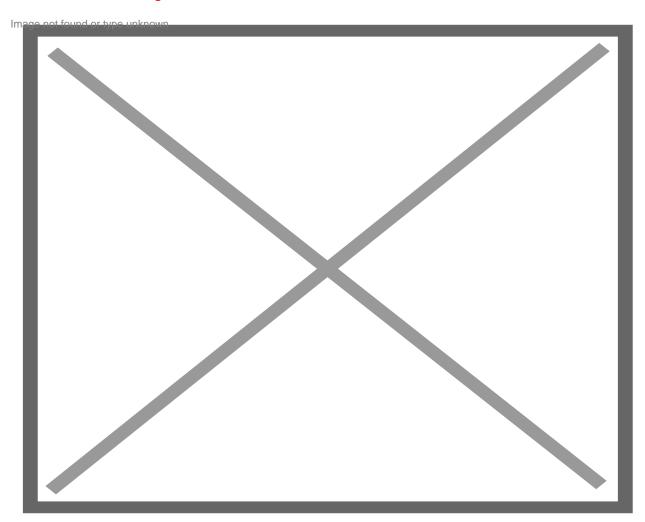
System in Atlantic Expected to Reach U.S. Virgin Islands Sunday, National Hurricane Center Says

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A weather system in the Atlantic Ocean facing conditions conducive for development is expected to reach the U.S. Virgin Islands by Sunday, though it was unclear in what form.

According to the National Hurricane Center's 2:00 a.m. Friday forecast, the system — a small low pressure system located about 1000 miles east of the Lesser Antilles — is producing disorganized shower and thunderstorm activity primarily west of the center.

Environmental conditions are expected to gradually become more conducive for additional development, and a tropical depression is likely to form within the next couple of days, N.H.C. said. The system is forecast to move generally westward at about 20 mph across the tropical Atlantic, reaching portions of the Leeward Islands Saturday night, and Virgin Islands on Sunday.

"Interests in these locations should monitor the progress of this disturbance," advised the hurricane center.

N.H.C. gave the system a 70 percent chance of development through both the 48-hour and five-day windows, which speaks to the uncertainty surrounding potential development.

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