



26 October 2017

Stormy weather expected for parts of South Africa

Severe storms, with a risk of heavy downpours as well as strong gusty winds are expected over the escarpment and lowveld areas of Mpumalanga later today (Thursday). Tomorrow, the high risk area for further severe storms is expected to shift to Gauteng, the highveld areas of Mpumalanga as well as south-western and southern parts of Limpopo province. At this stage the predominant risk is expected to be *strong gusty winds* as well as *heavy downpours*, which may result in instances of *urban flooding*. Whilst hail may occur here and there, such occurrences are expected to be mostly of a small, non-damaging nature.

Following a succession of hot to very hot spells during recent weeks over the eastern parts of the country, including a heat wave in the lowveld areas; all is set to change quite dramatically with the passage of a cold front, immediately followed by a strong ridge of high pressure from tomorrow (Friday). During today and tomorrow, the presence of enhanced instability in the lower to mid regions of the atmosphere is expected to be a further factor contributing to improved chances of rainfall over the eastern provinces. Light snowfalls can also be expected on mountain peaks of the eastern parts of Western Cape and Eastern Cape overnight, spreading to the southern Drakensberg and Lesotho on Friday.

Significantly cooler conditions can therefore be expected over the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal tomorrow, with these conditions spreading to include the north-eastern provinces (including Mpumalanga, Gauteng, Limpopo and North West) on Saturday when daytime temperatures are expected to be restricted to the low to mid-teens. As can be seen in Figure 1 below, so-called “single digit” maximum temperatures (of the order of +8 or +9 °C) can readily be expected over the highland region of Mpumalanga.

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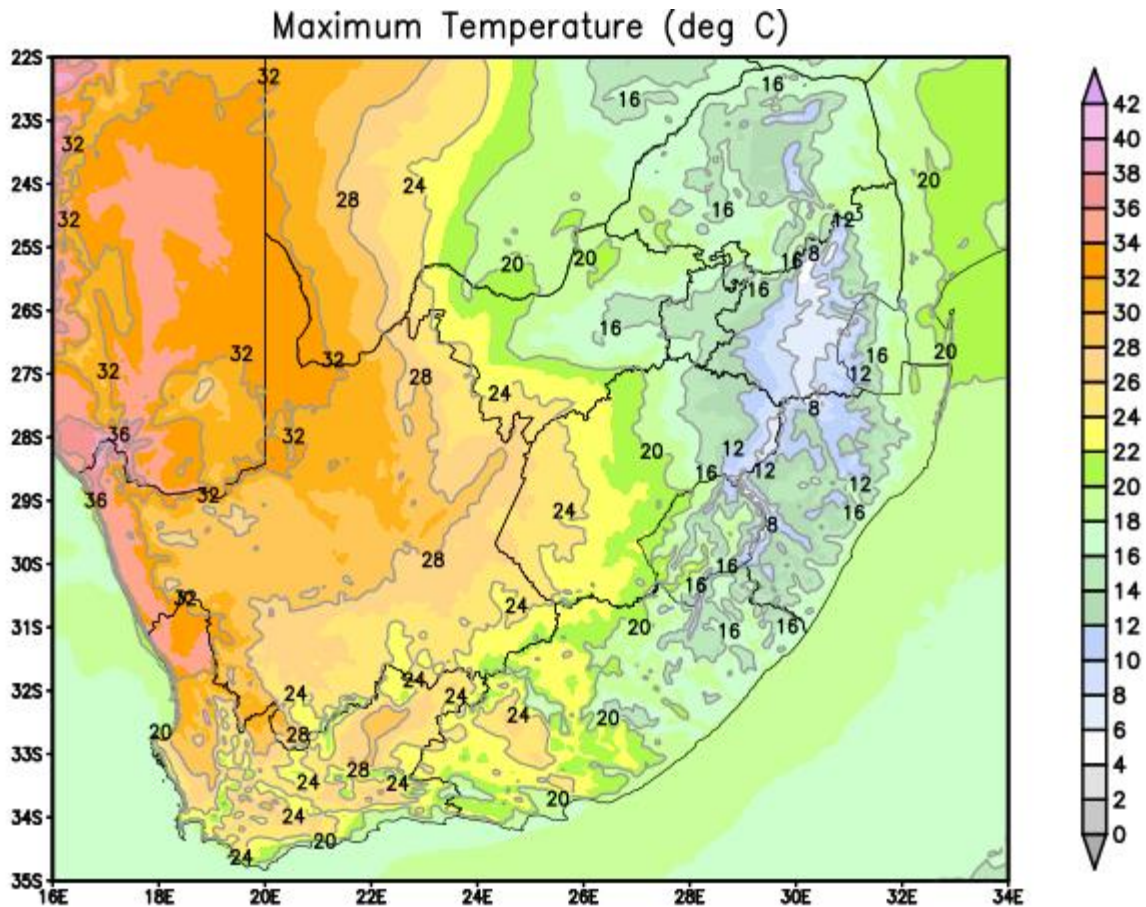


Figure 1. Forecast maximum temperature (degrees C), valid for Saturday 28 October 2017.

The good news is that, whilst chilly conditions are expected over many parts this weekend, the South African Weather Service expects a fairly rapid recovery of daytime temperatures from Monday onwards.

The South African Weather Service will closely monitor further developments during this period and will issue subsequent updates as required. Furthermore, the general public are urged to regularly follow weather forecasts on television and radio. Updated information may also be accessed on www.weathersa.co.za as well as via the South African Weather Service Twitter account @SAWeatherServic

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