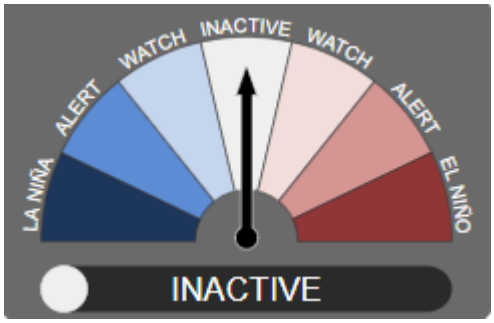
Samoa Meteorology Division
Early Action Rainfall Watch (EAR Watch)

The EAR Watch provides disaster managers' with a brief summary of recent rainfall patterns, particularly drought and the rainfall outlook for the coming months. Contact the Samoa Meteorology Division for further climate information.

Issued: September 2019

Rainfall Status:
Meteorological Drought exists at Faleolo at the 12-month.
Drought Warnings are current at Apia for 3 and 12 months scale as well as Nafanua at 6 and 12 months scale. Afiamalu is also experiencing a **Drought Warning** for the 3 month scale alongside Faleolo.

Rainfall Outlook:
Alert 1 Dry is anticipated for Afiamalu and Nafanua with 'no alert' at Apia and Faleolo.



Our current ENSO status is now Inactive

Note: Colours do not relate to those below.

Rainfall Status at September 2019 and Outlook for October to December 2019

Rainfall Stations*	Rainfall Status			Rainfall Outlook
	Past 12 months	Past 6 months	Past 3 months	Next 3 months
Apia	Warning	Normal	Warning	No Alert
Afiamalu	Normal	Normal	Warning	Alert 1 Dry
Nafanua	Warning	Warning	Normal	Alert 1 Dry
Faleolo	Drought	Normal	Warning	No Alert

Status Key	Meteorological Drought	Drought Warning	Drought Watch	Status not available	Normal or Wetter than normal	Very Wet
Percentile		10th	25th	40th		90th

Outlook Key	Alert 3 Dry	Alert 2 Dry	Alert 1 Dry	Outlook not available	No Alert	Alert 1 Wet	Alert 2 Wet	Alert 3 Wet

← Increasing chance of drier 3 months — Increasing chance of wetter 3 months →

Rainfall Status

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) recognised Percentile method has been used to assess rainfall status. Meteorological Drought is defined as drought assessed by historical rainfall data only.

Rainfall Outlook

Seasonal outlooks have been produced using SCOPIC v4.4.16 which is a decision-support tool used to generate outlooks for temperature, rainfall and other climate related factors http://cosppac.bom.gov.au/products-and-services/seasonal-climate-outlooks-in-pacific-island-countries/.

The outlook provides an indication of total three-month rainfall, not how intense the rain may be in any one event, nor how it may vary within the three months. A station is assigned 'No Alert' when near normal rainfall is favoured or there are equal chances of below normal, normal and above normal rainfall. Two months before the dry and wet season, until the start of the season, a second outlook is presented for the upcoming dry or wet season.

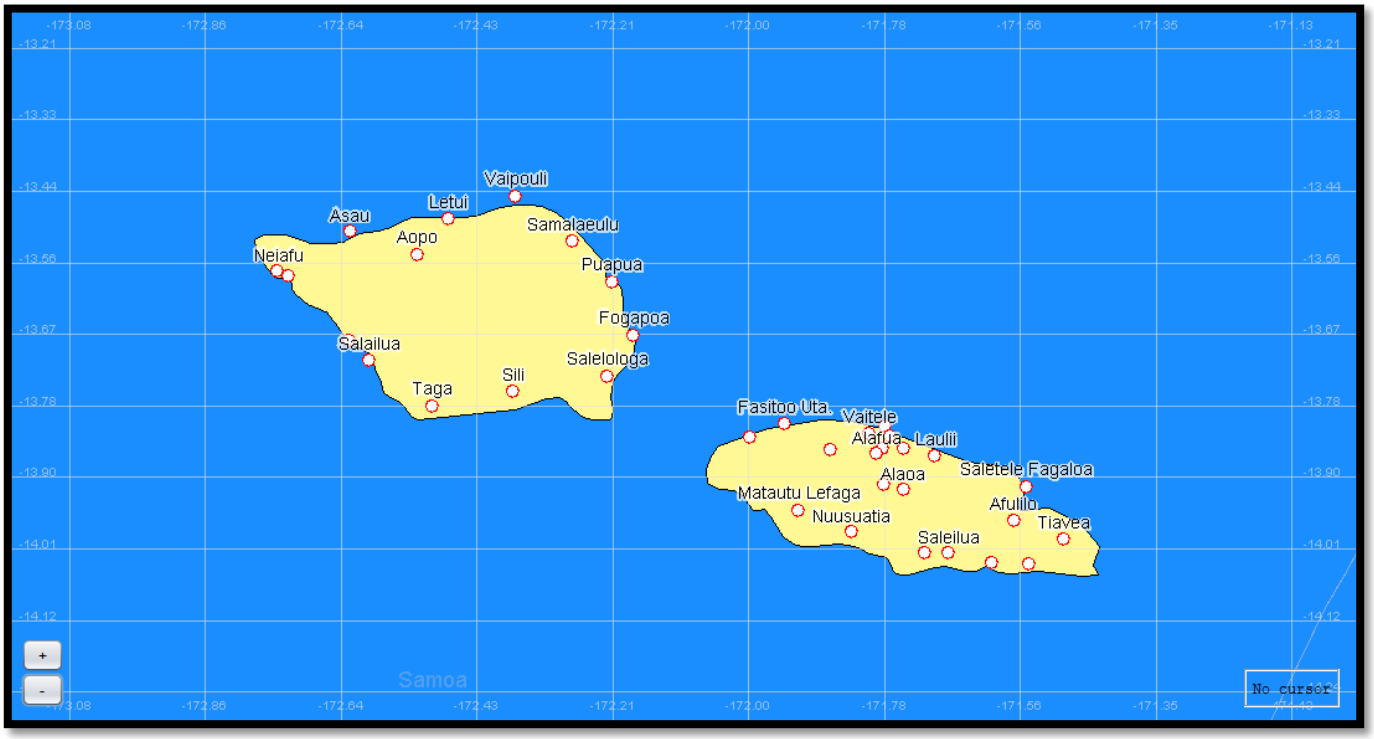
Time periods and impacts

The following table provides examples of impacts that have been associated with drought at the 3, 6 and 12 month periods. Note the periods are estimates only and impacts overlap. Allow for uncertainty associated with seasonality, island size, topography, geology, soil type or socio-economic circumstances. Contact the National Disaster Management Office and relevant Department for further information on impacts.

Sector/ Department	12-month period is most relevant for	6-month period is most relevant for	3-month period is most relevant for
Water	major rivers, deep bores/large aquifer system, reservoirs, dams	small rivers, shallow bores, reservoirs	rainwater tanks, streams, shallow bores
Environment/ Agriculture	coconuts, breadfruit, mango, banana, fruit trees (nonu, lemon, orange), root crops (yam, taamu, cassava), kava	corn, pineapple, pawpaw, taro, kumala, avocado, cocoa, coffee	traditional vegetables, cabbage, tomatoes, beans, eggplant, watermelon, pasture
Fire	All Fires	Structural Fire	Bush and Rubbish Fire
Health	National public health impacts	Increasing public health impacts	Isolated public health impacts
Tourism			

Samoa rainfall monitoring stations

* Only stations over 25 complete years of rainfall data are used in the EAR Watch.



Contact the Samoa Meteorology Division for further information.

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