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November Begins with Severe Weather Threat: Flood Warnings, Hazardous Seas, and Dangerous Rip Currents

Heavy rains, flash flooding, and hazardous seas kick off November across PR and the USVI. Officials urge residents and those planning outdoor events to monitor forecasts for potential flooding and life-threatening rip currents

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Preliminary rainfall totals show significant accumulations across Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, with up to 8 inches recorded in eastern Puerto Rico and 2 to 6 inches in the Virgin Islands By. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO.

The National Weather Service has issued several warnings as unsettled weather marks the start of November for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, with conditions favoring heavy rain, flash floods, hazardous seas, and dangerous rip currents.

Forecasters expect favorable environmental factors, coupled with abundant moisture, to create ideal conditions for sustained showers and thunderstorms, with rainfall totals estimated between 1 to 3 inches across the U.S. Virgin Islands and 2 to 4 inches, or more, in parts of eastern Puerto Rico.

With soils already saturated, the Flash Flood Watch remains active through Saturday morning due to a high likelihood of moderate to heavy rain. These conditions are expected to produce rapid river surges, potentially causing some rivers to exceed flood-stage levels. In areas with steep terrain, there is also a significant risk of mudslides.

Additional hazards include dangerous marine conditions, where northerly swells and strong winds are contributing to life-threatening rip currents. The Small Craft Advisories, High Risk of Rip Currents, and High Surf Advisories will remain in effect through the weekend, warning against recreational and navigational activities in impacted waters.

Weather conditions may start to improve on Saturday and Sunday, but forecasters caution that saturated soils and elevated streamflows could mean that even brief periods of moderate to heavy rain may result in additional flooding.

Officials urge residents planning outdoor activities to monitor forecasts closely and stay informed of any updates, as hazardous conditions will persist in certain areas through the weekend.