

09 March 2021

A cold front brings unsettled weather conditions over the Western Cape Province: 09 to 10 March 2021

Overview: Damaging winds and long periods of steady rainfall are among potential hazardous weather conditions over the south-western areas of the Western Cape this Tuesday evening into Wednesday, 10 March 2021. These conditions are expected following the passage of a cold front this Tuesday evening with another, but slow-moving cold front to arrive over these areas on Wednesday late afternoon.

Introduction

A cold front is expected to make landfall over the extreme south-western parts of the Western Cape Province this Tuesday evening. This will result in strong to gusty northwesterly **winds**, particularly over the southwest coastal areas, spreading to the interior on Wednesday. The wind forecast is such that, sustained speed of 45 to 60 km/h (25-30 knots) over the interior (Fig. 1) and up to 80 km/h (40 knots) along the coast can be expected, as shown on Figure 1 and 2. These winds are likely to result in structural damage over the exposed and vulnerable areas such as shacks and poorly anchored houses.

Sea conditions are expected to have a predominantly south-westerly swell of 3.0 meters with wave heights of 4.0 to 6.0 meters between Cape Columbine and Stillbaai on Tuesday evening, subsiding by Wednesday late morning. The combination of the wave heights and strong winds will exacerbate the adverse weather conditions along coastal areas.

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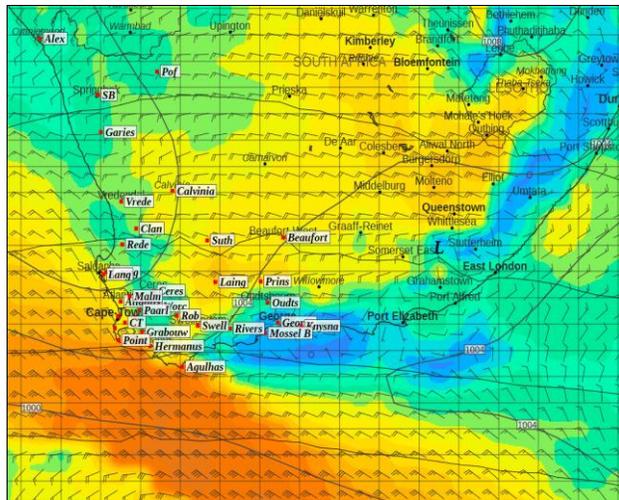


Figure 1: GFS model 10m-wind forecast at 1800 SAST 09/03/2021

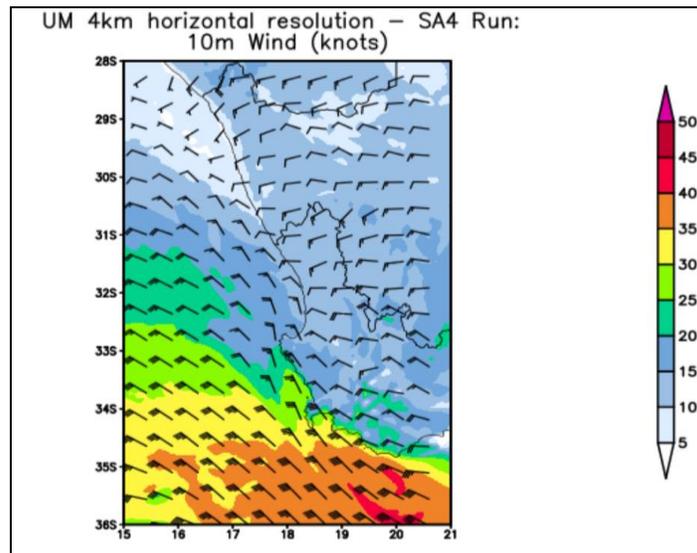


Figure 2: Unified Model 10m-wind (knots) forecast 16:00 SAST 09/03/2021

Added to this, light to moderate rainfall is also expected with the arrival of the front over the south-western parts of the province this Tuesday evening, spreading to the West Coast District and coastal areas of the Garden Route District on Wednesday as the front progresses eastwards. Following the approach of the secondary cold front, a prolonged period of steady rainfall with projected accumulating rainfall amounts of 40 to 50 mm (Fig. 3) is expected over the south-western parts during Wednesday. To this effect, localized flooding and pooling will be likely in

these areas. Meanwhile, the central and eastern provinces will see no rain apart from the western Limpopo, where a few afternoon thunderstorms are expected.

