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For Immediate Release

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Tropical Depression 02W Forms; Heavy Rainfall Remains a Possibility Over the Weekend

The following National Weather Service (NWS) Guam Weather Forecast Office continues to monitor what is now Tropical Depression 02W, formerly JTWC Invest Area 95W.

As of 1 p.m., the system was located near latitude 3.7 degrees north and longitude 148.1 degrees east, about 370 miles southwest of Chuuk, 710 miles south-southeast of Guam. It is currently moving west-northwest at 9 mph with maximum sustained winds of 30 mph. It is forecast to intensify through tonight, possibly becoming a tropical storm Friday. 02W is expected to make a slight turn toward the northwest with a slight decrease in forward speed over the next 24 hours.

It is expected to track west-northwestward with a slight turn to the northwest the next few days, passing over islands of eastern Yap State. Although a direct threat is not expected for the Marianas from the system, there remains uncertainty for exactly how much wind and rain is expected for the Marianas this weekend. Winds, showers, and seas will begin to increase Saturday into Sunday. Those living in flood-prone areas should keep aware of conditions in the event of any heavy showers over the island; clear drainage areas and unblock clogged storm drains in your area to minimize flooding and watch for any additional advisories.

The following advisories remain in place:

An **airport wind advisory** remains in effect for the Guam International Airport until 6 p.m. this evening. Winds at 20 knots, with frequent gusts to 30 knots, are expected.

A **red flag warning** remains in effect for Guam until Friday evening. A red flag warning means that critical fire weather conditions are either occurring now, or will shortly. East winds of 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph are expected during the afternoons. The highest threat is expected for central and southern Guam during the daytime hours. Any fires that develop will likely spread rapidly. Outdoor burning is not recommended.

A **high risk of rip currents** remains in effect for Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan through Sunday night. Dangerous rip currents are expected along east facing reefs. 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, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan until 6 a.m. Monday. East winds of 15 to 25 knots, with gusts up to 30 knots, and seas of 7 to 9 feet are expected. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in hazardous conditions.

The Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense (GHS/OCD), in coordination with NWS, will continue to monitor all systems in the region and provide updates.

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.

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