

Storm Jorge

Saturday 29 February 2020

Seventh named storm of the season, named by AEMet on Thursday 27 February 2020 and is new to the Named Storms list.

Storm Jorge (pronounced *Hor-hay*) developed in the mid-Atlantic on Friday 28th February in the left exit region of a powerful jet streak coming out of Canada. It intensified rapidly, getting down to near 950 hPa, as it approached the northwest coast of Ireland on the morning of Saturday 29th.

The warm and cold fronts associated with the storm had already passed through the day before on Friday 28th, well ahead of the storm centre, clearing the East coast by 2am on Saturday 29th. This gave spells of heavy rain across the country, which exasperated the flooding situation in the midlands caused by the very wet February leading up to this event. A very cold polar maritime air mass pushed in behind the cold front as Storm Jorge approached the northwest coast on Saturday morning.

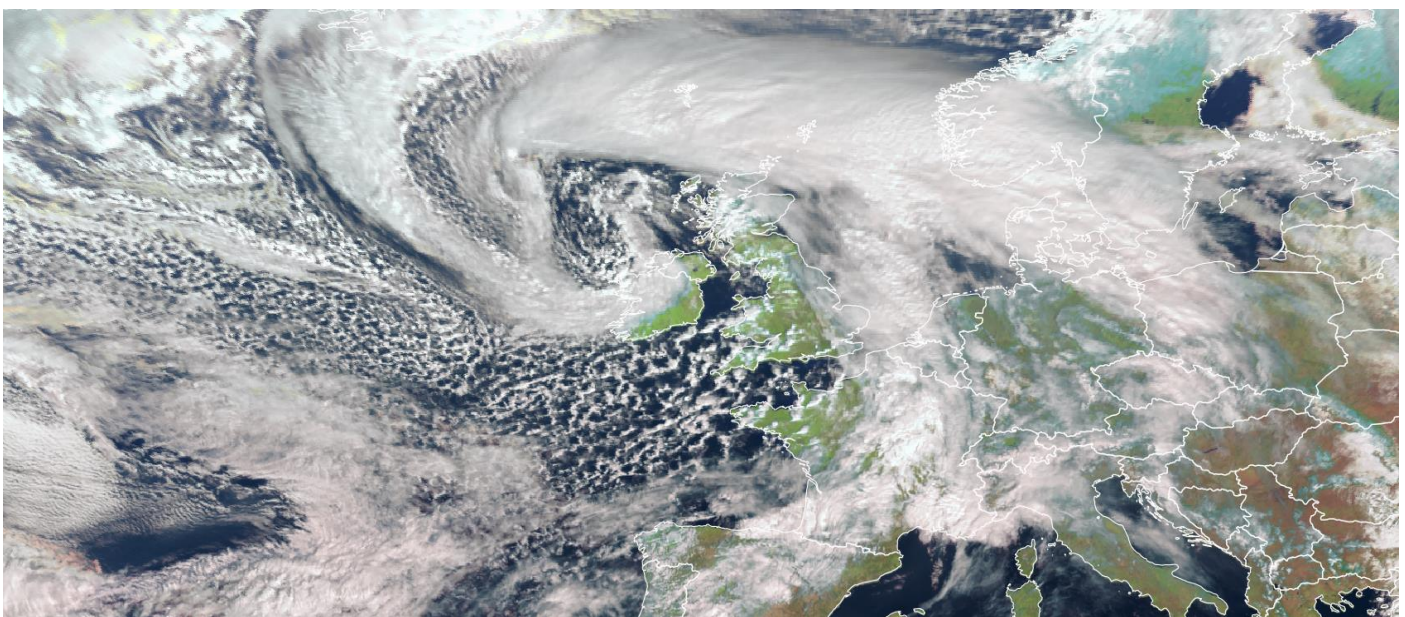


Figure 1. EUMETSAT Satellite Image on 29 February at 09 UTC

The day started windy with wintry showers in the West but mostly dry and clear in the East. During the late morning and afternoon, a wraparound occluded front along with a very strong core of winds just to the south of the storm centre, pushed in across the country as the storm centre moved from west to east just to the north of Ireland. This brought spells of wintry precipitation, with lying snow in places. The strong winds continued into the early morning of Sunday 1st March in the North and West of the country.

