



## OFFICES OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND CIVIL DEFENSE

*Inasiguran I Tano' Guahan/Ufisinan Difensia Sibet*

221-B Chalan Palasyo, Agana Heights, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 475-9600 / Fax: (671) 477-3727

Website: [www.ghs.guam.gov](http://www.ghs.guam.gov)

Esther J.C. Aguigui  
Homeland Security Advisor  
Charles V. Esteves  
Administrator

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### For Immediate Release

July 27, 2023, 8:20 a.m. (ChST)

### Flood Watch in Effect; Practice Caution in Heavy Rain

The National Weather Service (NWS) Guam Weather Forecast Office maintains a flood watch in effect for Guam and Rota. Flash flooding caused by excessive rainfall continues to be possible. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected to become numerous to widespread by this evening and continue through Friday.

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

- If driving, be alert for low visibilities and slippery roads in heavy rain;
- Slow down where water is ponding on the road;
- Turn Around, Don't Drown. Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away;
- Do not camp, park, or hike along streams and rivers. These areas can flood quickly and with little warning.

A **high surf advisory** is in effect for Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan until 6 p.m. Thursday. Large breaking waves of 7 to 9 feet are expected for south facing reefs. Dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion are expected.

A **high risk of rip currents** is in effect for Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan through Thursday afternoon. Dangerous rip currents are expected along east and south facing reefs. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from the shore into deeper water. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous conditions. If caught in a rip current, do not swim against the current. Swim in a direction following the shoreline, face the shore and call or wave for help.

A **small craft advisory** remains in effect for the coastal waters of Guam and Rota until 6 p.m. Friday. Southeast winds of 10 to 20 knots, with gusts up to 30 knots, and seas of 7 to 10 feet are expected. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid navigating in hazardous conditions.

The Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense (GHS/OCD) remind the community to practice caution while traveling in rainy conditions, driving below the speed limit and allowing enough braking distance between vehicles.

Visit the following links for the latest advisory 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/>

For more information, contact GHS/OCD Public Information Officer Jenna G. Blas at (671) 489-2540 or via email at [jenna.g.blas@ghs.guam.gov](mailto:jenna.g.blas@ghs.guam.gov).