

## ***COLD AND SNOW IN SOUTH AMERICA***

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One of the coldest air eruptions this decade is expected in the next few days in Argentina, Uruguay e part of Southern Brazil. First, a major extratropical cyclone will develop near Rio de la Plata region this Tuesday and early Wednesday. Forecast models suggest an *explosive cyclogenesis* and the risk of torrential rain and damaging winds in the Buenos Aires province and Uruguay. Coastal areas could face hurricane force wind gusts. The 985 hPa cyclone will quickly eject to lower latitudes in the South Atlantic, deepening even more to a 960 hPa low, favoring a very cold air incursion in the continent.

The associated front will race trough Uruguay, Northern Argentina and Southern Brazil with possible severe weather (high winds, hails and even isolated tornadoes). A pre-frontal low level jet will transport warm air ahead of the front and could bring gusts of warm and dry wind from the North that could exceed 100 km/h in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, this Tuesday and early Wednesday. The polar air will cover much of Argentina, Uruguay and Southern Brazil on the second half of the week with freezing temperature, frost and even snow.

Snow could fall and even accumulate in parts of the province of Buenos Aires where snow is not so common. Snow in the city of Buenos Aires could not be ruled but, but an event like July 9<sup>th</sup> 2007 is unlikely. Snow is more likely in the regions of Tandil, Mar del Plata and Bahia Blanca and could accumulate as not seen for a long time in the higher elevations of the Sierra de la Ventana. Snow is not off the cards also in Uruguay, according to some forecast models. The last time it snowed with accumulation in Uruguay was on August 1<sup>st</sup> 1991. In the capital Montevideo, the last snow event happened on June 1980. Nights will be extremely cold to the region's patterns from Thursday to Sunday. In Rio Grande do Sul, Southern Brazil, this winter is the coldest so far since 1996.



*Icecap Note: Buenos Aires snow from 2007. See story and photographs of that year's*

*storm here. Could it repeat? Probably somewhere in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay. A major snow occurred in the analog winter of 1965.*