State of Israel
Ministry of Transport
Israel Meteorological Service

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# Weather Event Summary of 4-5 May 2026

On 4-5 May, a weather system with winter-like characteristics passed through our region, bringing large rainfall amounts relative to the average for this time of year in northern Israel, strong winds, high waves, and temperatures significantly below the average.

## The Synoptic Situation and Rainfall Progression

A deep upper-level low prevailed over Turkey during the event, with a trough extending toward the eastern Mediterranean; at the surface, a low-pressure area (deep low) was present over southern Turkey (Figure 1). At the 850 hPa level (at an altitude of about 1,500 m), temperatures of about 4 to 5°C were measured, around 10 to 11°C below the average for the first ten days of May. It should be noted that even lower values were measured in countries neighboring Israel, and in Greece the meteorological service reported the breaking of 70-year minimum temperature records.

Before the main weather system reached our region, a frontal line passed over Israel during the afternoon of 3 May, producing rain of varying intensity for short periods. During the passage of this line, amounts of 0 to 3 mm were measured at various stations in northern Israel and along the coastal area, and after it passed, skies cleared.

On 4 May, during the late morning hours, a frontal line entered, accompanied by heavy rain from northern Israel to the Sharon region. Later in the day, rain continued to fall intermittently in northern Israel. In the late morning hours of 5 May, another organized rain band entered northern Israel, and until the afternoon continuous rainfall occurred mainly in the Upper Galilee.

## Rainfall Amounts and Snowfall on Mount Hermon

In the Upper Galilee and the Golan Heights, event totals of 10 to 25 mm were recorded, and at several stations about 30 mm (Majdal Shams 30.5 mm, Harashim 29.5 mm). Along the northern Coastal Plain, in the Lower Galilee, and in the northern Hula Valley, 5 to 12 mm fell; along the Coastal Plain from south of Haifa to the Sharon region, 3 to 6 mm fell (locally in the Netanya area about 10 mm); in the Jezreel Valley and southern Hula Valley, 1 to 3 mm fell; and in areas farther south (the Sea of Galilee area, Samaria and Judea, and the central Coastal Plain), only a little rain fell, generally less than 1 mm (Table 1). During the event, snow fell in the higher parts of Mount Hermon, from an altitude of about 1,900 m. At the summit of Mount Hermon, up to about 30 cm fell.

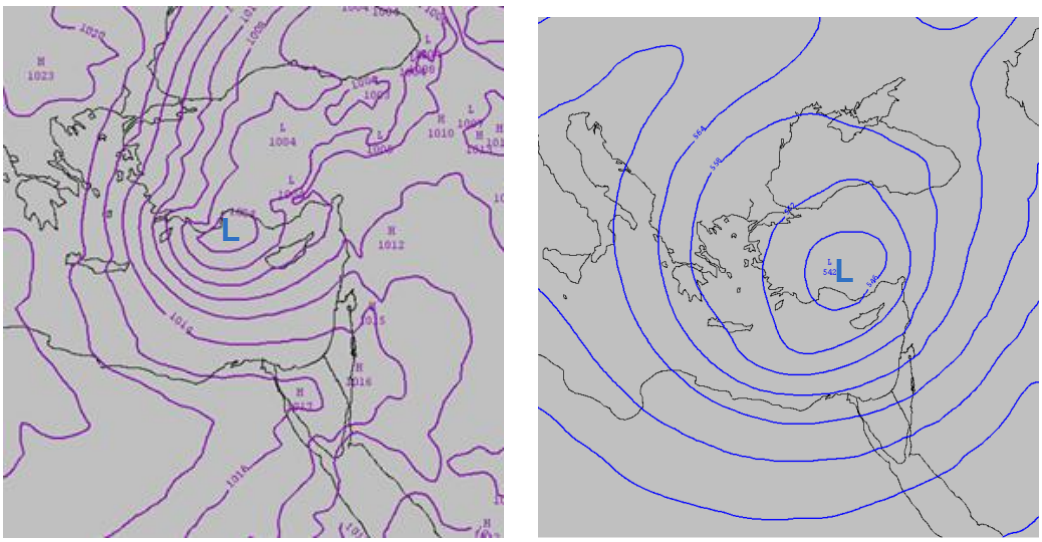

**Figure 1: 500 hPa map (right) and surface map (left) on 04 May 2026 at 00 UTC**

## Temperatures and Winds

The event was characterized by temperatures considerably below the average. In the northern mountains and northern valleys, minimum temperatures of 6 to 7°C were measured, and in the central mountains 8 to 9°C. Maximum temperatures in the northern mountains were 13 to 14°C, in the central mountains 14 to 15°C, and along the Coastal Plain, in the Lowlands, in the northern valleys, and in the Negev 20 to 22°C. In the higher parts of the Golan and on Mount Hermon, maximum temperatures were in the single digits (1°C at Ketef Hermon and 9°C at El Rom Mata'im).

Maximum and minimum temperatures in the mountains were 7 to 9°C below the average, while in the lower areas maximum temperatures were 4 to 7°C below the average.

Cooler-than-average weather, although more moderate, continued to prevail on the days following the event.

