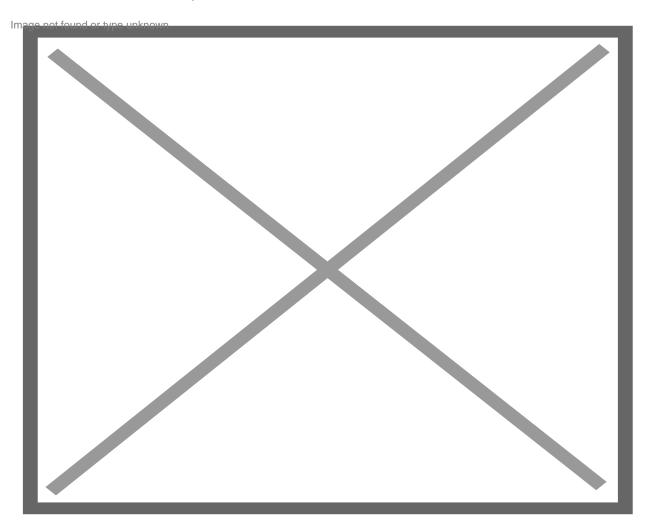
'Well-Defined' Tropical Wave to Bring Showers, Thunderstorms to Windward Islands

Hurricane Season / Published On June 11, 2020 06:58 AM /

Staff Consortium June 11, 2020



A well-defined tropical wave located about 350 miles east of the Windward Islands continues to produce disorganized showers and thunderstorms, the National Hurricane Center said Thursday morning.

According to NHC, although significant development is not expected due to dry air and adverse upper-level winds, some areas of heavy rain and gusty winds are possible across portions of the Windward Islands later today through early Friday while the wave moves westward at 15 to 20 mph.

Formation chance through 48 hours remains low at 10 percent. The 5-day forecast is also low at 10 percent.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center, will most likely be a busy, above-normal season.

The Climate Prediction Center, which is an arm of the National Weather Service, predicts a 60 percent chance of an above-normal season, a 30 percent chance of a near-normal season and only a 10 percent chance of a below-normal season.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting a likely range of 13 to 19 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 6 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). NOAA provides these ranges with a 70 percent confidence. An average hurricane season produces 12 named storms, of which 6 become hurricanes, including 3 major hurricanes.

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