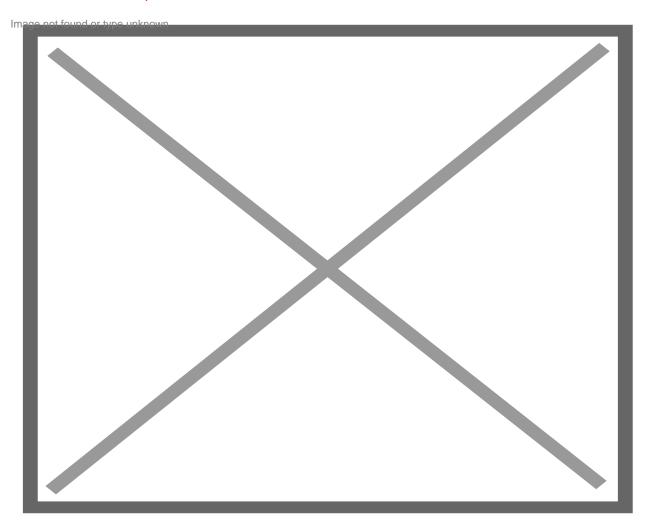
## USVI, Eastern Half of Puerto Rico at Risk of Flooding Through Friday, National Weather Service Says

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Hazardous marine and coastal conditions are expected to persist in the Atlantic and offshore Caribbean waters and Anegada Passage through the weekend, according to a warning issued by the National Weather Service.

Wind-driven seas combined with small northeasterly swell pulses will cause choppy to dangerous marine conditions, including life-threatening rip currents and dangerous swimming conditions. The warning also covers the north- and east-facing beaches of all the local islands.

Small craft are expected to experience dangerous conditions, and swimmers should be cautious when entering the water. Rip currents are expected to sweep swimmers away from shore into deeper water, NWS said.

In addition to the marine warning, a rain event is also expected due to a developing trough. A potent upper-level low and induced surface trough, along with increasing moisture, are resulting in a very unsettled weather pattern, which is promoting showers and thunderstorms across the region. Although all the forecast areas will be prone to flooding, the eastern half of Puerto Rico, Vieques, and Culebra, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are expected to receive greater amounts, according to NWS.

The most active period for the rain event is expected late tonight through Friday, with the warning in effect through at least Saturday. Although low streamflows and dry soils may delay the onset of runoff conditions, persistent shower activity will increase the chance of excessive runoff. This will result in flooding of rivers, creeks, streams, and other low-lying and flood-prone locations. Creeks and streams may rise out of their banks, and flooding may occur in poor drainage and urban areas. Low-water crossings may be flooded, and gusty wind conditions and frequent lightning are also possible.

Residents and visitors to the region are advised to stay informed about the developing weather conditions and take necessary precautions to ensure their safety.

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