The event was also characterized by strong winds, which reached speeds of 50 to 60 km/h in the mountains and along the coastal strip, with gusts of 70 to 80 km/h. As a result of the strong winds over the eastern Mediterranean, wave heights along the Israeli coast reached 4 to 4.5 m significant wave height during the afternoon of 4 May.

It should be noted that in Haifa there were almost 30 hours with waves higher than 3 m.

## Exceptional Aspects of the Event

The event was exceptional in its winter-like character - an organized system consisting of an upper-level trough with a deep surface low, which are not characteristic of this time of year but rather of the winter season. Rain may occur in May, but the systems causing it are usually shallow and unorganized. A synoptic system of this type in May last occurred 40 years ago, in May 1986 (when larger rainfall amounts fell and over a wider national extent).

The event was also exceptional in terms of the cold conditions that prevailed: in northern Israel, minimum temperatures were measured at exceptionally low levels. At Zefat Har Kenaan, a minimum temperature of 6.4°C was measured; at Kefar Blum 7.3°C; at Ayelet HaShahar 7.8°C; and at Avne Eitan 5.4°C - the lowest values measured at these stations since May 1990.

Measured maximum temperatures were also exceptional. At Merom Golan Picman, a maximum temperature of 11.7°C was measured, and at Beit Jamal 19.4°C - the lowest values since 1997. At Zefat Har Kenaan 13.3°C was measured, at Sede Boqer 19.4°C, and at Beer Sheva 20.4°C - the lowest maximum values at these stations since 2005. The combination of the low temperatures and the strong wind produced an even more winter-like sensation, particularly in the northern mountains.

Wave height was also exceptional - compared with measurements available since 2004, the wave height measured during the event (4 to 4.5 m) is the highest measured in May, exceeding the previous May record by more than one meter.

## Rainfall Amounts since the Beginning of the Season

Following the rain that fell in northern Israel, there was a slight improvement in the rainfall balance in this area, and cumulative rainfall amounts since the beginning of the season in northern Israel now reach about 90% to 95% of the average for the entire season. Along the central Coastal Plain, rainfall amounts reach about 80% of the average; in Samaria and the northern Judean Mountains, they are close to the average; and from the Ashdod-Jerusalem line southward, amounts exceed the average, with the desert areas considerably wetter than average. On a nationwide spatial average, cumulative rainfall amounts are close to the seasonal average. A detailed review of the rainy season will be issued later.

**Table 1: Rainfall amounts at selected stations, 4 to 5 May 2026**

| Station | Rainfall Amount (mm) |
|---|---|
| Rosh Haniqra | 9 |
| Nahariyya | 7 |
| Regba | 13 |
| Akko | 7 |
| Haifa (Port) | 7 |
| Yagur | 11 |
| Daliyat al-Karmel | 5 |
| En Hashofet | 3 |
| Zichron Yaakov | 2 |
| Nahal Taninim | 6 |
| Hadera Port | 4 |
| En HaHoresh | 1 |
| Ruppin Academic Center | 9 |
| Kefar Hess | 0 |
| Ramat Hakovesh | 0.3 |
| Hakfar Hayarok | 0 |
| Tel Aviv Coast | 2 |
| Bet Dagan | 0.4 |
| Rishon Lezion | 0 |
| Rehovot | 0 |
| Qevuzat Yavne | 0 |
| Negba | 0 |
| Erez | 0.2 |
| Be'eri | 0 |
| Besor | 0 |
| Metulla | 12 |

| Station | Rainfall Amount (mm) |
|---|---|
| Misgav Am | 27 |
| Majdal Shams | 31 |
| Newe Ativ | 19 |
| Nimrod Fortress | 14 |
| El Rom | 16 |
| Gamla | 3 |
| Merom Golan Picman | 14 |
| Alonei HaBashan | 10 |
| Kefar Giladi | 12 |
| Malkiyya | 13 |
| Metzuba | 14 |
| Elon | 9 |
| Bar'am | 20 |
| Fassuta | 16 |
| Mattat | 26 |
| Hurfeish | 23 |
| Tefen | 25 |
| Kefar Sami'a | 26 |
| Meron | 25 |
| Zefat Har Kenaan | 15 |
| Beit Jann | 27 |
| Harashim | 29 |
| Karmi'el | 20 |
| Eshchar | 9 |
| Nazareth | 4 |
| Newe Ya'ar | 3 |

| Station | Rainfall Amount (mm) |
|---|---|
| Afula Nir HaEmek | 0.3 |
| Nir David | 0.2 |
| Har Berakha | 1 |
| Qarne Shomron | 0.4 |
| Zova | 0.2 |
| Jerusalem Center | 0.1 |
| Maale Adumim | 0 |
| Beit Jamal | 0.1 |
| Zur Hadassa | 0.6 |
| Rosh Zurim | 1 |
| Bet Qama | 0 |
| Beer Sheva | 0 |
| Mizpe Ramon | 0 |
| Banias | 9 |
| Dafna | 7 |
| Kefar Blum | 2 |
| Ayelet HaShahar | 6 |
| Mahanaim | 7 |
| Kefar Nahum | 1 |
| Ginosar | 2 |
| Zemah | 0.3 |
| Sede Eliyyahu | 0.5 |
| Gilgal | 0 |
| Sedom | 0 |
| Paran | 0 |
| Eilat | 0 |