



For Immediate Release

October 7, 2023, 9:45 a.m. (ChST)

98W Maintains Course Toward the Marianas; Use the Weekend to Prepare

The National Weather Service (NWS) Guam Weather Forecast Office continues to monitor Invest 98W as it becomes better organized. 98W is now the subject of a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert, indicating further strengthening into a tropical depression is likely within 24 hours. As it approaches and strengthens, heavy rainfall and flooding concerns will develop for the Marianas.

What to Expect

There is a high likelihood that 98W will pass through the Marianas as a tropical storm or weak typhoon, possibly around Tuesday night. The latest forecasts now show 6 to 10 inches of rainfall are likely, with locally higher amounts near 12 inches possible. Strong wind gusts to 40 mph are possible with heavier showers or thunderstorms that develop. Waves may increase into the 10-to-14-foot range as fresh to strong sustained winds potentially develop, with near gale force gusts possible.

Response Efforts Underway

Officials, Mayors, and Emergency Operations Center personnel are receiving updated weather briefs for their response planning efforts. The Guam Department of Public Works has pre-staged heavy equipment in flood-prone areas islandwide.

More than 200 FEMA personnel are currently deployed in Guam, with more resources in transit, preparing for the possible incoming severe weather. The FEMA distribution center in Guam is ready to support and provide commodities if needed to both Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. FEMA staff are coordinating with the territory and commonwealth leadership to integrate respective leads and identify resources that may be needed for the upcoming storm.

Use the Weekend to Prepare

Residents and visitors are advised to take the following precautionary actions:

- Those living in flood-prone areas should take action now; clear drainage areas and unblock storm drains to minimize flooding;
- Stay up to date with the latest information;
- Clear loose debris around your yard and store any items that may become airborne with heavy winds, such as canopies, tarps, and trampolines, before inclement weather arrives;
- Have an emergency kit prepared: Store enough food and water for your household for 7-10 days. Include medication, disinfectant supplies and pet supplies;
- Secure important documents such as birth certificates, tax papers, and insurance documents and keep copies in a water-proof bag;
- Review your emergency plan: If you do not have a plan, learn how to create an [emergency plan](#). Have plans for your family members and [pets](#). If you are a person with [disabilities](#) or a caregiver for [elderly](#), you may need to take extra steps to plan for those additional needs.
- Get emergency alerts: Stay informed by having a weather alert radio, battery-operated, or hand-crank radio, where you can listen to emergency news;
- Gas your vehicles and get fuel for your generators;
- Pull cash from the ATM in case of power outages;

- Don't drive through flood waters: Almost half of all flash flood deaths happen in vehicles. When in your car, look out for [flooding](#) in low-lying areas at bridges and at highway dips. As little as 6 inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle.

Visit the following links for the latest information:

- NWS Website: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>
- NWS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NWSGuam/>
- GHS/OCD Website: <https://ghs.guam.gov/>
- GHS/OCD Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/>
- [Build A Kit | Ready.gov](#)
- [Hurricane Safety Tips and Resources \(weather.gov\)](#)
- [National Hurricane Preparedness | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(noaa.gov\)](#)

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