

Afternoon Update, Saturday 23, 2011

Submitted by sgiangrande on Sat, 04/23/2011 - 17:13

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Forecast discussion to highlight two continuing precipitation threats over central to north central Oklahoma as previously outlined in the morning discussion.

Initial precipitation threat is associated with a developing low level jet and what appears to be sufficient moisture return early Sunday morning lifting back over a surface boundary currently firing a few intense cells south of the Red River. Model output convergence has settled on a early morning time around 9-12 UTC for precipitation nearest to Lamont, with confidence higher than previous day's set-up that resulted in a similar elevated broken convection. Precipitation should clear the region after 15 UTC.

Chances for precipitation associated with a developing surface front and coupled passing of upper level wave increase for parts of Oklahoma throughout the early evening on Sunday. However, models are trending to place this developing line continuously to the south and east of preferential campaign facilities - initiating before 00 UTC, which is one trend in good agreement with GFS, WRF and NAM solutions.

At present, the strength of this developing line initiating in later afternoon Sunday is also in solid disagreement across most forecast models (NAM, GFS, WRF); Under a current preferred solution that might also favor campaign facility precipitation (NAM), the convective line and associated precip will develop farther east and in souther parts of Oklahoma, with weaker overall intensity than other solutions (highly vigorous in GFS). This weaker solution is subsequently favorable for a similar development of precipitation over the campaign facilities associated with another overnight low level jet moisture return flow. The precipitation at this time should also be aided by additional upper level support with the eventual passage of the upper level trough.

Forecasts

Time of Day:

Afternoon

Day 0:

04/23/2011

Forecast for Day 0:

Continued cloudy with building of moisture from the south overnight.

Day 1:

04/24/2011

Forecast for Day 1:

Low level jet and moisture forming cells to the south of campaign facility starting around midnight to 1 am, with potential for isolated, elevated convective cells developing and tracking over Lamont region by around 5-6 am. Potential for cells to be much more intense that flyable conditions for Citation operations through the cores (exceeding 40 dBz in cells).

Developing convective line to the south and east of Norman at current best model solutions, initiating before 00 UTC. Intensity of this line and subsequent scavenging of moisture will be critical toward assessing overnight operations for low level jet / upper level trough passage and possible associated convection developing around midnight for our region.

Day 2:

04/25/2011

Forecast for Day 2:

Once the overnight threat of precipitation has passed, should be relative clear conditions for the immediate forecasting period until next upper level wave passage on late Tuesday.

Extended Outlook:

At present, the next wave appears to be looking at late Tuesday. Will re-evaluate for subsequent forecasts given modest concerns with model solutions for precipitation beyond 24 hours.