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FOCN45 CWWG 211200

SIGNIFICANT WEATHER DISCUSSION ISSUED BY THE PRAIRIE AND ARCTIC STORM PREDICTION CENTRE OF ENVIRONMENT CANADA AT 7:00 AM CDT SATURDAY MARCH 21 2015.

ALERTS IN EFFECT...SNOWFALL WARNING FOR NORTHWESTERN AB, FOG ADVISORY FOR SOUTH CENTRAL AB.

SYNOPTIC OVERVIEW...LOW SPINNING AROUND OVER THE GULF OF ALASKA. 1034 MB HIGH NEAR GREAT SLAVE LAKE WITH RIDGE NORTH OVER THE WESTERN ARCTIC ISLANDS AND SOUTH ACROSS THE PRAIRIES. 1003 MB LOW OVER NORTHERN QUEBEC WITH COLD FRONT TRAILING BACK ACROSS THE NORTHERN STATES AND THE BAROCLINIC ZONE CONTINUING NORTHWESTWARD ACROSS THE ALBERTA ELBOW AND INTO THE GULF OF ALASKA LOW.

DISCUSSION.

PRAIRIES...AT 06Z, AN IMPULSE OVER SOUTHWEST SK IS PRODUCING SNOW JUST NORTH OF THE FRONT FROM KINDSERLEY TO CARLYLE. 5 CM CAN BE EXPECTED WITH THIS SWATH. THIS IS JUST A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME, FOR NEXT IMPULSE WILL BE MAKING ITS PRESENCE FELT LATER TODAY INTO SUNDAY.

BEFORE IT GETS TO SK THIS IMPULSE WILL DROP 10CM OF SNOW THROUGH GRANDE PRAIRIE/PEACE RIVER/WHITECOURT REGIONS THROUGH TO WESTLOCK/SLAVE LAKE/WABASCA REGIONS TODAY BEFORE WEAKENING SLIGHTLY AS IT CONTINUES TO DROP 5-10 FOR LLOYDMINSTER AND FURTHER EAST. AMOUNTS WILL BE VARIABLE FROM THIS SYSTEM DUE TO WIDE RANGE OF DGZ DEPTH AND PATCHES OF INSTABILITY.

FURTHER SOUTH, LOTS OF INSTABILITY THROUGH CENTRAL AB (JASPER TO LLOYD) THIS AFTERNOON MEANS EVENING AND OVERNIGHT SNOWFALL AMOUNTS IN THESE AREAS COULD BE ABOVE 10CM AS WELL. PROBLEM IS THE MODELS HAVE BEEN CHANGING LOCATION OF THE PRECIP BAND AND HOW QUICKLY PRECIP WILL CHANGE FROM RAIN TO SNOW SO RIGHT NOW THERE ISN'T ENOUGH CONFIDENCE TO ISSUE ASSOCIATED WARNINGS. THIS AREA WILL BE CLOSELY WATCHED DURING THE DAY.

LOW PASSAGE THROUGH SOUTHERN AB COMPLETES THE ALREADY BUSY WEATHER PICTURE. THE LOW IS PROGGED TO SETUP VERY CLOSE TO RED DEER BEFORE CONTINUING EASTWARD. THE SOUTHEASTERLY UPSLOPE FLOW AHEAD OF THE LOW HAS CREATED A PERSISTENT AREA OF FOG PARTICULARLY IN CALGARY AND SURROUNDING AREAS WHICH SHOULD QUICKLY DRY UP LATER THIS MORNING ONCE WESTERLY FLOW SETS UP. THERE IS LOTS OF INSTABILITY JUST SOUTH OF THE LOW WHICH SHOULD BRING SHOWERS WITH A RISK OF WEAK THUNDERSTORMS FOR MUCH OF SOUTHERN AB. AS THE SYSTEM CROSSES INTO SK A PUSH OF WARMER AIR CREATES AN AFL AND A GOOD CHANCE OF

FREEZING RAIN TO CORONATION AND KINDERSLEY REGIONS. AGAIN SOMETHING TO BE CLOSELY MONITORED.

IN SOUTHERN SK THE MAIN ISSUES WILL BE PRECIPITATION AMOUNTS AND TYPING. CURRENTLY, THE MODEL GUIDANCE IS INDICATING THAT BY SUNDAY MORNING THERE WILL BE A SWATH OF 5 TO POSSIBLY 15CM OF SNOW FROM ABOUT NORTH BATTLEFORD TO THE FORT QU'APPELLE REGION. AS MENTIONED ABOVE THERE WILL ALSO BE EITHER FREEZING RAIN OR ICE PELLETS TO THE SOUTH OF THIS LINE. THE CURRENT DILEMMA IS HOW MUCH AND WHERE, THE PAST FEW RUNS OF THE RDPS HAVE BEEN CHANGING AMOUNTS AND LOCATION OF PRECIPITATION; THE 00Z RUN HAS PUSHED THE PRECIPITATION FURTHER NORTH THAN PERVIOUS RUNS. UNCERTAINTY IS NOT JUST LIMITED TO THE RDPS FOR OTHER MODELS HAVE BEEN SINGING A DIFFERENT TUNE WITH EACH RUN. WITH THIS MUCH UNCERTAINTY FOR AN EVENT THAT IS STILL 20 HOURS AWAY, NO WARNINGS HAVE BEEN ISSUED YET, BUT MAY BE LATER TODAY.

ARCTIC...RELATIVELY QUIET. SOME BLOWING SNOW OVER PARTS OF THE KIVALLIQ TODAY. THE GRADIENT OVER THE KIVALLIQ WEAKENS OVERNIGHT INTO SUNDAY DIMINISHING THE THREAT OF BLOWING SNOW. CLYDE RIVER IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING STRONG NORTHWEST WINDS, BUT VISIBILTIES HAVE NOT DROPPED BELOW A HALF MILE ALL NIGHT. THE WINDS SHOULD ABATE THIS AFTERNOON.

END/SHAER/DE GROOT

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