

USVI Faces Rip Current and Heat Threat as Tropical Moisture Sparks Flood Alerts in Puerto Rico

The National Weather Service warns of dangerous rip currents in Saint Croix, extreme coastal heat throughout the USVI, and afternoon thunderstorms in Puerto Rico that may lead to flooding in the island's northern and interior regions.

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The National Weather Service (NWS) in San Juan has issued a series of weather alerts for the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, warning residents of potential flooding, extreme heat, and dangerous marine conditions due to lingering moisture from a recent tropical wave.

St. Croix, in particular, is facing a moderate risk of rip currents, along with the northern coast of Puerto Rico and the island of Culebra. These strong currents can pose serious dangers, even to

skilled swimmers, and beachgoers are urged to exercise caution.

Meanwhile, hot temperatures combined with high humidity are expected to elevate the heat threat along coastal areas, increasing the risk of heat-related illnesses for both residents and tourists. The NWS is advising people to stay hydrated, avoid extended exposure to the sun, and check on vulnerable individuals in low-lying areas.

“Hot temperatures combined with high humidity will elevate the heat threat along coastal areas,” the bilingual advisory stated, highlighting conditions that could become dangerous for outdoor activity.

Thunderstorms are also forecasted for the afternoon, particularly in parts of Puerto Rico, and could bring localized flooding. Northern and western municipalities are at greater risk, with NWS flood maps indicating elevated threats (orange) in the northwest and limited threats (yellow) in eastern and interior areas.

“Thunderstorms during the afternoon could lead to localized flooding,” the NWS warned, noting that rapid rainfall may overwhelm drainage systems.

The latest advisory was issued at 4:29 a.m. AST on Sunday, August.