



Warming, Dry, and Windy Conditions Lead to Fire Concerns

The Weekend of September 26, 2020

National Weather Service - SF Bay Area/Monterey

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Key Points - Expected Impacts

- Fire Weather Watches will go in effect Saturday morning at 11:00 AM PDT for the North Bay Mountains and East Bay Hills
- Significant increases in temperature forecasted this weekend
- Chances for gusty offshore winds
- Drier conditions with reduced overnight humidity recoveries
- Northwest swell arriving Friday morning will bring increased wave heights

Changes From Previous Briefing

Fire Weather Watches have been issued and will go in effect Saturday at 11:00 AM PDT.

Confidence and Details

North Bay Mountains and East Bay Hills

HIGH Confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Temperatures 90-100°● Low relative humidity● Poor nighttime humidity recoveries● Increased fire weather concerns
MODERATE Confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Moderate to strong offshore winds● Strong wind gusts
LOW Confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Duration of offshore winds● Temperature relief next week

Details:

Saturday and Sunday

- Fire Weather Watches will go in effect Saturday morning at 11:00 AM PDT.
- Well above average temperatures, 90-100 degrees.
- Strong offshore winds with 50 mph gusts possible at the highest peaks.
- Low relative humidity, with poor humidity recovers overnight.
- Warm, but not excessive overnight lows.

Inland Areas

HIGH Confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Warming weekend temperatures with well above average highs● Lowering relative humidity● Well above average temperatures
MODERATE Confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Drying conditions and poor nighttime humidity recoveries● Moderate to strong offshore winds
LOW Confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Max wind speeds● Duration of offshore winds● Temperature relief next week

Details:

Saturday and Sunday

- Sharp increases in high temperature: 15-20 degrees above average. Highs from 90 to 100
- Increasing offshore winds with gusty conditions.
- Drying air with limited nighttime humidity recovery.
- Warm, but not excessive overnight lows.

Coastal Areas

HIGH Confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Decreased marine layer development● Notable warming of temperatures
MODERATE Confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Drier conditions● Moderate offshore winds
LOW Confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Exact temperatures● Max wind speeds● Temperature relief next week

Details:

Saturday and Sunday

- Moderate increases in high temperature: 10 to 15 degrees above average.
- Limited marine layer development.
- Increasing offshore winds with gusty conditions.
- Drying air with limited nighttime humidity recovery.
- Moderate increases in overnight lows.

Northwest Swell Arrives Friday

HIGH Confidence

A longer period NW swell will drive late Thursday/early Friday morning along the coast

LOW Confidence

Exact wave height
Exact timing

Details:

A northwest swell is forecast to arrive late this week

- Longest period swell will arrive late Thursday evening/early Friday morning
- Swell height expected to be over 12 feet
- Increased risk of high wave breaks near the shoreline and rip currents
- Decreasing to more moderate period northwest swell by Saturday

Weather Summary

Update 1 (9/22/2020): Fire Weather Watches have been issued and will go in effect Saturday at 11:00 AM PDT. The areas affected will include the North Bay Mountains and the East Bay hills.

Original Summary(9/21/2020): After days of cool and near average temperatures during the work week, the forecast is indicating a sharp increase in temperature this weekend. As high pressure builds over Northern CA and Oregon, the Bay area and Central Coast will begin to see a warmer and drier air mass filtering into the region. For those visiting the ocean this weekend, a larger northwest swell arrives early Friday morning. This swell will provide higher wave heights and an increase in risk of rip currents. Offshore wind will become a concern into the weekend as they become breezier and more widespread. Some of the upper altitudes and highest peaks of the area could see above 35 mph gusts. Those increasing offshore winds, coupled with warming temperatures and low humidity, lead to fire weather concerns. In the extended forecast, above normal temperatures will continue into the next work week.

For the latest forecast updates, visit www.weather.gov/BayArea

For all current watch/warning/advisories,
<https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/hazardSummary/?wfo=MTR>

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