

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Hazardous Marine Conditions and Heavy Rains Expected in USVI Puerto Rico

Swell and Rainfall: Combining Marine Hazards with Heavy Rains and Thunderstorms

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A combination of a northerly swell and increasing winds is set to create hazardous marine conditions through the upcoming weekend and early next week. Along with rough seas, an area of unsettled weather is expected to bring a significant increase in showers and thunderstorm activity.

Key Points of the Weather Advisory:

- **Marine Conditions:** Rough seas are anticipated, with wave heights likely to range between 7 and 10 feet from Thursday through Sunday. Mariners are advised to exercise caution.
- **Rip Currents and Coastal Impact:** The risk of life-threatening rip currents is expected to escalate from late Thursday through Monday, particularly on the north and east-facing beaches of the islands. High surf conditions, with breaking waves exceeding 10 feet, are likely by late Friday through Sunday, potentially causing minor beach erosion and localized coastal flooding.
- **Heavy Rainfall Forecast:** The heaviest rainfall is predicted for Sunday into Monday. The areas most likely to receive substantial rainfall include portions of the south, southeast, and east sections of Puerto Rico, as well as Vieques, Culebra, and the US Virgin Islands. Rainfall totals could reach 2-4 inches in these regions, with other areas potentially experiencing 1-2 inches of rain.
- **Lightning Risk:** Isolated to scattered thunderstorms, capable of producing frequent lightning, are also forecasted.

Authorities urge residents and visitors to stay informed and prepared for these conditions. This forecast is subject to change based on updated model guidance and will be adjusted as necessary. The elevated risk of flooding and mudslides, particularly in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, is a major concern, and individuals in these areas are advised to exercise caution and follow safety guidelines issued by local authorities.