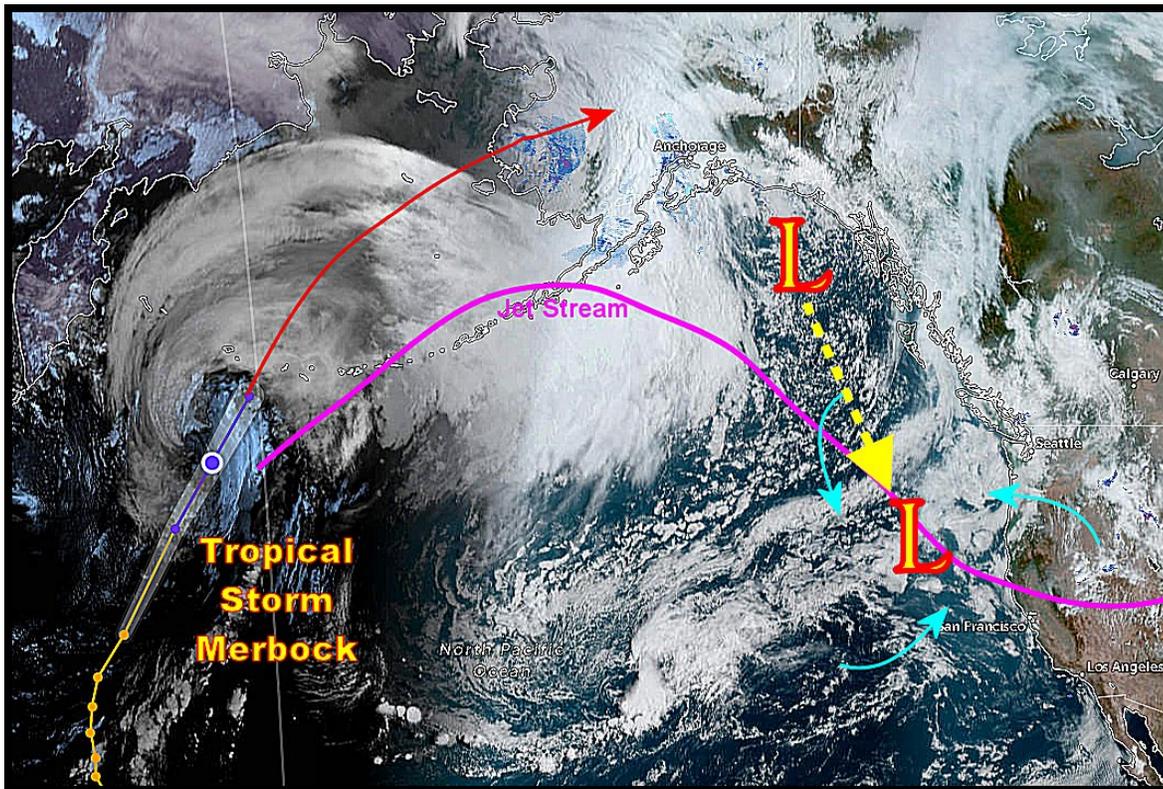


Tropical Cyclone Merbok To Impact N. America Indirectly

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, September 15 (World Weather Inc.) – *A large tropical storm in the north-central Pacific Ocean is racing into the higher latitudes and is expected to have an impact on Alaska and the Gulf of Alaska this weekend into early next week and on North America later next week. The chain reaction of weather changes expected could bring some needed rain to a few dry areas in western North America.* If the circumstances were different the storm might have been able to bring serious rainfall to the north-central United States, but instead *a high pressure ridge expected in the central U.S. in response to a new storm in California will block the Gulf of Mexico as a moisture source limiting rainfall potentials for some areas next week and inducing a notable heatwave.*

