

## **Significant Wind Event Predicted for Sunday Night Through Monday**

### **Local News**

Posted by:

Posted on : March 10, 2012 at 3:39 pm

**MONTESANO, Wash.** - The National Weather Service in Seattle is currently tracking a very strong storm approaching Washington. After talking to the forecasters, the consensus is that this *WILL* be much more than a seasonal strong wind event. Models are showing sustained winds 35-45 mph, gusting 50- 60+ mph range beginning late Sunday night and lasting well into the night Monday. Even if the storm passes far from the coast, gusts will still exceed 50 mph. Winds of this strength can cause damage to property and carry a very high potential to produce localized power outages due to downed trees and power lines. Grays Harbor County Emergency Management will be in contact with the National Weather Service throughout the weekend to provide updates to the citizens and news media. **Chuck Wallace**

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SYNOPSIS:** A cooler air mass will settle over the area through Saturday night with some mountain snow and cooler temperatures. On Sunday a rapidly intensifying storm is forecast to pass northward over the outer Washington coastal waters late Sunday night through the day on Monday. With the cooler air mass over the area and offshore flow Sunday night into early Monday morning, there is a threat of lowland snow, or a mix of rain and snow, in the vicinity of the Hood Canal and lower Chehalis region. Temperatures will moderate quickly on Monday ending the threat.

Of greater concern is the potential for strong winds for portions of western Washington as the deepening surface low tracks north over the coastal waters beginning early in the morning and through much of the day on Monday. Current model forecasts have the surface low remaining offshore from the Washington Coast before passing near the northern tip of Vancouver Island and weakening Monday evening. This scenario would limit the threat of strong winds mainly to the Washington Coast. However, if the storm tracks closer to the coast or inland across Washington, it raises the threat of strong winds for portions of the interior of western Washington as well.

**POTENTIAL IMPACTS:** Lowland snow or a rain/snow mix for favored locations such as Hood Canal and the lower Chehalis area. While little accumulation is expected, the timing of snow, or a rain/snow mix, could briefly impact travel especially early Monday morning. Strong and potentially damaging winds for the Washington Coast. **TIMING:** Potential lowland snow and/or a rain/snow mix is for late Sunday night into early Monday morning, before switching over to rain with more moderate temperatures by the mid-morning hours on Monday. Strengthening winds along the coast late Sunday night through Monday, with winds decreasing as the surface low passes north of the West Entrance of the Strait of Juan de Fuca late in the afternoon. **FORECAST CONFIDENCE:** **Higher Confidence:** Significant and potentially damaging winds for the Washington Coast. Significant winds and heavy seas for the Coastal Waters of Western Washington as well as portions of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Northern Interior Waters and Admiralty Inlet. Snow/rain mix with little or no accumulation for the Hood Canal and Lower Chehalis Region. **Lower Confidence:** Significant and potentially damaging winds for the interior of western Washington, such as the North Interior, Admiralty Inlet and portions of the South Puget Sound. This scenario is very dependent on the track of the deepening low moving

closer to the Washington coast or inland further South than currently forecast.- Significant accumulations (greater than 1 ") of snow for favored areas late Sunday night into early Monday morning.