

SPECIAL WEATHER ADVISORY FOR NORTHLAND, AUCKLAND, WAIKATO, COROMANDEL PENINSULA, WAITOMO, BAY OF PLENTY ROTORUA, TAUMARUNUI, TAUPO, TAIHAPE, GISBORNE, HAWKES BAY, WAIRARAPA, TARANAKI, WANGANUI, MANAWATU, WELLINGTON, MARLBOROUGH, NELSON, BULLER, WESTLAND, FIORDLAND, CANTERBURY, OTAGO, SOUTHLAND  
ISSUED BY METSERVICE AT 12:30pm Thursday 11-Aug-2011

ANOTHER EXCEPTIONALLY COLD OUTBREAK TO SPREAD OVER NEW ZEALAND THIS COMING WEEKEND

#### MEDIA STATEMENT

Another very cold outbreak, rivalling that of late July, is on the way.

On Saturday, a low will move away to the east of northern New Zealand, allowing a progressively colder southerly flow to become established over the country.

The first big dip in temperatures will come on Saturday night when a cold front moves onto the south of the South Island, bringing significant snow to sea level from southern Fiordland to the Otago Peninsula. This outbreak will then move over the rest of the South Island to reach the lower North Island by Sunday night.

Significant snowfalls along with bitterly cold south to southwest gales can be expected to spread up the east of the South Island to reach Wellington and Wairarapa Sunday night and further north on Monday.

Another surge of cold air in the south and east of the country on Monday is expected to reinforce this Antarctic outbreak, and eventually spread very cold windy conditions over the remaining western and northern areas of the North Island. There is still some uncertainty about the timing of the northward spread of these cold conditions early next week.

This very cold outbreak is likely to cause significant disruption to the country, as was the case with the last cold outbreak about two weeks ago. Significant snowfalls to low levels are likely to disrupt traffic on many roads in the South Island and also for roads in southern, central and eastern parts of the North Island. Newly born livestock are expected to come under extreme stress from significant wind-chills and farmers are urged to take necessary precautions.

Large sea waves from the southwest are expected to arrive on parts of the New Zealand coast during Monday and persist into mid week. For more details, refer to MetService's coastal marine forecasts.

Members of the public are urged to keep up to date with the latest weather information, since watches and warnings are likely to be issued as we get closer to this event.

The next Special Weather Advisory will be issued by 12:30pm Friday 12-Aug-2011

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