

3 December 2019

HEAVY DOWNPOURS EXPECTED OVER EASTERN, NORTHERN AND CENTRAL PARTS IN SOUTH AFRICA FROM TONIGHT UNTIL THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2019

Over the past week a heatwave was forecast for Gauteng, North West, Limpopo, Free State and Mpumalanga and is reaching an end today, 3 December 2019. Totally different weather conditions are expected, with much needed rainfall expected from tonight, tomorrow (Wednesday) and Thursday, as well as a drop in temperatures in places. This is as a result of a surface high pressure system that will push southwest-Indian ocean moisture into the eastern, northern and later the central parts of the country. An upper trough is responsible for drawing tropical moisture from Angola into the central and north-eastern parts of South Africa.

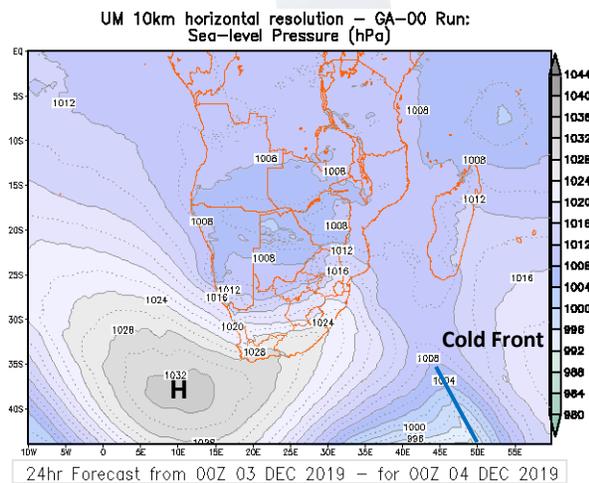


Figure 1: Unified Model output for mean sea level circulation depicting a surface high-pressure system advecting moisture into the south-eastern and eastern parts of the country.

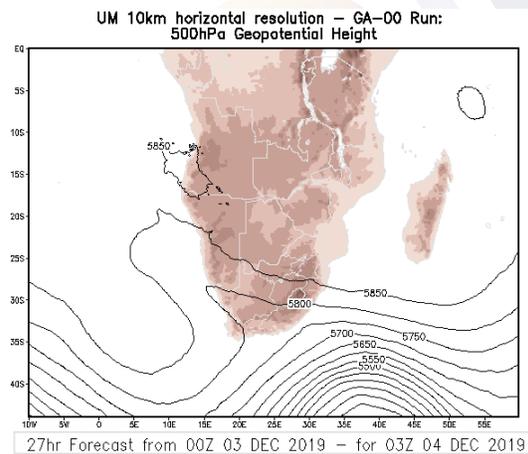


Figure 2: Unified Model output for the 500hPa geopotential heights, depicting an upper trough system over the western parts of South Africa.

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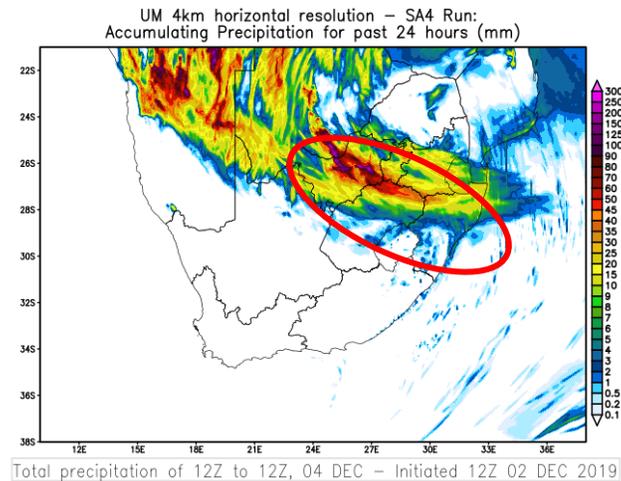


Figure 3: Unified Model output for accumulated rainfall for South Africa. The red colour from the side-bar indicates a threshold for heavy rain.

Expected Impacts:

Areas of concern for heavy rain (> 50 mm per day) with possible flooding are the southern parts of Gauteng, northern parts of the Free State and the central parts of North West on Wednesday (4 – 5 December 2019). Persistent thunderstorms could result in more flooding over the central parts of the North West and the north-western parts of the Free State on Thursday.

Localized flooding in susceptible informal and formal settlements could be expected, with possible closure of major roads crossing low water bridges and low-lying areas. Large amounts of small hail might lead to slippery roads and affecting driving conditions, which could lead to minor road accidents. Infrastructure wind and hail damage can be expected from severe thunderstorms in places.

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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