State of Israel
Ministry of Transport
Israel Meteorological Service

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December 7, 2025

Rain and Flooding Event of December 6, 2025

On December 6, rainfall occurred nationwide; however, the heavy precipitation amounts in the Arava were particularly notable. Some stations in this region recorded 25 to 40 mm, quantities exceeding the multi-year average for the entire season in this area. The rains fell with high intensity and were occasionally accompanied by hail. Strong flows and flash floods occurred in many streams, leading to the closure of main roads in the area for many hours.

Rainfall Progression

In the middle and upper layers of the atmosphere, our region was situated ahead of a trough extending from northwestern Europe to Greece and the Libyan coast. Consequently, southerly flows aloft transported moisture from tropical sources. Combined with the passage of a jet stream, atmospheric instability prevailed, and developed clouds formed, entering from the south of the country and moving northward.

During the noon hours, rainfall commenced in various areas of the Arava and the southern Negev. By the afternoon, additional waves of developed clouds arrived, producing high-intensity rainfall in the Arava, especially in its southern section as well as in the eastern Galilee and the Golan.

Subsequently, a line of rain clouds entered the central and northern Coastal Plain, intensifying over the inland parts of the country. Another line of rain entered Samaria, the Jordan Valley, and the Golan during the evening hours. Following this, strong rains accompanied by hail fell in some areas. The precipitation subsided and ceased during the night hours.

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Rainfall Amounts

The highest rainfall amounts were registered in the southern Arava, in the area between Lotan and Yotvata, where quantities of 25 to 40 mm were measured. For example, Yotvata totaled 40.5 mm, while Ketura Junction and Sayerim (The Desert Flood Research Center) received 38 mm and 32 mm, respectively. Eilat accumulated 10 mm, and similar amounts were observed in the northern parts of the Arava.

The Kinneret area and parts of Samaria tallied 15 to 20 mm. The Lower Galilee, southern Golan, and Jezreel Valley logged 10 to 15 mm, while the northern Coastal Plain, Upper Galilee, and northern Golan recorded 5 to 10 mm. Other parts of the country saw little rain (Table 1).

Following the heavy rains in the south, flash floods occurred in numerous streams in the southern region, along with road flooding. From the afternoon hours, Highway 40 was closed, followed by Highway 13 and various segments of Highway 90; these remained closed for many hours.

Event Significance

Events wherein the Arava and southern Negev receive heavy rainfall, including flash floods in numerous local streams, occur on average once every two to three years. Notable examples include the events of April 2023 (the Tzihor disaster), March 2020, February 2020, and April 2018 (the Tzafit disaster), among others. Typically, such events take place during the transitional seasons, whereas during the winter months (December to February), they happen less frequently (approximately once every 7 years).

The powerful rainfall intensities are noteworthy, within a period of less than three hours, Yotvata accumulated nearly 40 mm. Regarding the Yotvata station, this rainfall intensity represents a 1% probability event, breaking the previous record which stood at 28 mm. However, it is worth noting that concerning the Arava region as a whole, similar events have been observed in recent years, for example, in Paran on April 10, 2023, and in Hazeva on February 25, 2020.

Also worthy of mention is the hail in the north of the country, reports of hail were logged from various locations, primarily in the Jezreel Valley, the Lower Galilee, and the Kinneret (Kfar Hittim, Tiberias, Givat Avni, Sede Ilan, Nazareth, and others). This constitutes the third heavy hail event in the northern region during the current rainy season.

Table 1: Rainfall Amounts at Selected Stations on December 6, 2025

Station	Rainfall Amount (mm)	Station	Rainfall Amount (mm)	Station	Rainfall Amount (mm)
Nahariyya	0.2	Be'eri	0	Kefar Blum	3
Akko	1	Kefar Giladi	5	Kefar Nahum	15
Haifa (Port)	1	Merom Golan	13	Zemah	15
En Hashofet	7	Zefat Har Kenaan	9	Gilgal	3
Zichron Yaakov	3	Deir Hanna	8	Sedom	9
En HaHoresh	7	Afula Nir HaEmek	8	Hazeva	11
Kefar Hess	2	Qarne Shomron	21	Paran	6
Hakfar Hayarok	2	Psagot	5	Lotan	28
Bet Dagan	0.1	Jerusalem	0.2	Yotvata	40
Rehovot	3	Beer Sheva	0	Ketura	38
Beer Tuvia	4	Sede Boqer	0	Har Saguv	23
Negba	0.4	Dafna	3	Eilat	10