

BC Wildfire Service - Coastal Region - Fire Weather Forecast

Issued: 1230 PDT Friday September 1, 2023.

SYNOPSIS: Today will be sunnier and warmer across the fire centre as an upper ridge axis flops over and across the Mid Coast while a surface thermal trough sets up over Vancouver Island. Fog and stratus over Queen Charlotte and Johnstone Strait will dissipate early this afternoon. Highs today will rebound to the upper 20s to near 30C; minimum RHs drop to the upper 20s and 30s. Light and occasionally gusty N-NE outflow will persist through inland valleys and inlets most of the day while moderate and gusty NW winds blow through the inner Straights. Mainland valleys close to the coast (e.g., Sea to Sky and lower Fraser Valley) will get a switch to inflow W to SW winds late this afternoon; Mid Coast inland will see moderate and gusty W-NW inflow developing this afternoon.

Tonight will be mostly clear and dry with the upper ridge axis across Mid Island and the surface thermal trough persisting across the south. Light N-NE outflow winds will prevail through the mainland valleys and inlets with moderate NW winds blowing down the inner Straights. RH recoveries trending towards fair especially for mid slope locations while sheltered valley bottoms will be good.

Saturday, the upper ridge is getting squeezed out across South Island while a short-wave upper trough reaches Haida Gwaii. Overall, it looks like a sunny and warm day with highs near 30C inland and minimum RHs in the 20s and 30s. Light northerly outflow winds in the morning will switch to light and gusty S-SW inflow Saturday afternoon and evening as the thermal trough shifts inland. By Saturday night the upper ridge is gone, and a short-wave trough moves through the Cariboo creating northwest flow aloft over the fire centre. Gusty S-SW Inflow winds will likely persist Saturday night over the Mainland inlets and valleys including over the Fraser Canyon area.

Some haziness may develop across the south coast today and Saturday as outflow winds cause smoke to advect back from the interior fires and the airmass becomes more stable. But the latest transport models don't show significant visibility reductions.

OUTLOOK: Sunday to Tuesday: Sunday's maps show troughy northwest flow aloft across the fire centre. The cold front the models had shown is not really apparent in the charts anymore. In terms of weather, we'll see partly cloudy skies, isolated showers (best chance over Fraser Zone) with a slight risk of thundershowers near the southern Coast Range. Winds will be light and occasionally gusty SW inflow but not as strong as previously thought. Temperatures should drop to the low to mid twenties with an uptick in RH's.

Monday looks like an in-between systems day across the south with westerly flow aloft, though some guidance show a weak shortwave trough coming through. Highs will be in the low to mid 20s with elevated RHs and SW inflow winds. Could still see showers over the west facing slopes on the Mainland, particularly through the Fraser zone. Probably no lightning.

The next front and trough will reach Haida Gwaii Monday afternoon and then move down through the southern half of the Fire Centre on Tuesday. The latest runs are trending a bit faster with this feature. This system looks quite wet from North Island and northwards but its not clear yet how much rain the south will get.

CONFIDENCE/DISCUSSION: Good confidence in the short term warm up today and Saturday. More confident that we won't see a significant wind event on Sunday. It looks like a switch to somewhat gusty inflow winds late Saturday. Perhaps the most significant thing to note is the inflow will stay elevated Saturday night through the mainland valleys including the Fraser Canyon area. If anything, winds may start to decrease a little during the day on Sunday.

6 TO 10 DAY: Wednesday to Sunday of next week: Fair. The upper pattern remains troughy and fall-like through Friday with probably one more system moving through the fire centre. By next weekend there's developing consensus amongst the models that an upper ridge will re-develop for a return to summer like conditions.

ZONE FORECASTS

FRASER-PEMBERTON-SUNSHINE COAST

TODAY: Sunny. Except partly cloudy near Manning Park. MAX TEMP: 23 to 29C. MIN RH: 28 to 40%.

WINDS: N-NE outflow 8-15 km/h gust 20-25. Winds becoming W-SW inflow 10-20 km/h in the afternoon near-coastal valleys. NW 20-40 km/h near Georgia Straight.

TONIGHT: A few clouds. MIN TEMP: 11 to 14C. MAX RH: 50-70% mid slope and 70-90 valley bottoms.

WINDS: Outflow N-NE 5-15 km/h inland valleys. W-NW 20-40 km/h in Georgia Straight

TOMORROW: Mainly sunny. Hazy. MAX TEMP: 25 to 31C. MIN RH: 22 to 40%.

WINDS: N-NE outflow 5-15 km/h in the morning. Becoming W-SW inflow 10-20 km/h gust 30-40 in the afternoon.

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

SOUTH ISLAND-MID ISLAND

TODAY: Sunny. MAX TEMP: 24 to 30 C. MIN RH: 25-40%

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

TONIGHT: Mainly clear. MIN TEMP: 10 to 14C. MAX RH: 90-100%

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

TOMORROW: Mainly Sunny. MAX TEMP: 26 to 31 C. MIN RH: 28-45%

WINDS: Variable 5 to 10 km/h becoming S-W 10-20 km/h in the afternoon.

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

MID COAST-N ISLAND

TODAY: Sunny with cloudy periods. Low cloud and fog patches dissipating early this afternoon. MAX TEMP: 20 to 28C 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 5-15 km/h becoming W-NW 20 gust 40 km/h in the afternoon.

TONIGHT: A few clouds. Low cloud/fog patches developing near the coast overnight. MIN TEMP: 10-13C. MAX RH: 90-100%.

WINDS: W-NW 20 km/h G40-50 persisting near the coast. Inland Mid Coast W-NW inflow easing this evening.

TOMORROW: Partly cloudy. Morning low cloud and fog patches over the coast. MAX TEMP: 21 to 27C inland. MIN RH: 50-70% to 25-35% inland

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

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

HAIDA GWAI

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

WINDS: N to 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 20C. MIN RH: 55-70%.

WINDS: 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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