

Sunday, 11 July 2021

Wet, windy and cold conditions from this Monday

Strong winds are expected on Monday across the Cape provinces and may result in property damage in some areas, following the arrival of a strong cold front (Figure 2). This cold front will cause gale force winds between Cape Columbine and Cape Agulhas and significant wave heights, from a south-westerly direction, picking up to between 4.5 and 6.5 m between Hondeklip Bay and Cape Agulhas during the morning hours, which is expected to spread along the south coast to Plettenberg Bay in the afternoon.

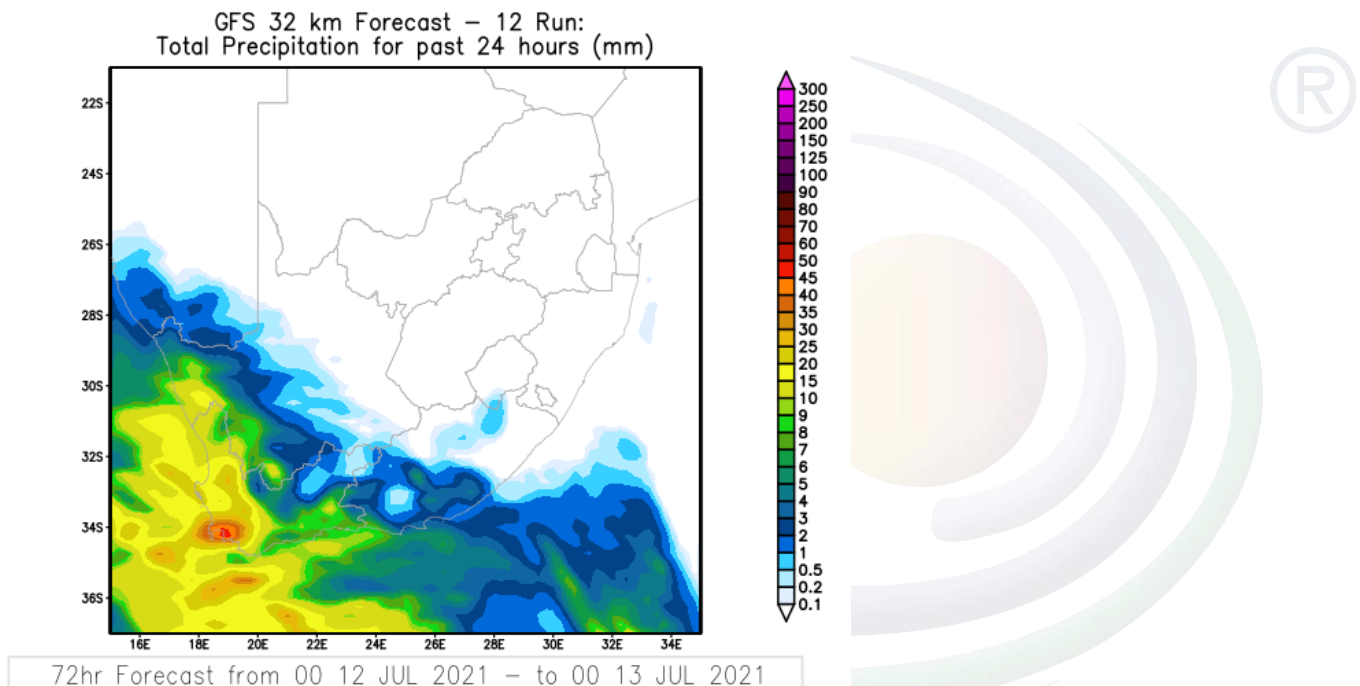


Figure 1: 24-hour rainfall accumulation in mm for Monday, 12 July 2021. Source: GFS model.

