



# 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.

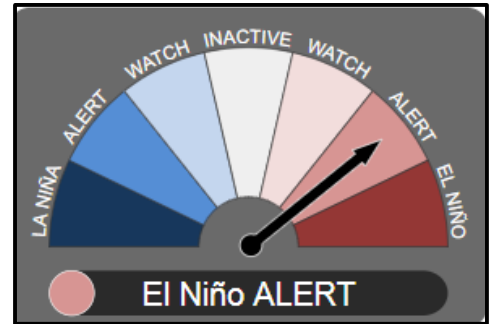
Issued: April 2019

### Rainfall Status:

**Drought Warning** are current at Apia and Nafanua on the 6 and 3 months timescales. **Drought Watch** exists at Apia and Nafanua for the 12-month timescales. Afiamalu and Faleolo are experiencing **Normal** conditions.

### Rainfall Outlook:

**Alert 1 Dry** is anticipated for all stations with 'no alert' for Apia in the next 3 months whereas in the next 6 months **Alert 1 Dry** is expected for all except Nafanua which anticipates **no alert**.



Currently, the ENSO is neutral with 70 % chance of El Niño to occur in the coming months.

*Note: Colours do not relate to those below.*

### Rainfall Status at 26 April 2019 and Outlook for May to July 2019

Rainfall Stations*	Rainfall Status		
	Past 12 months	Past 6 months	Past 3 months
Apia	Watch	Warning	Warning
Afiamalu	Normal	Normal	Normal
Nafanua	Watch	Warning	Warning
Faleolo	Normal	Normal	Normal

Rainfall Outlook	
Next 3 months	Next 6 months
Alert 1 Dry	Alert 1 Dry
Alert 1 Dry	Alert 1 Dry
Alert 1 Dry	No Alert
No Alert	Alert 1 Dry

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

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
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← 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.

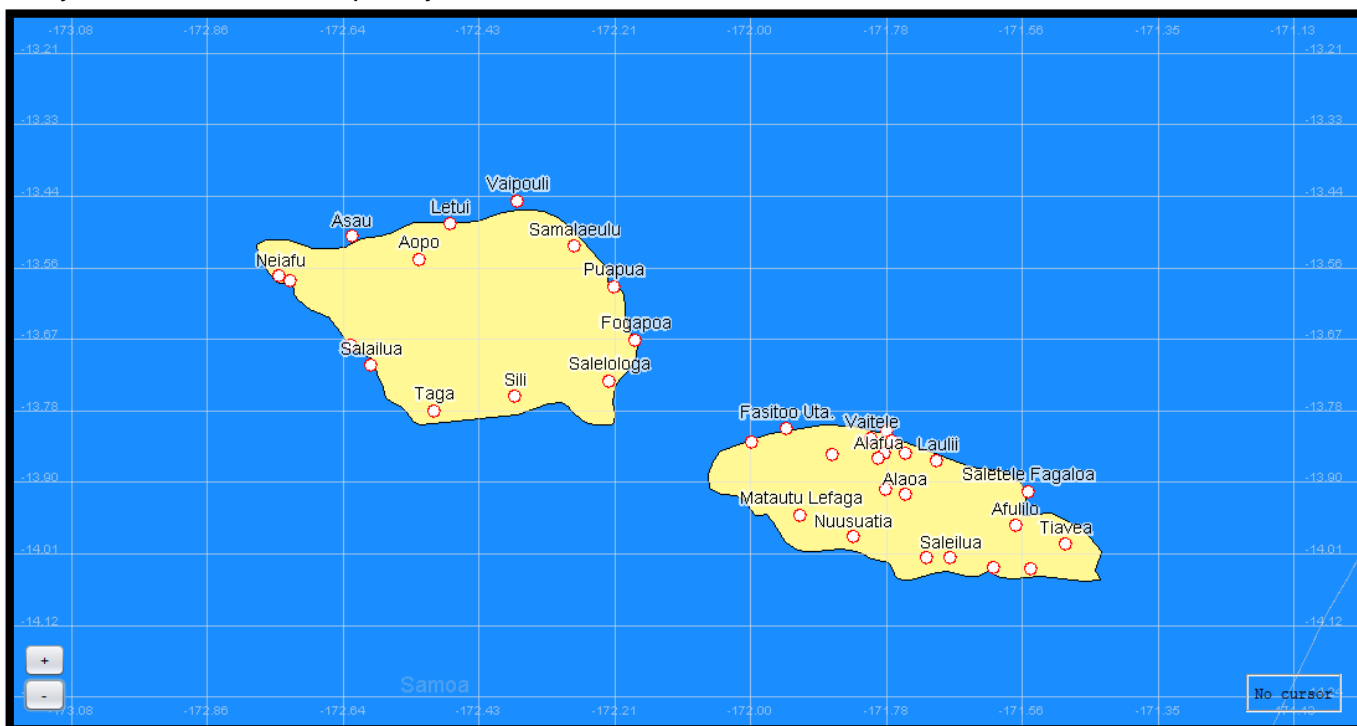
### Time periods and impacts

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
<b>Water</b>	major rivers, deep bores/large aquifer system, reservoirs, dams	small rivers, shallow bores, reservoirs	rainwater tanks, streams, shallow bores
<b>Environment/ Agriculture</b>	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
<b>Fire</b>	All Fires	Structural Fire	Bush and Rubbish Fire
<b>Health</b>	National public health impacts	Increasing public health impacts	Isolated public health impacts
<b>Tourism</b>			

### 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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