



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PACIFIC REGION
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NWS -WSO Pago Pago Office Predicts a normal to above tropical cyclone season for 2018-19

The International Research Institute National Weather Service (NWS) Climate Prediction Center predicts a weak El Niño and continue through the tropical cyclone season. With this scenario, the South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ) typically develops near to just northeast of the Samoan Islands before drifting southwest late in the season. Tropical Cyclones will have a higher chance of developing within 300 nautical miles of the Samoan Islands from December through most of 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 above normal activity, 40% chance above tropical cyclone climatology (elevated risk); fairly consistent with El Niño conditions. The outlook looks to be 2 to 3 tropical cyclones given El Niño conditions by austral summer (Dec-Jan-Feb) affecting the Samoan Islands this season. El Niño conditions favors above normal tropical cyclone activity near American Samoa, thus we urge residents and mariners to be fully prepared for this tropical cyclone season.

NWS Weather Service Office (WSO) Pago Pago, in collaboration with the Regional Specialised Meteorological Center (RSMC) Nadi, Fiji; Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) and Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) continuously monitor weather conditions near the territory by using an array of observations, satellite data and output from complex computer models that serve as the basis for tropical cyclone track and forecasts.

Follow us on Facebook @NWSPagoPago and visit our website: <http://weather.gov/ppg> for updated weather information for American Samoa. Please listen to our NOAA Weather Radio, or give us a call at 699-9130. The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, water, and climate data, forecasts and warnings for the protection of life and property and enhancement of the national economy.

