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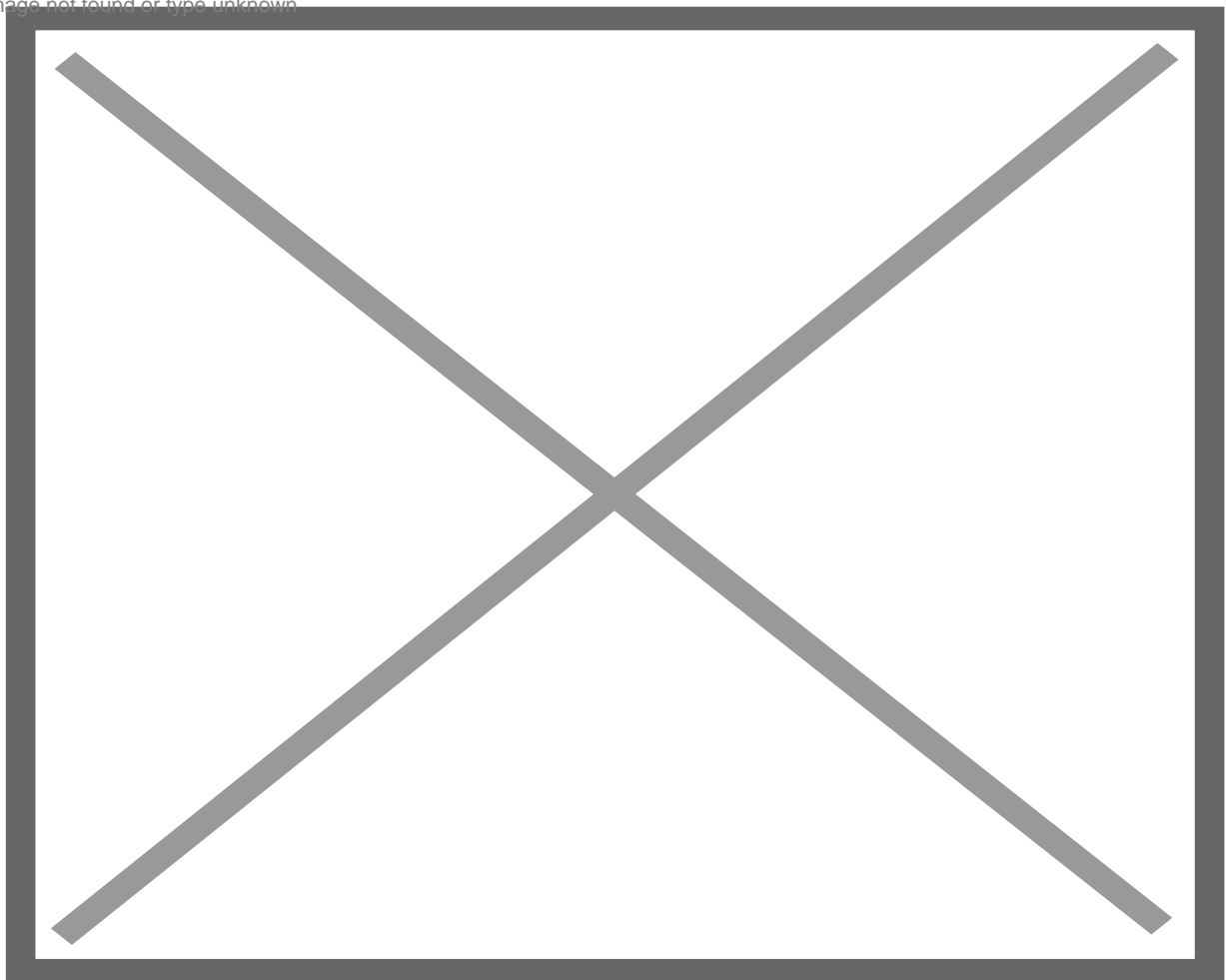
Flood Alert Issued as Persistent Showers and Thunderstorms Loom Over U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico

Strong thunderstorms and saturated soils increase risk of flash floods and mudslides

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Heavy rain impacts the USVI on May 8, 2024. Above, the Crown Bay Center. By. V.I. CONSORTIUM

The National Weather Service in San Juan has issued an elevated to significant flood risk warning for the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico through at least Wednesday evening.

Persistent showers and thunderstorms, fueled by abundant moisture and unstable conditions due to an upper-level trough, will keep flood risks high. Saturated soils and above-normal streamflows will contribute to this risk.

Flood Threat Levels

The NWS Weather Forecast Office has highlighted varying levels of flood threat in different regions:

- **Significant Risk (Red Zone):** Life-threatening flash flooding is possible, potentially entering structures and cutting off neighborhoods.
- **Elevated Risk (Orange Zone):** Flooding of urban areas, roads, small streams, and washes is possible.
- **Limited Risk (Yellow Zone):** Ponding of water on roadways and poorly drained areas, with minor flooding of urban and small streams.

Potential Impacts

- **Flash Flooding and Mudslides:** Urban areas and small streams are at risk of potentially life-threatening flash flooding, while steep terrain poses a significant mudslide threat.
- **Severe Thunderstorms:** Strong thunderstorms may produce wind impacts, including waterspouts and, in rare cases, weak isolated tornadoes.

Public Safety Recommendations

Residents and visitors are urged to take precautions:

1. Avoid driving or walking through flooded areas.
2. Be aware of rising water levels and seek higher ground immediately if flash flooding occurs.
3. Monitor updates from the National Weather Service for any changes in the forecast.

If conditions warrant, an updated version will be released by 6 PM AST on Wednesday.