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9 December 2022

Wet weather is expected to persist in the coming days over most parts of the country, with further risk of flooding in places.

Most of the country can expect rains over the coming days, with the risk of flash flooding in some places. The central and eastern parts of the country have already seen flooding in recent days and weeks due to a lot of rain that has been experienced since the beginning of the summer rainfall season. The ground in many of these places remains saturated and rivers and streams are running full. Under such conditions, a flash flood could be triggered quite easily, and the public is therefore strongly urged to be extra vigilant.

The latest severe weather event will be due to a cut off low (COL) pressure system, developing west of the country, and is expected to intensify from Saturday (10 December 2022) as it moves closer. The system will influence weather patterns over most parts of the country during the next five days, resulting in scattered to widespread showers and thundershowers in places. Severe thunderstorms and heavy rainfall are likely, starting from the Northern Cape, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal on Saturday, spreading to the Free State on Sunday, and reaching Free State, North West, Gauteng and Mpumalanga by Monday. Other hazards associated with this system are hail and lightning.

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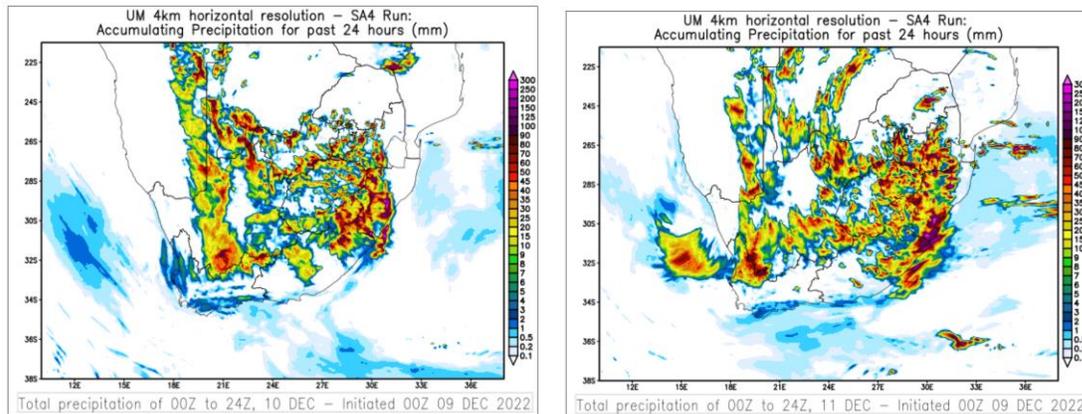


Figure 1: Rainfall accumulation for 10 December 2022 (left) and for 11 December 2022 (right). ©SAWS

Furthermore, the south-western coastal areas of the country are expected to experience strong south-easterly winds of between 50 to 70 km/h. Ordinarily south-easterly winds around the Cape Peninsula are associated with fair weather. However, with the presence of a cut-off low, there may be some thundershowers on Saturday and Sunday, leading to a phenomenon referred to as the “black-south-easter”.

Rough sea conditions are also expected around the south-western coast and could contribute to difficulty at navigation at sea. There is also a risk of small and personal watercrafts (e.g., kayaks) taking on water and capsizing. Possible localised disruptions to beach activities are also likely.

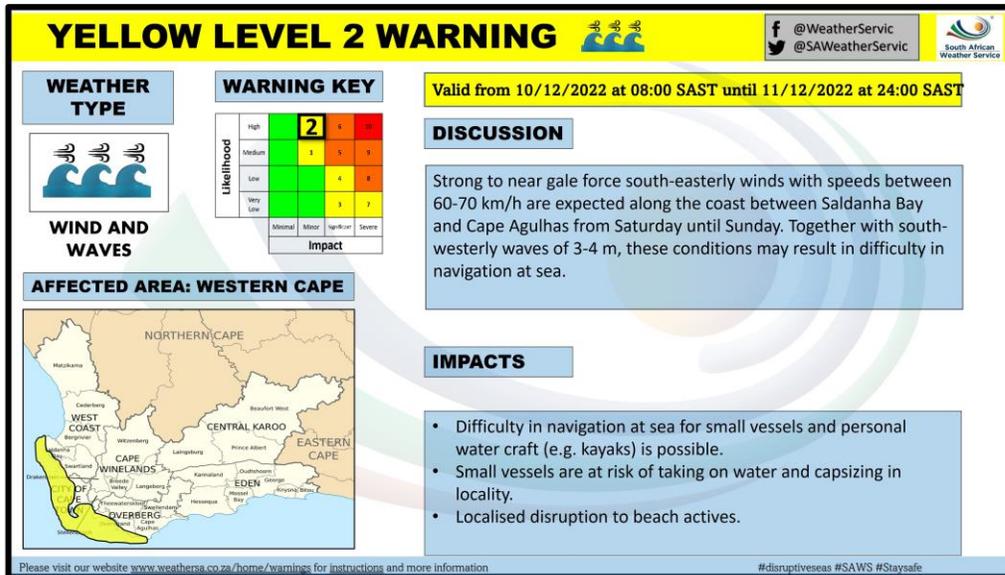


Figure 2: Impact Based Warnings issued by SAWS for damaging winds and waves on Saturday into Sunday (10 – 11 December 2022)

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>.

Compiled by Lauren Smith, Elani Heyneke, Kate Turner, Stacy Colborne and Kanyisa Makubalo.

Edited by Jan H. Vermeulen

For technical and weather enquiries:

National Forecasting Centre: Tel: 012 367 6041

Media enquiries: Ms Hannelee Doubell: Manager, Communications; Tel: (012) 367 6104; Cell: 072 222 6305; E-mail: hannelee.doubell@weathersa.co.za

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