



## OFFICES OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND CIVIL DEFENSE

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### For Immediate Release

January 16, 2024, 9:50 a.m. (ChST)

### **Prepare for High Wind Event Wednesday; Hazardous Surf and Seas Remain; Outdoor Burning Not Recommended**

The National Weather Service (NWS) Guam Weather Forecast Office advised an incoming high wind event is the main concern for the next several days. NWS has the following advisories in effect:

A **high wind watch** is in effect for Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, from Wednesday morning through late Thursday night. Northeast winds of 30 to 40 mph, with gusts up to 50 mph, are possible. Damaging winds can blow down trees and other items. Travel could be difficult, especially for high profile vehicles along higher terrain. The community is advised to secure canopies and loose items that can become airborne in heavier winds.

A **fire weather watch** is in effect for Guam from Wednesday morning through late Thursday night for the high wind event. Gusty winds and dry conditions will lead to rapid fire spread. Sustained northeast winds of 30 to 40 mph, with gusts to 50 mph, with humidity as low as 50 to 55 percent in the afternoon, are expected. The highest threat is for southern parts of Guam, especially areas with extensive sun and wind exposure. Any fires that develop will likely spread rapidly. Outdoor burning is not recommended.

A **high surf advisory** remains in effect for Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan until 6 a.m. Friday along west and north facing reefs. Large breaking waves of 7 to 9 feet, increasing to 12 to 14 feet Wednesday, dangerous swimming and surfing conditions, and localized beach erosion are expected. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous conditions.

A **high risk of rip currents** remains in effect for Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan through late Thursday night. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from the shore into deeper water. 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 **gale watch** is in effect for the coastal waters of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan from Wednesday morning through late Wednesday night. Northeast winds of 25 to 30 knots, with gusts up to 40 knots, and seas of 14 to 17 feet are possible. Strong winds can cause hazardous seas which could capsize or damage vessels and reduce visibility. Mariners should consider altering plans to avoid possible hazardous conditions.

A **hazardous seas watch** is in effect for the coastal waters of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan from Wednesday morning through late Thursday night. Very steep and hazardous seas of 14 to 17 feet are possible. During that time, mariners are advised to remain in port, seek safe harbor, alter course, and/or secure the vessel for severe wind and seas. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions.

The Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense (GHS/OCD) remind the community to avoid hazardous surf and seas while the advisories are in effect. Avoid outdoor burning.

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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