

Cold front, strong wind gusts forecasted tonight

Written by Terry Mathews

Tuesday, 11 March 2014 11:39

It's no coincidence that Texas weather is known to be a bit capricious at best — some might even say bipolar in its extremes.

Take the last week for example. Conditions went from icy with temperatures in the teens last Monday and hovered in around freezing for the first half of the week, only to rebound into the high 50s Saturday, then peak at 74 yesterday, with an overnight low of 56.

Hence that well known Tex-ism, "If the you don't like the weather in Texas, stick around; it'll change."

That seems to be the case this week, as far as forecasts go. Temperatures have been climbing the last few days, making it seem as if spring had finally arrived along with the annual time change and just in time for spring break.

But, tonight's forecast seems to mock such wishful thoughts — reminding us not to put away our jackets just yet. A cold front is expected to roll across all of North and Central Texas tonight, prompting a wind advisory starting at 10 p.m. Tuesday and continuing until 1 p.m. Wednesday.

The cold front, according to National Weather Service forecasters, will move across the Red River after sunset, resulting in north winds of 25 to 30 miles per hour, with gusts up to 40 to 45 mph at times.

The strongest winds will lag behind the front by a couple of hours. The leading edge of the front is expected to reach the Dallas-Fort Worth area before midnight and should be across the Temple/Killeen area a couple of hours later.

When the winds are at their strongest, sustained at 30 mph gusting to 45 mph, driving will become difficult for high profile vehicles, particularly on east-to-west-oriented highways.

Otherwise, any lightweight outdoor objects not properly secured are likely to be blown around by strong winds. Thus, NWS forecasters encourage residents to take action to secure trash cans, lawn furniture, and other lightweight outdoor objects that may be blown around in the strong winds.

Boaters are also advised to use extra caution when venturing onto area lakes.

Also, outdoor burning is not recommended during wind advisories as the gusts can carry sparks and quickly spread blazes across large areas, particularly areas with dry or dead grass and vegetation.