

NWS Warns of Increased Showers and Thunderstorms Across Virgin Islands and Eastern Puerto Rico

The National Weather Service forecasts 2–3 inches of rain with isolated higher amounts for the Virgin Islands and eastern Puerto Rico, with the most active period expected tonight through Friday. Impacts may include flooding, mudslides, and lightning.

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Ernice Gilbert **April 17, 2025**

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ST. CROIX — The National Weather Service in San Juan has issued a weather advisory for the U.S. Virgin Islands and eastern Puerto Rico, forecasting increasing showers and thunderstorms beginning Thursday night, with active weather expected to persist into Saturday.

The most active period for rainfall and thunderstorm activity is expected tonight and into Friday morning, though NWS officials caution that showers will likely continue through 6 a.m. AST

Saturday, particularly across the Virgin Islands, eastern Puerto Rico, and the interior regions of Puerto Rico by Friday afternoon.

Forecast rainfall amounts range between 2 to 3 inches, with isolated areas possibly receiving higher totals, according to the NWS outlook. Rainfall maps indicate that areas including Charlotte Amalie, Frederiksted, Culebra, and surrounding eastern municipalities in Puerto Rico may experience some of the highest precipitation totals during this period.

While officials are not anticipating a significant or widespread flooding event, they are monitoring the situation closely, especially in light of the many public events and activities taking place across the islands this week. The National Weather Service is urging residents, visitors, and event organizers to stay aware of changing weather conditions and to plan accordingly.

According to the NWS, the most likely impacts from the incoming system include:

- Ponding of water on roadways and in low-lying areas
- Urban and small stream flooding
- Isolated flash flooding (not ruled out)
- Lightning strikes and mudslides

Officials stress that even moderate rainfall amounts could trigger local hazards in vulnerable areas, especially where drainage is limited or ground saturation is already high. Thunderstorms may also produce dangerous lightning, particularly over open waters or elevated terrain.

The NWS encourages the public to remain cautious, especially if traveling during periods of heavy rainfall.