with highs in the upper teens to low 20s; mid 20s from inland Mid Island to N Island/Mid Coast inland. RHs will be generally elevated; values dropping to perhaps the low 30s over the sunnier Tweedsmuir area. The strong and gusty SW inflows of the last couple of days are gone as a sharp surface ridge develops near Haida Gwaii. In the south light to moderate NW winds prevail down the inner Straights with light Nly outflow over the mainland valleys. Mid Coast and N Island will see stronger and gustier W-NW winds.

Tonight, the Gulf of Alaska upper ridge axis reaches Haida Gwaii and the upper low drops down into the northwestern U.S. leaving the fire centre in dry north to northeast flow aloft. Clear skies or clearing with good RH recoveries. Low cloud and fog patches redeveloping near N Island/Mid Coast coastal areas. Moderate NW winds will continue down the inner straights. Light N-NE outflow over the inland valleys of Vancouver Island and the Mainland will prevail as a thermal trough forms over Vancouver Island.

Friday will be sunny and warmer as the upper ridge axis slides down to Mid Coast and the surface thermal trough persists over Vancouver Island. Inland highs rebounding to near 30C; min RHs dropping to the upper 20s and 30s. Light and gusty N-NE outflow will persist through inland valleys and inlets all day while moderate and gusty NW winds blow through the inner Straights. Haziness will develop in general across the coast as outflow winds cause smoke to advect back from the interior fires and the airmass becomes a bit more stable. But the latest transport models don't show significant visibility reductions.

OUTLOOK: Saturday to Monday: Saturday continues sunny and warm with highs near 30C inland and minimum RHs in the 30s. RH recoveries may only be fair Friday night. The northerly outflow wind pattern switches to light S-SW inflow Saturday afternoon. Some haziness is possible with smoke drift from the interior.

The ridge breaks down late Sunday and a wet-ish cold front sweeps through the fire centre bringing and increase in SW inflow winds, significant cooling and a risk of lightning. The models have been a little inconsistent with the strength of this feature and hopefully we will start to see more consistency in a few more model runs.

Monday will be an in-between systems day across the south. Mainly cloudy and cool with morning showers and weaker inflow winds; the next strong front will bring rain and wind to Haida Gwaii and Prince Rupert late in the day.

CONFIDENCE/DISCUSSION: Good confidence in the warming pattern coming for Friday and Saturday. Fair confidence on Sunday's cold front; the timing has been pretty consistent but rain amounts and wind intensity haven't. Hopefully these details will become clearer over the next couple of model runs.

6 TO 10 DAY: Tuesday to Saturday of next week: Fair to good confidence. Models support an extended downturn in fire weather. Monday's Haida Gwaii front will work its way slowly down the coast and reach the Lower Mainland Tuesday night or early Wednesday. Then another strong front with rain and wind is set to move through the fire centre Friday or Saturday.

ZONE FORECASTS

FRASER-PEMBERTON-SUNSHINE COAST

TODAY: Mainly cloudy. A few showers becoming isolated this afternoon for eastern Fraser/Pemberton zones. Risk of afternoon thundershowers. Sunny periods over Sunshine Coast. MAX TEMP: 19 to 23C. MIN RH: 50 to 70%.

WINDS: Outflow N-NE 10-20 km/h far inland with W-NW inflow 5-15 closer to Georgia Straight.

TONIGHT: Clearing. MIN TEMP: 9 to 13C. MAX RH: 90-100%.

WINDS: Outflow N-NE 10-20 km/h inland valleys. W-NW 20-40 km/h in Georgia Straight

TOMORROW: Sunny. MAX TEMP: 23 to 30C. MIN RH: 28 to 40%.

WINDS: N-NE outflow 10-15 km/h gust 20-30. Winds becoming W-SW inflow 10-20 km/h in the afternoon near-coastal valleys. NW 20-40 km/h near Georgia Straight.

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

SOUTH ISLAND-MID ISLAND

TODAY: Partly sunny. Slight chance afternoon showers. MAX TEMP: 20 to 24 C. MIN RH: 45-65%

WINDS: NW-NE 5 to 15 km/h with NW 15-30 km/h near Georgia Straight.

TONIGHT: Mainly clear. MIN TEMP: 11 to 14C. MAX RH: 90-100%

WINDS: Variable 5 to 15 km/h with NW 20 to 40 km/h near Georgia Straight.

TOMORROW: Sunny. MAX TEMP: 23 to 30 C. MIN RH: 25-40%

WINDS: NW-NE 10-20 km/h with NW 20-40 km/h prevailing near Georgia Straight.

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

MID COAST-N ISLAND

TODAY: Clearing. MAX TEMP: 19 to 25C. MIN RH: 50-70% to 30-40% Tweedsmuir.

WINDS: W-NW 20-30 km/h gust 40-50 near mid-day.

TONIGHT: Clear. Low cloud/fog patches developing near the coast overnight. MIN TEMP: 9-12C. MAX RH: 90-100%.

WINDS: W-NW 20 km/h G40-50 persisting near the coast tonight. Inland Mid Coast W-NW inflow easing this evening and becoming N-NE outflow 10-20 km/h overnight.

TOMORROW: Sunny. Morning low cloud and fog patches. MAX TEMP: 21 to 29C inland. MIN RH: 50-70% to 25-35% inland

WINDS: W-NW 20-30 km/h gust 40-50 exposed coastal areas. Inland Mid Coast NE outflow 10-20 km/h in the morning becoming W-NW 20-40 km/h in the afternoon.

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

HAIDA GWAI

TODAY: Cloudy with partial afternoon clearing. MAX TEMP: near 20C. MIN RH: 55-70%.

WINDS: NW 20 km/h.

TONIGHT: Partly cloudy. MIN TEMP: near 14C. MAX: RH: 90-100%

WINDS: NW 20 km/h.

TOMORROW: A mix of sun and cloud. MAX TEMP: near 22C. MIN RH: 50-65%.

WINDS: N to NW 20 km/h.

CHANCE OF LIGHTNING / DRY LIGHTNING Today: 0/0 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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