

The northeastern regions of Libya were affected by extreme weather event on Sunday 10 / 9 / 2023:-

On Friday and Saturday, 8 & 9 / 9 / 2023, the northwestern regions of Libya were affected by weather fluctuations as a result of an air depression of 1003 hPa, which was accompanied by a thunderstorm and rain ranging between 20 - 51 mm and leading to the closure of some roads due to water accumulation.

The depression moved, on Sunday, 10 / 9 / 2023, towards the northeastern regions of Libya and deepened at 999 hPa leading to a violent storm in these regions. The storm was accompanied by strong winds at 70 - 80 km/h causing communications interruption, fall of electricity towers, trees and road advertising boards. The storm was also accompanied by torrential rains ranging between 150 - 240 mm and causing flash floods in several cities, including Al-Bayda, which recorded the highest rainfall rate of 414.1 mm. The heavy flash floods led to valley runoff, soil drifts, traffic disruption and also washed away vehicles in Al-Bayda - Al-Marj - Taknis - Al-Bayada - Batah - Tokra - Shahat - Derna - Al-Makhaili - Barsis - Soussa - Benghazi. The sweeping flash floods also led to the death of many residents and great losses of property. Entire neighborhoods in Derna disappeared, along with their residents swept away by water after two ageing dams collapsed making the situation catastrophic and out of control. The Libyan Government announced three days of mourning in all the affected cities; calling them "Disaster Areas".

The National Meteorological Centre (NMC) issued early warnings for this extreme weather event 72 hours before its occurrence, and notified all governmental authorities by e-mails and through media urging them to take more care and caution, and also urging them to take preventive measures. A State of Emergency was announced in the eastern regions based on these warnings. The strongest in red published via CAP early on Thursday 7 / 9 / 2023 at 09:27 GMT, and followed by the issuance of 5 warnings updates, the most recent of which on Saturday morning, 9 / 9 / 2023 at 08:47 GMT.

