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Advisory Issued For USVI as Dangerous Weather and Marine Conditions Approach

Heavy rains, strong winds, and hazardous marine conditions expected through the weekend, prompting warnings of flash flooding, rip currents, and rough seas from the National Weather Service

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Satellite image shows Disturbance with a 20% chance of cyclone formation, currently located east of the Caribbean islands as of Wednesday, November 6, 2024. By. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

The National Weather Service in San Juan has issued a warning for worsening weather, marine, and coastal conditions across the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, effective through the weekend. NWS said a deepening upper-level trough combined with abundant moisture is expected to bring excessive rainfall and create challenging marine environments, with the potential for flash

flooding, mudslides, and life-threatening rip currents.

The NWS briefing, issued at 6:00 p.m. AST on Wednesday, highlighted the elevated risk for urban and small stream flooding, especially across northern and eastern areas of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Forecasters are also closely monitoring a low-pressure system within the trough, which could impact the region's weather pattern from Thursday through Friday. Although the system has a low chance of development in the next two days, its presence adds to the likelihood of heavy rainfall across the islands.

Significant Marine Hazards

Northeast winds are expected to increase to between 20 and 25 knots, with gusts reaching up to 30 knots overnight, creating rough seas. Wave heights are forecasted to reach between 8 to 12 feet, with occasional swells reaching up to 15 feet. Small Craft Advisories are in place across the nearshore and offshore Atlantic waters, extending to the Anegada and Mona Passages, with rough conditions expected to persist through at least Friday afternoon.

Life-Threatening Rip Currents

The surf zone along the west, north, and east-facing beaches of Puerto Rico, Culebra, Vieques, and the U.S. Virgin Islands is expected to see dangerous rip currents that could pose a life-threatening risk to swimmers. The public is strongly urged to exercise caution and heed local advisories, particularly those planning beach or water activities.

The National Weather Service will continue monitoring the situation and may issue further updates if necessary. Residents and visitors are encouraged to stay informed of weather developments as forecasts may evolve in response to new data.