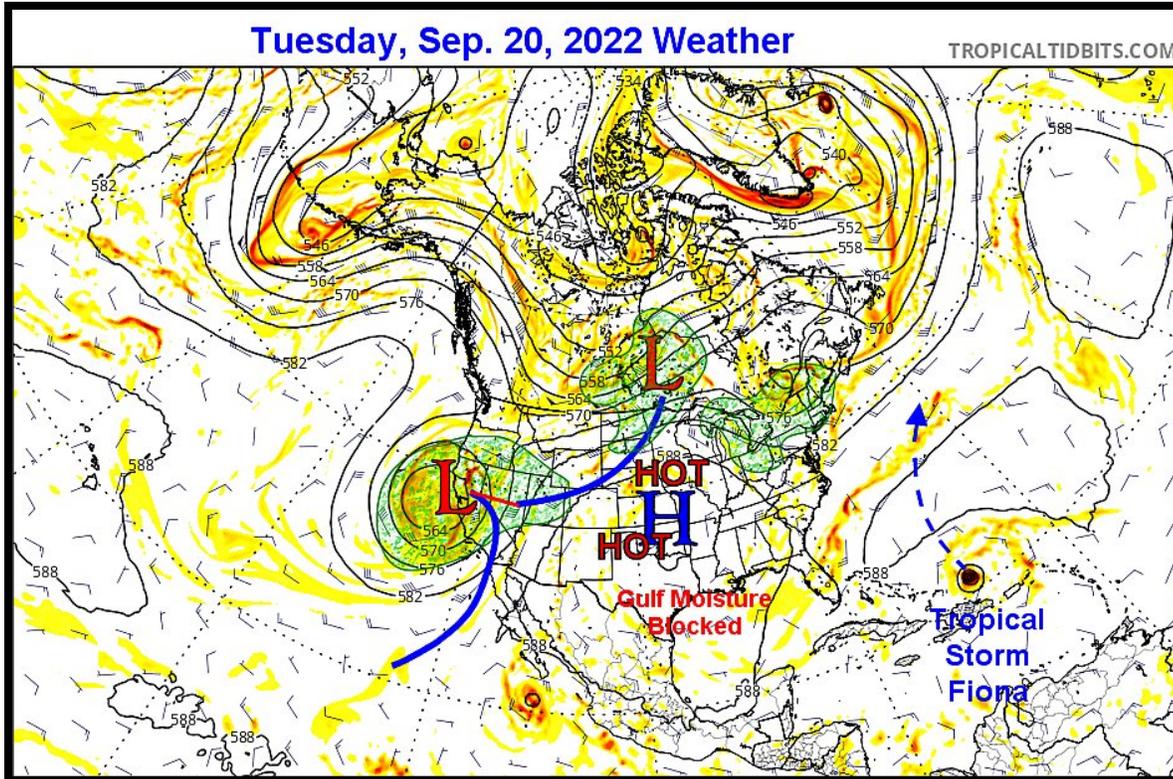


Tropical storm Merbok was a long way from North America at mid-day today, but its massive size and quick movement will induce a chain of reaction in weather patterns that will bring “some” change to North America weather. In any other year it might bring drought busting rain to the Pacific Northwest and induce a wild outbreak of severe weather in the central United States, but instead it will create a storm system that will bring some rain to northern California, southern Oregon and the northern Great Basin while inducing a strong high pressure ridge in the central United States. *The biggest impacts expected because of the oversized tropical cyclone will be rain in the northern Great Basin and northern California and an impressive heatwave in the central United States.*

The storm is racing toward Alaska today at a whopping 40 mph and it will bring significant rain and strong wind to the state Friday into the weekend. The storm was still

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classified as a typhoon this morning, but it was losing its tropical characteristics and becoming a very intense mid-latitude storm producing hurricane force wind speeds. **Upon its arrival in Alaska there is likely to be some horrific wind causing tree and structural damage. Heavy rain associated with the storm could also induce some flooding and bring on some additional damage to infrastructure. This storm will make a few headlines.**



