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Hurricane Erin to End UK Dry Spell with Heavy Rain

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Categories: Breaking News

The remnants of Hurricane Erin are set to bring an abrupt end to the United Kingdom's recent dry spell following the Bank Holiday weekend, with forecasters warning of heavy rain, strong winds, and large waves along parts of the British coast from Tuesday onwards.

Currently a Category 2 hurricane moving east across the North Atlantic, Erin is sustaining maximum winds of around 105 mph and is positioned approximately 650 miles southwest of Bermuda. By the time it approaches the UK, it will weaken into a low-pressure system with spiralling rain clouds, according to the Met Office.

The Bank Holiday weekend is expected to deliver some of the warmest weather of the month, with temperatures forecast to reach 24°C or 25°C in parts of southern England and eastern Scotland on Sunday. "It's looking fine, dry and there will be quite a bit of warm sunshine around, particularly on Sunday and on Bank Holiday Monday," said Tom Morgan, a Met Office meteorologist. Outdoor events and festivals are not expected to face disruption before the storm's arrival.

Conditions are predicted to change rapidly from Tuesday, with rain bands moving from west to east as ex-Hurricane Erin begins to influence UK weather patterns. Tony Wisson, the Met Office deputy chief meteorologist, noted: "Tuesday is when we're likely to see the start of this influence, with a band of rain pushing from west to east over the UK."

By midweek, temperatures will drop significantly as the system brings thundery showers and heavier rainfall to western regions. The cooler, unsettled conditions are expected to spread across much of Europe by Thursday and Friday, creating a more autumnal feel.

Coastal areas, particularly the western isles of Scotland and Ireland, are forecast to experience the most severe impacts, with waves reaching four to five metres in height. Morgan warned: "Ex-hurricane Erin will bring quite a large swell in the sea, so we could potentially see waves of four to five metres in height for the western isles of Scotland and Ireland, and so for holidaymakers going to the coast, that could prove quite a hazard."

While Hurricane Erin has shown significant force along the US east coast, where rough seas led to 60 swimmers being rescued at Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, earlier this week, the UK will not experience a hurricane in its true form. Hurricanes require sea temperatures above 27°C to sustain strength, but the North Atlantic near Britain averages between 16–20°C in August, cutting off the energy needed for a full hurricane to reach the country.