EMS7/ECAM8 Abstracts, Vol. 4, EMS2007-A-00647, 2007 7th EMS Annual Meeting / 8th ECAM © Author(s) 2007



Synoptic patterns associated to severe storms in the Basque Country

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A preliminary study on intense precipitation episodes in short time interval, for a 6 year period, in the Basque Country is made.

This episodes, besides to produce intense precipitations usually they go accompanied of hail and very strong gusts of wind. This work tries to characterize the states of the atmosphere that produce severe storms in the Basque Country area, in order to improve operational forecasting methods used in the Basque Country Meteorological Service.

Precipitation data from the Basque Country AWS network are used to carry out this study. Precipitation events that exceed 10 mm in 10 minutes in any location of the network are considered for study purpose. This rain threshold is supposed to produce several problems in some Basque Country populated areas. The different events, associated to severe storms, are classified using a subjective classification of weather types used in an operational-basis and previous works in the Basque Meteorological Service.