Peak wind speeds

One wind station (out of a total 23 wind stations) observed storm force 10 wind speeds during Storm Jorge. The highest mean 10-minute wind speed recorded was 100 km/h at Mace Head and the highest gust wind speed was 133 km/h at Mace Head, Co Galway at 11:37 am (11:37 UTC). Fourteen stations (56% of total number) observed gusts \geq 48 knots on the Saturday, and seven stations on the Sunday. The main impact areas for these winds were Connacht (5 stations), Munster (4 stations), Leinster (3 stations) and Ulster (2 stations).

Impacts:

- Up to 5,000 homes and businesses without power in Ireland.
- A number of roads impassable across the country due to fallen trees and flooding.
- The winds overturned a truck on the N59 in County Galway around 1pm Saturday.
- Fluvial flooding in several areas, especially along river Shannon catchment and South Galway.

Station Name	Rainfall (mm)	Highest 10-minute mean wind speed km/h (kt).	Highest Gust km/h (kt)	Wind Direction (degree)	Hour of occurrence (utc)
MACE HEAD	7.2	100 (54)	133 (72)	230	1200
MALIN HEAD	12.8	83 (45)	111 (60)	240	2200
SherkinIsland	3.9	80 (43)	100 (54)	260	1900
SHANNON AIRPORT	13.1	80 (43)	109 (59)	230	1400
BELMULLET	8.4	76 (41)	106 (57)	210	900
FINNER	8.1	74 (40)	102 (55)	250	1800
ROCHES POINT	1.0	74 (40)	104 (56)	240	1300
VALENTIA	4.8	72 (39)	109 (59)	250	1200
CASEMENT	7.5	72 (39)	106 (57)	210	1600
KNOCK AIRPORT	13.4	63 (34)	98 (53)	260	1700
OAK PARK, CARLOW	3.4	63 (34)	100 (54)	220	1600
NEWPORT	14.4	63 (34)	102 (55)	200	900
ATHENRY	10.3	61 (33)	100 (54)	230	1200
CORK AIRPORT	2.0	59 (32)	87 (47)	240	1500
GURTEEN	12.4	57 (31)	85 (46)	230	1500
DUNSANY	7.4	57 (31)	94 (51)	210	1300
CLAREMORRIS	13.0	57 (31)	87 (47)	260	1700
JOHNSTOWN	0.3	56 (30)	85 (46)	230	1600
DUBLIN AIRPORT	5.6	50 (27)	81 (44)	220	1600
MOORE PARK	1.5	43 (23)	72 (39)	240	1300
MULLINGAR	12.6	43 (23)	74 (40)	190	1300
BALLYHAISE	14.8	39 (21)	70 (38)	240	1900
MT DILLON	16.9	39 (21)	69 (37)	250	1600

Figure 2. Synoptic station data for 29 February

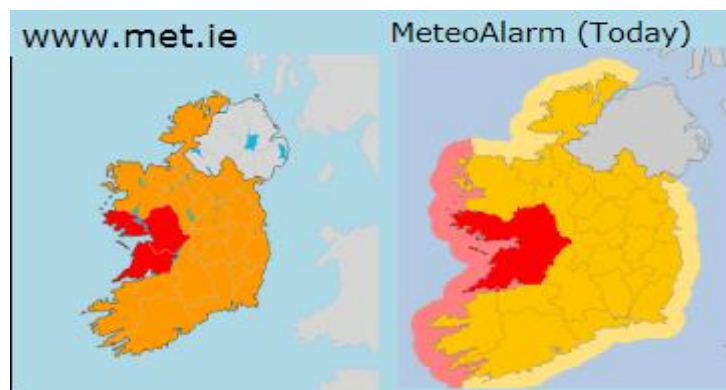


Figure 3. Warnings issued by Met Éireann for Saturday 29 February 2020