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**NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

Contact: WSO Pago Pago  
684-699-9130  
[nws.pr.pago.operations@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.pr.pago.operations@noaa.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**NWS -WSO Pago Pago Office Predicts a below-normal Tropical  
Cyclone season for 2017-18**

The International Research Institute and the National Weather Service (NWS) Climate Prediction Center predicts a weak La Nina to start off the season before gradually rising to ENSO Neutral in February through April. With this scenario, the South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ) typically develops near and just to the southwest of the Samoan Islands before drifting southwest in February. Tropical Cyclones will have a higher chance of developing within 300 nautical miles of the Samoan Islands from late December through January this season.

This outlook is a general guide to the overall Tropical Cyclone season activity near the American Samoa basin (extends to 300 nautical miles from Tutuila) and does not predict whether, or how many, of these systems will directly affect American Samoa. Tropical cyclone season begins November 1 and runs until April 30.

American Samoa will likely see below normal activity (30% chance below tropical cyclone climatology) consistent with neutral to possibly weak La Niña conditions. With the outlook looking to be in La Niña conditions by austral summer (Dec-Jan-Feb), the outlook looks to be for 0 to 2 tropical cyclones affecting the Samoan Islands this season. Although La Nina conditions favors below normal tropical cyclone activity near American Samoa, we continue to urge residents and mariners to be fully prepared before the onset of our tropical cyclone season.

"I encourage the general public to be prepared for the upcoming tropical cyclone season. Looking at what has happened in the U.S. with recent hurricanes, the threat of any tropical cyclone can devastate our islands," said Vinnie Atofau, Manager of American Samoa Territorial Emergency Management Coordinating Office (TEMCO).

NWS Weather Service Office (WSO) Pago Pago, in collaboration with Regional Specialized Meteorological Center (RSMC) Nadi, Fiji; Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC), Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) continuously monitor weather conditions near the territory by using an array of observations and output

from complex computer models that serves as the basis for tropical cyclone track and forecasts.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on Facebook @NWSPagoPago and visit our website: <http://weather.gov/ppg> for updated weather information for American Samoa and listen to our NOAA Weather Radio for the latest, or give us a call at 699-9130.

