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The 22nd November 2011 saw the start of a spell of extreme weather in west Cornwall, as well as in many parts of England & Wales. As an active cold front approached the SSW wind became strong to gale force, with gusts > 60mph at Land's End & Culdrose, and around 60mph on the Penzance promenade, giving some spectacular sea conditions.



Line convection at the leading edge of the cold front resulted in approximately 7.5mm falling in 5 minutes from 14:00-14:05, there was also some large hail. This was immediately followed by a sharp drop in temperature, and a sharp drop & veer in wind force. Spells of heavy rain occurred until early evening, then a sharp shower at 21:00 was accompanied by lightning, the storm remaining just to the west of Land's End.

After a lull on 23rd, with some weak wintry sunshine, a depression approached from the south west during the early hours of the 24th. The rain set in around 07:00 and was continuous until 21:00. During the afternoon it was very heavy for prolonged periods. 53mm fell during this 14 hour period. There was a lot of flooding, the worst hit locally being Newlyn. Pictures taken mid evening.



During the evening the north-westerly wind increased F7 to 8, with gusts to 60mph once again in the most exposed spots. This time the wind reached gale force even at my sheltered Penzance site.

As this 2nd depression moved away, there was something of a lull on the 25th, but it was only very brief. The wind increased fresh to strong SW by late morning, with yet more showery rain in the afternoon. During the early hours of 26th a strong NW set in. The rainfall for the 24 hours to 09:00 26th adding another 18mm to the already substantial totals.

The 26th was pretty grim, with the strong NNW wind reaching gale force in exposed spots, e.g 58knots at St. Ives during the early afternoon, making it 3 gales in 5 days in exposed spots. Spells of showery moderate to heavy rain, associated with a 'wrap around' occlusion, continued all day. A further 15.3mm had fallen by 09:00 on 27th.

The week commencing 09:00 on 20th saw 129.5mm of rain