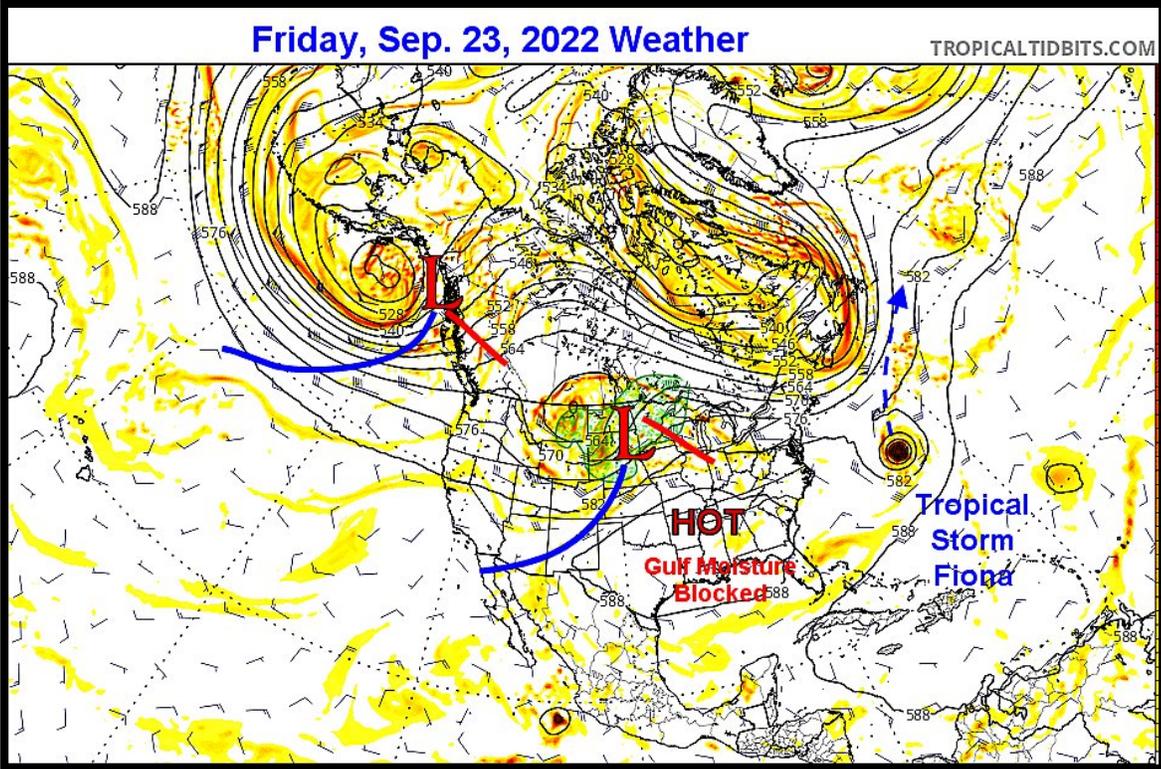
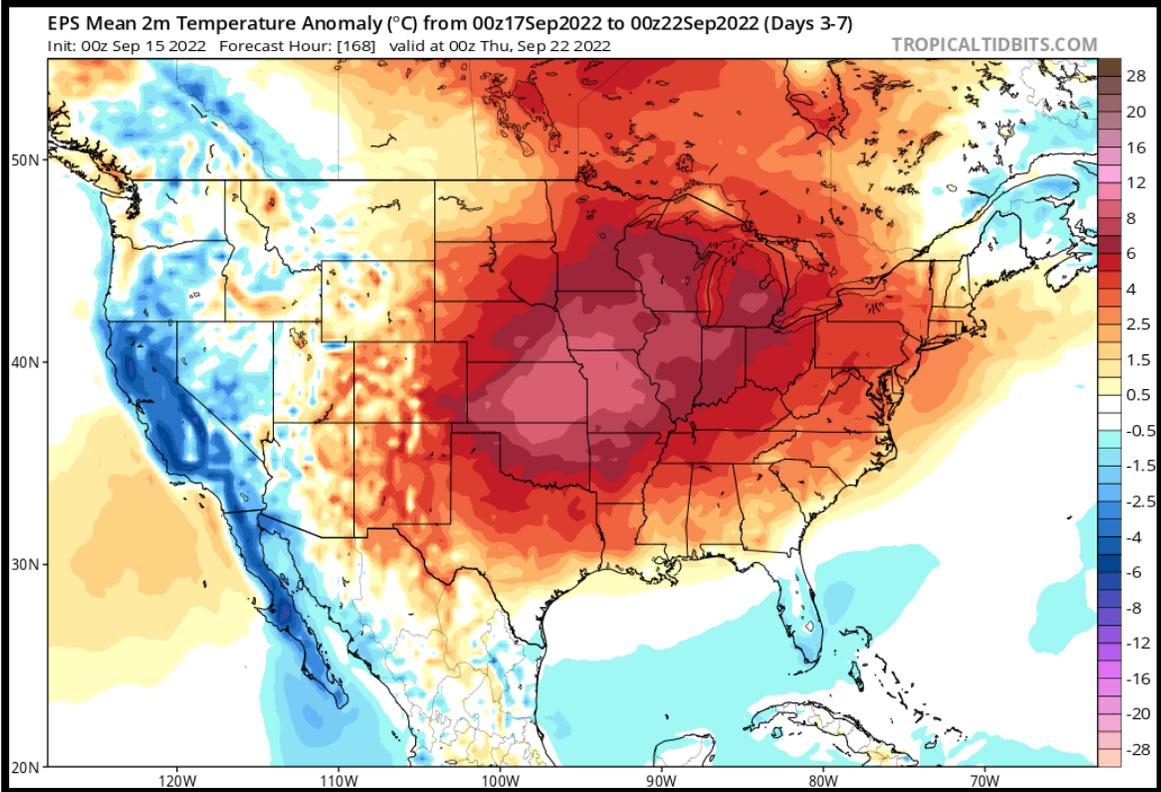
The atmosphere near and over North America will react to the insurgence of the massive and intense storm from the tropics. A ridge of high pressure will first evolve in the western Gulf of Alaska forcing cold air to move southward across British Columbia and the eastern Gulf of Alaska. The southward surge of cold air will occur too rapidly for a surface low pressure center to form strongly enough to bring drought easing rain in British Columbia or the northern part of the U.S. Pacific Northwest, but some rain will evolve as the storm moves quickly to the south.

