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## Heavy Rain and Storms Set to Hit USVI, Intensifying Thursday and Friday

**The NWS warns of an unstable weather pattern bringing thunderstorms and heavy rainfall to the U.S. Virgin Islands starting midweek, with the heaviest downpours expected Thursday and Friday, posing risks of flash floods and mudslides**

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The U.S. Virgin Islands should prepare for a stretch of wet and unstable weather expected to intensify over the coming days, with the National Weather Service (NWS) in San Juan forecasting heavy rainfall and thunderstorms.

According to the NWS, a combination of atmospheric disturbances, including a series of mid-to-upper-level troughs and a nearly stationary front, will bring abundant tropical moisture to the

region. This moisture, with precipitable water values ranging from 2.1 to 2.5 inches—well above normal for this time—will likely result in prolonged thunderstorms, heavy rain, and gusty conditions.

The unstable weather pattern is anticipated to continue through the weekend and potentially into early next week. However, the most intense rainfall and thunderstorm activity is projected to occur between Thursday afternoon and late Friday night. During this peak period, forecasted rainfall totals for the U.S. Virgin Islands, along with eastern Puerto Rico, Vieques, and Culebra, range from 2 to 4 inches, with localized areas potentially receiving even higher amounts. Other areas of Puerto Rico are expected to see lower rainfall accumulations of 1 to 2 inches.

The NWS has issued a warning for residents and visitors, especially those in flood-prone zones, to remain vigilant as the prolonged rainfall could lead to significant hazards. Risks associated with this weather system include urban and small stream flooding, flash flooding, and mudslides in areas with steep terrain. Excessive rainfall could also cause sudden surges in river levels, with some rivers potentially reaching or surpassing flood-stage levels.

With unstable conditions and thunderstorms likely to bring frequent lightning and strong winds, the NWS advises the public to stay informed by monitoring weather updates closely. Residents and tourists planning outdoor activities are especially urged to exercise caution and be prepared for sudden changes in weather, as this event is expected to impact the region significantly.