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Company Secretary: Ms Thandi Zide

UM 10km horizontal resolution – GA-12 Run:
10m Wind (knots)

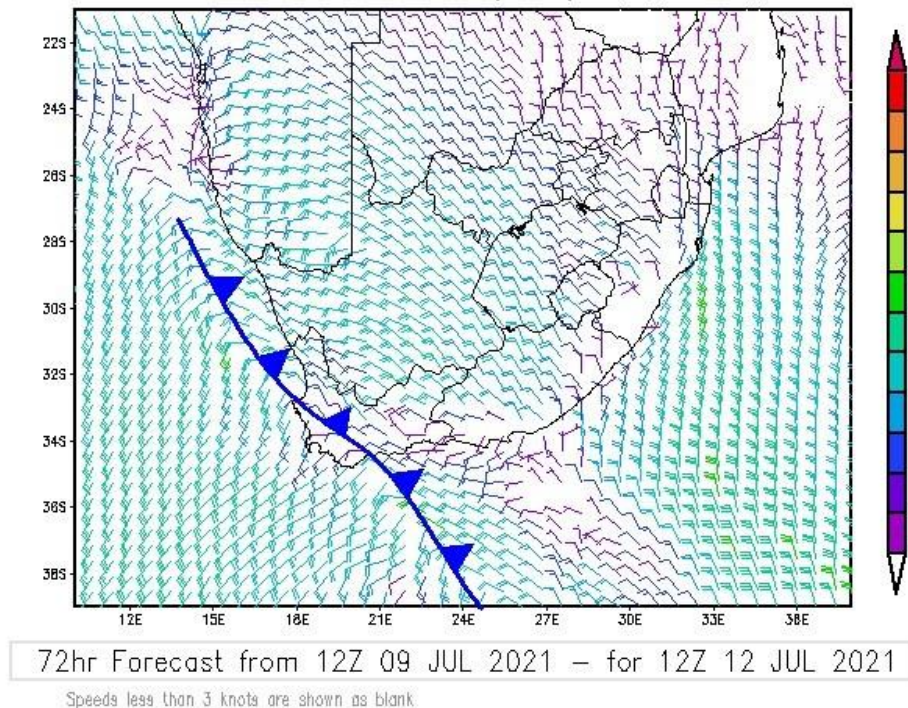


Figure 2: Predicted position of cold front (indicated by a barbed blue line) at 14h00SAST on Monday, 12 July over the interior of the Western Cape province, with corresponding predicted wind speeds in knots. Source: UM (SAWS)

These adverse weather conditions coincide with spring tides, where high tides reach levels higher than normal. Therefore, large waves will reach further up the shoreline, particularly during high tides (approximately 05h00-06h00/ 17h00-18h00) for both Monday and Tuesday. This may result in localised infrastructure damage along the Western Cape coastline, as well as difficulty in navigation at sea for small vessels, with the likelihood of vessels taking on water and possibly capsizing.

With rainfall amounts expected to be in the region of 30 to 40 mm (Figure 1), flooding incidents are likely over the western areas of the Western Cape. General rainfall is also expected over the remainder of the Western Cape, the western areas of the Northern and Eastern Cape.

Very cold conditions are also expected to set in (as shown in Figure 3 below), with daytime temperatures plummeting to below 10 °C over the western mountains of the Western Cape as well as the southern high ground of the Northern Cape - these are the areas where there is a possibility of snowfalls which may be as deep as 5 to 15 cm over the western mountains in the Western Cape Province, as well as on the southern high ground of the Northern Cape. These conditions may lead to a loss of vulnerable livestock and crops, particularly on Monday.

The coastal winds will moderate on Tuesday, with wave heights subsiding from the west while the cold front moves to the central provinces of South Africa, introducing cold conditions to these areas. However, it will become very cold over the southern areas of the Northern Cape as well as the interior of the Western and Eastern Cape provinces. The public should take note that significant and widespread frost is expected over the western and central interior from Wednesday through to Friday.

GFS 32 km Forecast – 12 Run:
Daily Maximum Temperature (deg C)

