

Meteorological WATCHOUTS

1. Lee slope rotors (turbulence)

These occur with high winds in steep terrain. These are a very serious aviation hazard, and provide a risk for long distance spotting.

2. Thunderstorms moving through, or in the vicinity of firegrounds

Dry and wet storm cells produce down-drafts causing sudden wind changes, including high wind speeds. These are very serious hazards to fire fighters.

Out-flow winds can escalate fire behaviour kilometres away.

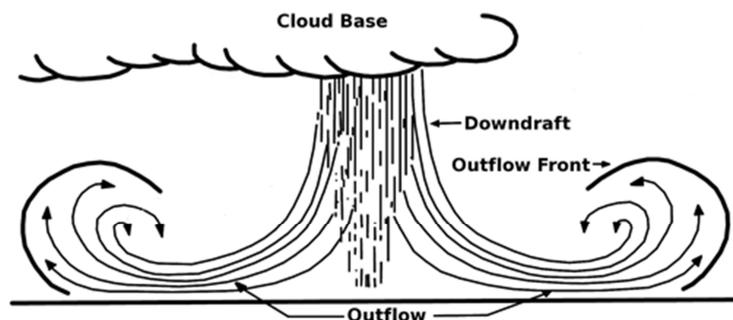


Diagram sourced from: Wikipedia

Active fire situated between fire-fighters and a storm cell is dangerous

3. Forecast SEVERE+ Fire Danger

4. C-Haines Index >10 forecast

Accessed using the RFS Fire Weather Viewer (<https://fireweather.uat.rfs.nsw.gov.au>)

5. Large differences between forecast or apparent surface winds and 1500 metre winds

Wind forecast for both surface and 1500 metre levels are accessed using the RFS Fire Weather Viewer (<https://fireweather.uat.rfs.nsw.gov.au>)

6. Fires running during changes of weather systems

Wind changes are likely to impact on running fires, causing the fire to take a "left-hand turn". This includes fires running with any wind from N through to S.



7. Night-time "easterly surges"

Easterly changes can result in extensive runs to the west. These can be anticipated using MetEye and hourly wind forecasts using the RFS Fire Weather Viewer.

8. Night-time humidity remained, or forecast to remain, below 40%

The potential for extensive fire runs will be high with any wind. This may also be an indicator for potential fire runs occurring during late evening to early morning

Some factors may operate together

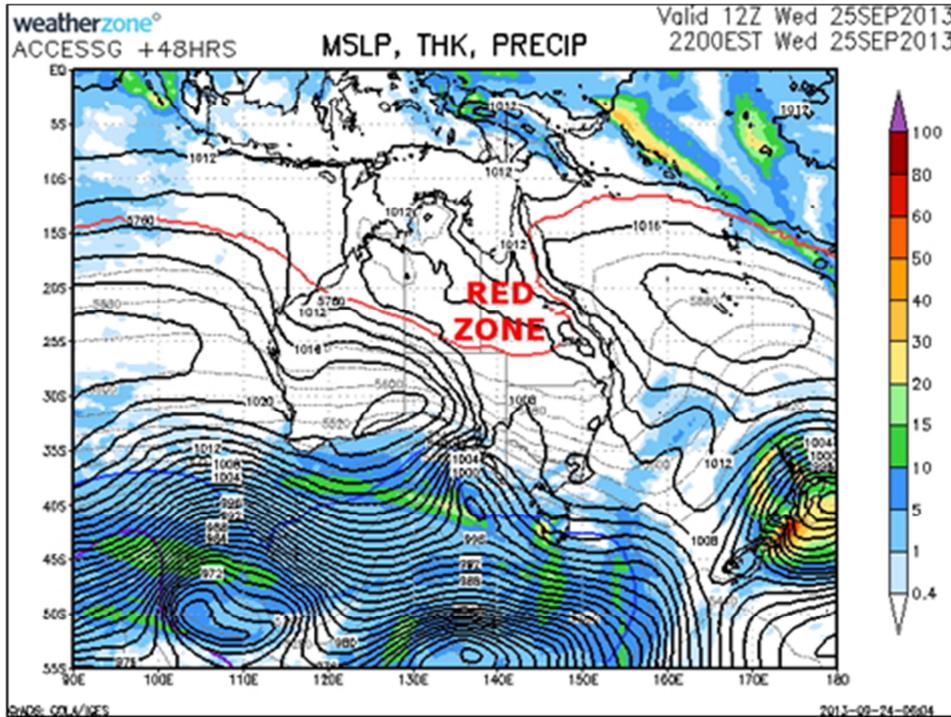
REMEMBER – expect the exception, and not the rule

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9. Within the "Red Zone"

The "Red Zone" is the area north of the red-coloured "thickness" line marked on Weatherzone ACCESS surface forecast charts. The thickness lines on these charts can be translated as indicators of temperature.

The area inside the "Red Zone" indicates unstable hot continental air in summer, particularly in the "toe" area. This may be associated with a "complex continental low".

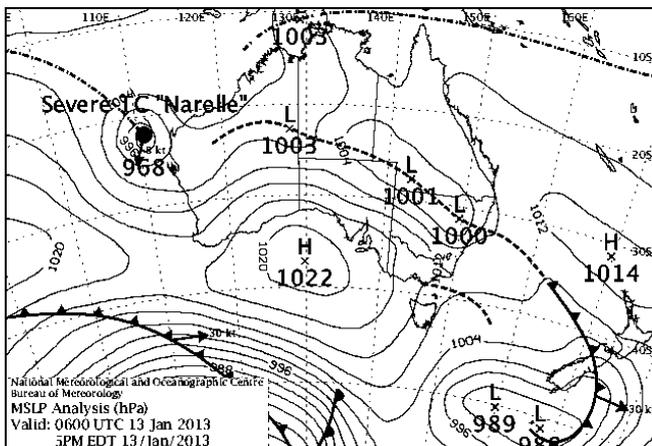


This chart forecast Extreme fire danger in Central Queensland for 25/9/2013.

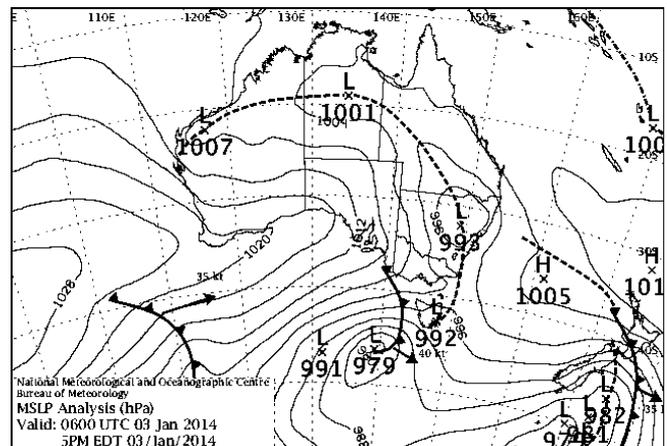
10. Passage of "Complex Continental LOW"

It is a system of troughs and LOW pressure cells that traverse the continent. It is easily recognisable on forecast synoptic charts. Two examples are below.

The most dangerous area is associated with a LOW cell and the trough line passing overhead.



January 13, 2013



January 3, 2014

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