

AVMA Situation Report – Puerto Rico Floods

Date: 11/17/03

Location: Puerto Rico

Report

The VMAT have not been activated at this time. Disaster resource information including AVMF disaster relief emergency fund and VMAT deployment information has been sent to the PR State Veterinarian, PR State Veterinary Medical Association, and the PR Emergency Management Agency.

For information on how you can help support VMAT and animal disaster preparedness, please visit www.avmf.org.

For information on how you can prepare for disasters visit www.avma.org/disaster.

Puerto Rico State Emergency Management Agency Update

Date: November 17, 2003

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Incident Update:

The National Weather Service (NWS) reported at 655 AM AST, that a Flash Flood Watch has been extended until 600 PM today for all of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The ground remains saturated from the excessive rainfall that was seen across the area over the past several days. Showers are most likely this morning along the north coast of Puerto Rico and across the U.S. Virgin Islands. However, showers are likely by this afternoon in all the area which could produce localized flash flooding.

The middle to upper level trough responsible for this past weeks torrential rains has moved just Northeast of the Leeward Islands since yesterday. However, a weak portion of this trough remains across the local area this morning extending from South of Mona Island East-Northeastward across Northern Puerto Rico, then Northeast into the Atlantic.

Even if widespread rainfall is not expected, isolated locations will receive additional rainfall, which could lead to another round of flash flooding. The terrain remains very saturated and all rivers and streams are also still above normal levels. Therefore, the possibility of landslides especially across areas of steep terrain will continue throughout the day. Dangerous cloud to ground lightning will also accompany the isolated thunderstorms.

In the US Virgin Islands, today VITEMA and OMB are performing assessments to evaluate flood related damages to houses and infrastructure in the islands. DHS/FEMA CDO will continue contact with VITEMA if any support is required.

In Puerto Rico, the Governor added four (4) municipalities to the State of Emergency declaration, which are Guánica, Juana Díaz, Patillas and Yauco. PRSEMA has reported four hundred and seventy two (472) people in sixteen (16) shelters; a total of 144 families. The PR Transportation and Public Works reported several roads have been cleared but additional landslides were reported affecting other local roads. Urban Search and Rescue teams are located in Moca as a result of a collapsed house due landslide; continue search in Aibonito and in Ciales. PRASA/ONDEO reported 149,690 customers without potable water service and 38 water plants out of service due to high water turbidity.

The VOADS in Puerto Rico informed that Church World Services (CSW) Disaster Response and Recovery Liaison is collecting information from local denominational partners and emergency management officials. CWS will be shipping health kits, baby kits, and blankets to the affected regions based on expected requests over the weekend. The United Church of Christ, the Methodist Church and the Salvation Army continue their support activities in Salinas, Cabo Rojo, and Guayama.

DHS/FEMA CDO deployed nineteen (19) Human Services teams and six (6) Public Assistance teams to the following municipalities: Guayama, Maunabo, Rio Grande, Salinas, Santa Isabel, and Yauco.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: PRSEMA (PR State Emergency Management Agency), VITEMA (Virgin Islands), and NWS.

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