

### Weather



16 MAY 7:59 UTC Israel & Palestinian Territories Tactical: Authorities issue warnings for extreme heat stress, orange warning for elevated burning index on May 16; maintain heightened vigilance

# **Current Situation:**

#### **Extreme heat stress**

- The Israeli Ministry of Health (MoH) and Israel's Meteorological Services (IMS) have warned that extreme heat stress is expected in most parts of Israel, between May 16-18.
- The heat stress will result in hotter and drier weather than usual.
- The MoH has recommended that civilians stay indoors and avoid staying outdoors and exposed to the sun as much as possible.
- In the event of symptoms such as a body temperature higher than 39.5 degrees Celsius, red, hot
  and dry skin (without sweating), rapid pulse, severe headache, dizziness, nausea, abdominal pain,
  vomiting, confusion and loss of consciousness, authorities have advised to seek medical help and
  receive medical treatment immediately.

### Warning for elevated burning index

Additionally, the IMS has also issued an orange warning for elevated "burning index" for northern

- and central mountain and northern valley areas of Israel and northern areas of the West Bank, between 13:00 to 18:00 (local time) on May 16.
- An orange warning is indicative of a "high risk of uncontrolled fire spread in open areas and risk of spontaneous fire outbreaks that will spread uncontrolled."

Source: IMS, MoH

## **Recommendations:**

#### For heat stress

- 1. Those operating or residing in Israel between May 16-18 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance in regard to heat stress and remain cognizant of all weather updates and take precautions accordingly.
- 2. It is advised to stay indoors and limit direct sun exposure when possible. Drink sufficient fluids, such as water or sports beverages, but avoid alcoholic or sweetened beverages, and eat light meals. Dress in loose-fitting light-colored clothing that covers the skin. Avoid strenuous physical activity.
- 3. Ensure that offices or accommodations have functioning air cooling systems and insulation to keep cool air in. Ensure supply of sufficient first aid tools, including bottled water, first aid equipment, and supplies in the event of heat stroke.
- 4. Remain abreast of weather conditions across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) due to the likelihood of similar extreme heat conditions in the coming days, and take necessary precautions.

#### For elevated burning index:

1. Those operating or residing in the aforementioned areas in Israel and the Palestinian Territories on May 16 are advised to maintain vigilance and adhere to authorities' instructions due to the possibility of wildfires and associated firefighting measures.