

## **Explanation of a Weather Saying**

***"Red Sky at night, sailor's delight.  
Red sky in the morning, sailor take warning."***

When the sky in the west is especially clear, there is often a red sunset. Why? As the sun sets, the light from the sun shines through the lower atmosphere, which contains dust, salt, smoke and pollution. These particles in the atmosphere distort the shorter wavelengths of violet and blue, leaving only the longer wavelengths of orange and red. Also, if there is high pressure, the air sinks. This sinking air holds air pollutants near the earth, making the sunset even redder than usual. Therefore, there is a "red sky at night." In most of the northern hemisphere, weather fronts most often approach from the west. Since high pressure generally brings fair weather, this type of red sky at sunset would indicate that clear weather is approaching, which would "delight" a sailor. If there is a "red sky in the morning" in the eastern sky (for the same reasons as above), then the high-pressure region has most likely already passed from west to the east, and an area of low pressure may follow. Low pressure usually brings clouds, rain or storms, a "warning" for sailors.