State of Israel
Ministry of Transport
Israel Meteorological Service

28 Shvat 5785

February 6, 2025

Weather event February 5-6, 2025

Winter weather has prevailed across our region over the past two days, characterized by strong winds, precipitation, low temperatures, and thunderstorms. At the peak of the event, from yesterday afternoon until this morning, a full-fledged storm developed, featuring wind gusts exceeding 80 km/h and accumulated rainfall amounting to several tens of millimeters. Temperatures also dropped below average for the first time in a significant period, with snow settling in the northern mountains. By morning, a thin layer had accumulated above 1000 meters elevation in the northern Golan Heights and on Mount Meron.

Synoptic Situation and Winds

A deep low-pressure system traversed our area over the past 24 hours, accompanied by an upper-level trough channeling cold air from the north. This constitutes the first significant winter system to pass through during the current rainy season (a significant rain system did occur at the end of December; however, it lacked strong winds and cold temperatures as the low-pressure core was positioned far to the west).

Temporary wind strengthening occurred with the initial rain front's entry on the 5th in the morning, but significant intensification commenced during the afternoon hours. Winds peaked overnight and into the following morning. During this period, sustained winds of 30-50 km/h were recorded, with gusts reaching 70-80 km/h. Several coastal and mountainous stations even measured gusts exceeding 90 km/h. Winds of this intensity occur nearly every winter but typically only during the season's significant storms. Nevertheless, isolated, less frequent values were also observed. For instance, a gust of 112 km/h was recorded at Hadera Port beneath a developed convective cloud cell passing through on the 5th during the afternoon. This

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represents an exceptional intensity; since measurements began at the station approximately 30 years ago, only one other event featured a stronger gust (132 km/h on 25.10.2015). Notably, significant weakening of the winds set in during the morning hours, and they are forecast to continue diminishing in the near term. Table 1 presents the peak gust intensities recorded at several stations.

Rainfall Accumulations

The highest rainfall totals were deposited across the northern and central mountainous regions. These areas had previously experienced extreme rainfall deficits due to the weak winds associated with prior precipitation systems. Jerusalem and its vicinity measured approximately 60-65 mm, while 40-50 mm fell across the Judean Mountains, northern Golan Heights, Upper Galilee, and Samaria. Driven by the strong winds, rain clouds crossed the Judean Mountains watershed (over 40 mm measured in Ma'ale Adumim), contributing to flash flooding in the Judean Desert.

In the Lower Galilee, Hula Valley, Jezreel Valley, and Yatir region, 30-40 mm accumulated. The coastal plain, Shfela, and Gaza Envelope area received 15-30 mm, while the northern Negev recorded 10-15 mm. The central Negev saw 2-6 mm (Table 2). The precipitation was accompanied by thunderstorms, primarily during the afternoon and evening hours of the 5th. Snow fell on Mount Hermon, as well as in the northern Golan Heights and on Mount Meron. Snowfall was observed in the Upper Galilee and Golan even down to 700 meters elevation, but accumulation, albeit brief, occurred only above 1000 meters.

The rainfall that fell somewhat narrows the substantial precipitation deficit. However, significant additional accumulations are still required to close the gaps.

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Table 1: Maximum Wind Gusts at Several Stations on February 5-6, 2025

Station	Maximum Wind Gust (km/h)
Rosh Haniqra	93
Haifa (Technion)	86
Hadera Port	112
Tel Aviv Coast	92
Bet Dagan	70
Ashdod Port	95
Ashkelon Port	97

Station	Maximum Wind Gust (km/h)
Merom Golan Picman	73
Ma'ale Gilboa	82
Itamar	87
Jerusalem Center	78
Rosh Zurim	87
Gilat	77
Arad	84

Table 2: Rainfall Amounts at Several Stations on February 5-6, 2025 (Until Afternoon)

Station	Rainfall Amount (mm)
Acre	17
Haifa (Technion)	30
Zichron Yaakov	35
Ramat HaKovesh	22
Hakfar Hayarok	17
Bet Dagan	17
Negba	18

Station	Rainfall Amount (mm)
Yakhini	24
Besor	20
El Rom	60
Merom Golan Picman	40
Zefat Har Kenaan	26
Afula Nir HaEmek	21
Har Brakha	36

Station	Rainfall Amount (mm)
Zova	52
Jerusalem	60
Ma'ale Adumim	41
Tzur Hadassah	39
Arad	15
Beer Sheva	19
Sede Boqer	2

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