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23 December 2022

Thunderstorm activity expected over the eastern parts of the country for the Long Christmas Weekend

Central and eastern parts of the country can expect thundershowers during this coming Christmas long weekend. These are eastern parts of Northern Cape, North West, Free State, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces. Some of these thundershowers will become severe containing all or some of the following hazards: heavy downpours, strong damaging winds, hail, and excessive lightning. These may result in flooding of roads and settlements, damage to infrastructure, as well as dangerous driving conditions. All necessary precautionary actions are hereby advised to mitigate against these expected hazards.

An upper air trough (extension of low-pressure system) will develop to the west of the country today on Friday, 23rd December 2022 moving eastwards and is expected to intensify from Saturday (24th December 2022). The system will influence weather patterns over most central and eastern parts of the country during the next 5 days, resulting in isolated to scattered showers and thundershowers.

For today and tomorrow, isolated thundershowers are expected over the Eastern Cape, southern Free State and eastern interior of the Northern Cape Province but scattered in KwaZulu-Natal on Saturday. Some isolated showers and rain are expected along the south-west coast of the Western Cape on Saturday due to a weak cold front passing by.

On Sunday, 25th December 2022, the upper trough will move over the central interior and across the country, still dominating isolated showers and thundershowers for both Sunday and Monday over the North West, Gauteng, Free State, eastern parts of the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga but scattered over KwaZulu-Natal. Isolated showers and rain is still possible on Sunday along the southern parts of the Eastern Cape as well as the south coast of Western Cape but partial clearance from the west is expected on Monday, 26th December 2022. It will remain hot and dry

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over the Northern Cape from Sunday until Tuesday, 27th December 2022 and those conditions are expected to reach central interior of the country from Monday into Tuesday.

Still on Tuesday, isolated showers and thundershowers are expected over KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Mpumalanga and parts of Limpopo Province as well as eastern and northern parts of the North West. Showers and rain are expected along the east coast of the Eastern Cape.

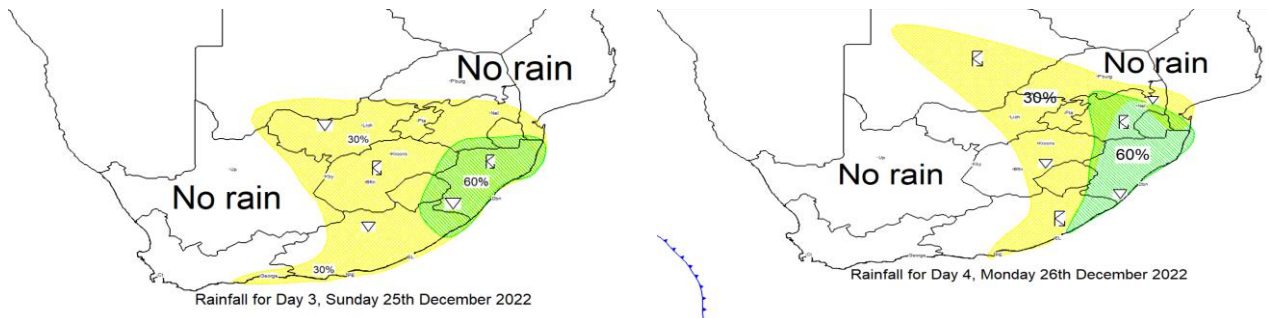


Figure 1: Rainfall predicted for 25th and 26th December 2022 (left to right)

The band of isolated showers and thundershowers are expected to comeback over the central and eastern areas of the country on both Wednesday, 28th December 2022 and that will include the following Provinces, North-West, Free State, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, eastern parts of the Eastern Cape as well as southern Limpopo and those conditions are also expected to persist on Thursday 29th December 2022.

Impact Based Warnings for today (23rd) and tomorrow (24th December 2022)

1. **A yellow Level 1 warning for today (Friday, 23rd December 2022):** Severe thunderstorms with damaging winds, hails and heavy downpours leading to localized flooding of susceptible formal/informal settlements or roads, low lying areas and bridges, localized damaged to property and livelihood and minor vehicle accidents are expected over the north-eastern parts of the Eastern Cape.
2. **A yellow Level 2 warning for tomorrow (Saturday, 24th December 2022):** Severe thunderstorms with damaging winds, hails and heavy downpours leading to localized flooding of susceptible formal/informal settlements or roads, low lying areas and bridges, localized damaged to property and livelihood and minor vehicle accidents are expected over south-eastern parts of KwaZulu-Natal and the extreme eastern parts of the Eastern Cape.

The South African Weather Service will continue to monitor this weather system and updates to forecasts and severe warnings will be made through the regular channels. Weather warnings are available at <https://www.weathersa.co.za/home/warnings>.

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