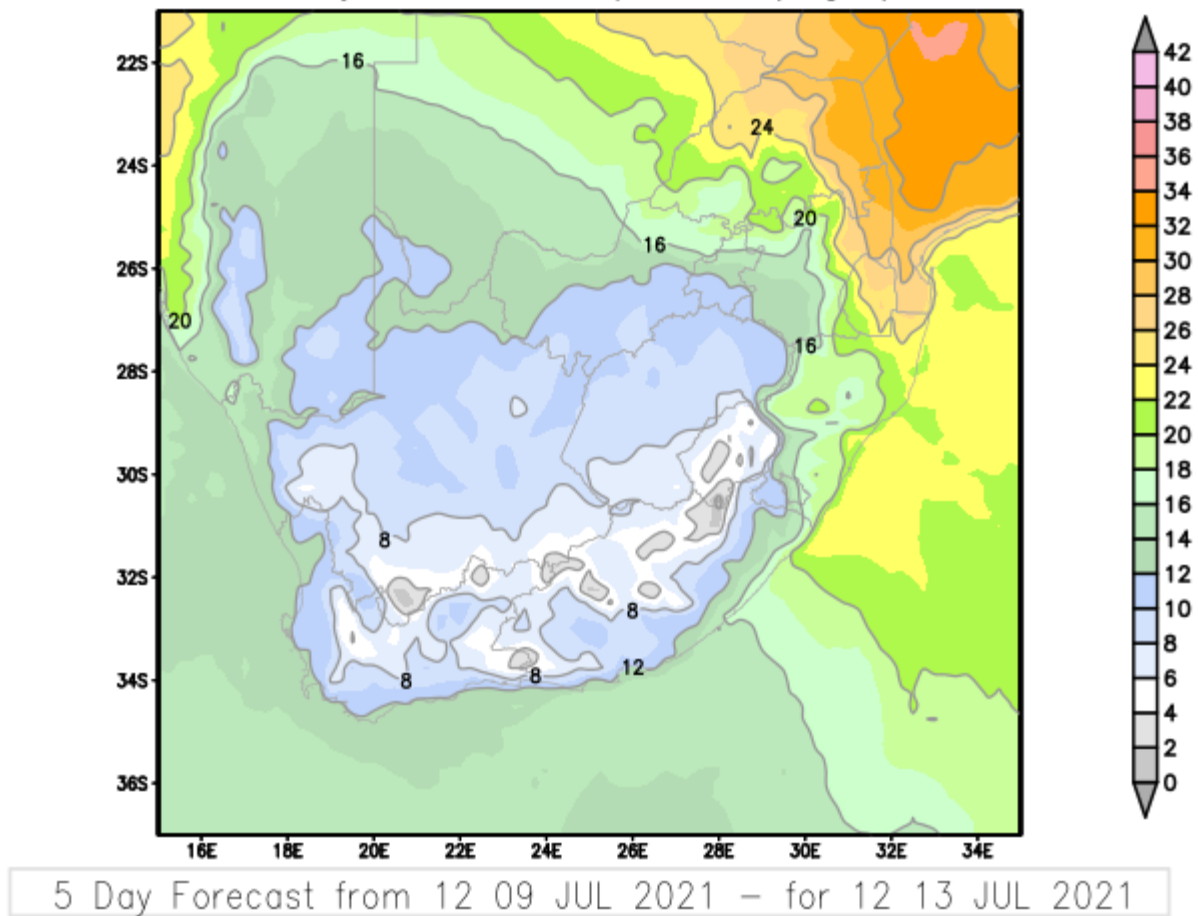


Figure 3: Predicted maximum temperatures for Tuesday (13 July 2021): Source (SAWS)

The South African Weather Service has issued the following WARNINGS:

A. Yellow Level 4 Warning for Rain leading to flooding (formal/informal settlements) is expected over the City of Cape Town, Witzenberg, Drakenstein, Stellenbosch and Theewaterskloof municipalities (W-Cape) on Monday (12/07/2021).

B. Yellow Level 4 Warning for Snow leading to possible loss of livestock/crops is expected for southern Namakwa (N-Cape), Cederberg, Witzenberg, Breede Valley municipalities (W-Cape) from Monday afternoon into early Tuesday morning, spreading to the eastern Garden Route Monday night into Tuesday afternoon (12-13/07/2021).

C. Yellow Level 2 Warning for Wind resulting in possible localised infrastructure damage over the southern Namakwa (N-Cape), Central Karoo (W-Cape) on Monday including the coastal areas between Cape Columbine and Cape Agulhas Monday morning, spreading to Plettenberg Bay in the afternoon, subsiding on Tuesday (12-13/07/2021).

D. Yellow Level 2 Warning for Waves resulting in difficulty in navigation at sea between Hondeklip Bay and Cape Agulhas on Monday morning spreading to Plettenberg Bay by evening, subsiding by Tuesday afternoon (12-13/07/2021).

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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