

27 April 2020

Stormy and cold weather expected across central and eastern South Africa (27-29 April 2020)

The South African Weather Service hereby advises the public of the expected adverse weather conditions over the central and eastern half of the country from today, Monday 27 April 2020, continuing into Wednesday (29 April). Heavy downpours, severe thunderstorms, cold temperatures as well as snow (on the Drakensberg), can be expected.

The weather system responsible for this is called a cut-off low pressure, which is a deep, closed low pressure that is displaced equatorward of the main westerly flow. Widespread rainfall, in the form of showers and thunderstorms, will start today (27 April) across the central and southern provinces and slowly move eastwards during the late afternoon and evening. Rainfall accumulations of 20 to 40 mm in a 24-hour period are expected, with some areas possibly exceeding 50 mm. Due to the ground already being mostly saturated over the central and eastern interior of the country, these showers will result in localised flooding of susceptible roads, low-lying areas and bridges. The Wild Coast and adjacent interior can expect significant rainfall tomorrow evening, resulting in flooding of roads and settlements.

Severe thunderstorms with large amounts of small hail as well as strong, damaging winds are expected over the central interior today (Fig. 1 left), shifting slightly eastwards tomorrow (Fig. 1 right). These storms could result in localised damage to settlements as well as localised structural damage.

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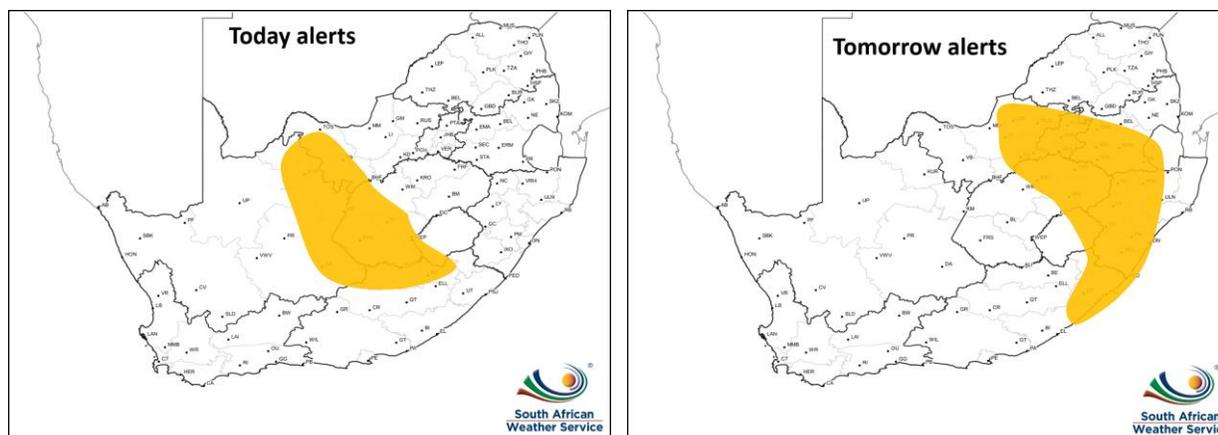


Figure 1: Map showing areas where severe thunderstorms are expected for today (left) and tomorrow (right). ©SAWS 2020

Cold temperatures are also expected over the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and parts of the Highveld including Gauteng, especially on Tuesday. Snowfall (5 to 10 cm) is expected on the Drakensberg and Maluti mountains from this afternoon (27 April 2020).

The South African Weather Service will continue to monitor any further developments relating to this weather system and will issue subsequent updates as required. Furthermore, the public are urged and encouraged to regularly follow weather forecasts on television and radio.

Updated information in this regard will regularly be available at www.weathersa.co.za as well as via the SA Weather Service Twitter account @SAWeatherServic

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