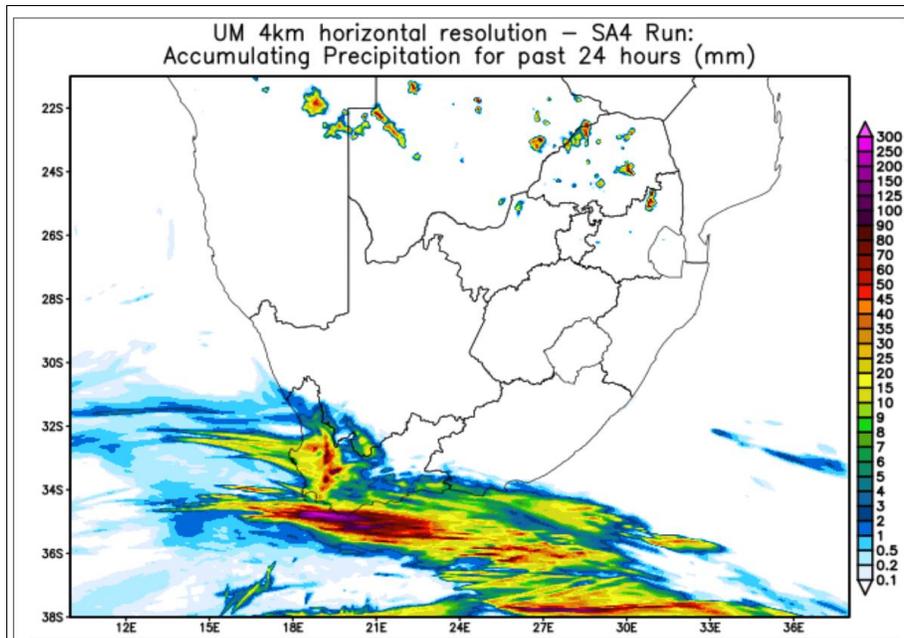


Figure 3: Unified model 24-hour accumulated rainfall 10/03/2021

Severe Weather Impacts Based Warnings: Valid 09-10 March 2021

Impact-Based Warnings
1. An orange level 5 warning for COASTAL WIND (North-Westerly 60-80km/h) with impacts including disruption to small harbours ports over short period time, disruption to beachfront activities, is expected between Table Bay and Cape Agulhas this afternoon (09/03/2021) until Wednesday morning (10/03/2021).
2. A yellow level 2 warning for COASTAL WIND (North-Westerly 45-60km/h) with impacts including difficulty in navigation, small vessels and personal watercraft taking on water/capsizing, is expected between Cape Columbine and Stillbaai until Wednesday evening (10/03/2021).
3. A yellow level 2 warning for INTERIOR WIND (North-Westerly 45-60km/h) with impacts including localised problems for high-sided vehicles on prone routes, (e.g. N1, N7, R321, R43), localised damage to settlements (formal and informal) is expected today over Cape Metropole, but over the Western Cape interior on Wednesday (09-10/03/2021).
4. A yellow level 4 warning for RAIN which will lead to flooding of roads and settlements is expected over the Cape Metropole, south-western Cape Winelands and western Overberg (W. Cape) on Wednesday (10/03/2021).
Fire Danger Warnings
Extremely high fire danger conditions are expected over Laingsburg, Breede Valley and Langeberg Municipalities (W. Cape) today but over Central Karoo District as well as the western Little Karoo region (W.Cape) tomorrow (09-10/03/2021).
Advisory
Nil

Clearance is expected over the Western Cape from Thursday afternoon, with few showers along the south coast lingering into the evening. However, the central and east central provinces will experience afternoon thunderstorms.

The South African Weather Service will continue to monitor all weather situations in the country and will issue additional forecasts to the public, as mandated. Special updates will be communicated on twitter (@SAWeatherServic) and Facebook (South African Weather Service)

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