The low pressure center in the Gulf of Alaska will relocate off the coast of northern California by Monday bringing some welcome rain to northern California, southern Oregon and other areas in the northern U.S. Great Basin. In the meantime, further to the east the new trough of low pressure evolving off the coast of western North America will help support a strong ridge of high pressure develop over the central United States. This ridge will block moisture from the Gulf of Mexico and allow temperatures in the central United States to rise above normal. **Record and near record high temperatures will occur during much of the workweek next week in the central United States because of this chain reaction resulting from Tropical Cyclone Merbok.**

Tropical Storm Fiona will be north of Dominican Republic by Tuesday when the hot and dry weather is impacting the central United States. Fiona will be forced to the north

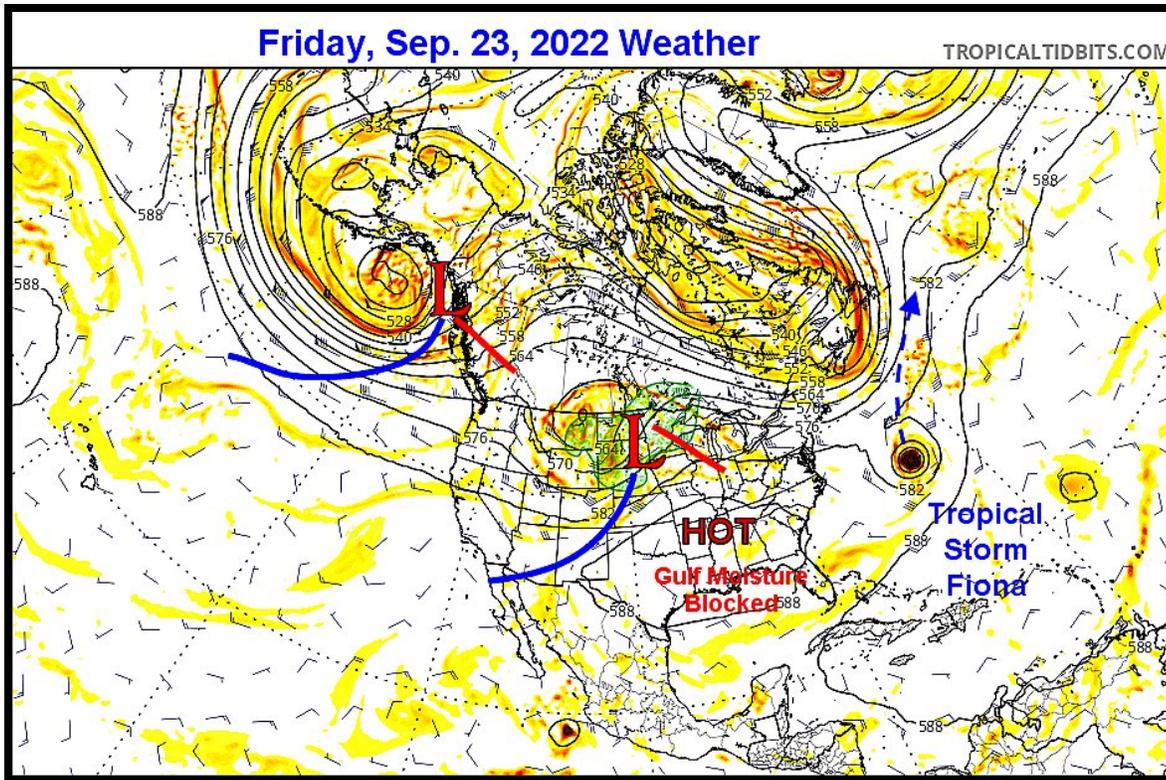
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northeast partially because of low pressure system in the northeastern United States and the large high pressure ridge in the middle of the U.S.



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Temperatures in the central United States are expected to rise 20-30 degrees Fahrenheit above normal with extremes in the 90s and over 100 degrees occurring in the central Plains and a small part of the southwestern U.S. Corn and Soybean Belt. Most of the Midwest temperatures will rise into the 80s and 90s.



The heatwave and strong ridge of high pressure may last a few days in the central U.S., but cooler air moving south across Canada's Prairies during mid-week next week will flatten the top of the high pressure ridge pushing the heat into more concentrated area in the central and southern Midwest and southern half of the Plains. [The lack of rain and extreme temperatures during the week will translate into rapid drying. Dryness is not only expected in the central and southern Plains and the western Corn Belt, but in the lower eastern Midwest, Delta and southeastern states as well.](#)

Eventually, the cool air in Canada will move into the northern Plains and upper Midwest weakening the high pressure ridge enough to allow California's low pressure center to move east northeast over the top of the ridge in the northern U.S. Plains and upper Midwest. Some rain is expected when this happens in the second half of next week, [but the base of the ridge will still be blocking Gulf of Mexico moisture and that will restrict rainfall. As a result of all this, a limited amount of moisture will occur in the central and southern Plains, lower Midwest and Delta even as the storm system in the northern Plains progresses farther to the east during the second weekend of the two week outlook.](#)

In any other year the tropical cyclone Merbok might have created serious storminess in British Columbia and the U.S. Pacific Northwest and might have also induced a severe weather outbreak with heavy rain in the central United States, but not this year. Instead the storm will bring damaging weather to Alaska, tranquil (but cooler) weather to British Columbia and the northern Pacific Northwest and rain to northern California, southern

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Oregon and other northern Great Basin locations. A heatwave and continued dry weather will prevail in central and southern Plains, Delta and lower Midwest.

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