

Torrential Rain and Vicious Wind Wallop Northern California

By Tyler J. Jankoski

A menacing cold front has its eyes set on the northern California coast. The front will dump a copious amount of rain on the region and the wind will make the Redwoods a tad tipsy. More than a half-foot of rain will fall in the mountains and the wind will gust higher than 50mph. This seems too tough of a punch for a cold front to pack, but other factors are aiding in the treacherous weather. The Sierra Nevada Mountains in northern California are more than 10,000 feet tall. When the front approaches the mountain range, air is forced to rise rapidly. This rising process squeezes moisture out from the clouds and dramatically enhances rainfall amounts on the upslope side of mountains. Since the front is moving into the area from the Pacific, the Pacific-facing mountain slopes will receive the most rain. The wind is also projected to be exceptionally strong for a cold front. Mixing is the process delivering this meteorological madness to the surface. At only 2,500 feet about the ground, winds speeds are more than 70mph. With drenching downpours encompassing the area, the strong winds will be carried down to the surface along with the rain. The mixing process often bridges the upper-air weather with the surface weather. In this case, mixing is dealing a negative blow to northern California. Although the cold front and the worst affects will move east of the region by Saturday morning, a dismal, wet weather lock is clamped on us for the foreseeable future.