



## OFFICES OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND CIVIL DEFENSE

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### For Immediate Release

August 26, 2023, 8 a.m. (ChST)

### Hazardous Surf and Seas Expected through the Week

The National Weather Service (NWS) Guam Weather Forecast Office has the following advisories in effect:

A **high surf advisory** is in effect for Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan until 6 a.m. next Saturday. Large breaking waves of 7 to 9 feet today are expected to become 9 to 11 feet tonight along south and west facing reefs of the Marianas. Remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions.

A **high risk of rip currents** is in effect for Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan through late Friday night along south and west 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** is in effect for the coastal waters of Guam and Rota until 6 a.m. next Saturday. Southwest winds of 10 to 20 knots, with gusts up to 25 knots, and seas of 7 to 10 feet are expected. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid navigating in hazardous conditions.

NWS continues to monitor a developing tropical system, known as Invest 93W as it forms west-southwest of Guam. 93W has the potential to eventually develop into a tropical system. At this time, there remains uncertainty for the exact impact 93W will have on the Marianas but current model guidance indicates high likelihood for gusty winds, hazardous seas and surf, and locally heavy rainfall.

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

- **Stay up to date with the latest information;**
- Be prepared to take action if warranted;
- Stay out of hazardous surf and seas;
- 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, during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly and with little warning.

The Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense (GHS/OCD) remind the community to remain out of the water and to stay up to date with NWS products. Practice caution while traveling in heavy rain, 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).

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