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**HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS,
RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY GUIDE FOR
THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Topics

Hurricane Preparedness

- Now
- During
- After

Hurricane Watches and Warnings

- Advisory
- Watch
- Warning

Emergency Shelters

- St. Croix
- St. John
- St. Thomas
- Water Island

Emergency Supplies

- Communication
- Food
- Medical needs
- Valuables & Irreplaceable items
- Protective Gear
- Tools and Safety items
- Flood Insurance

Post Disaster Tips

Introduction

Hurricanes are the most costly natural disaster known to man. Planning and preparing can make a huge impact in response and mitigation in the wake of a hurricane.

This guide is designed to help Guide United States Virgin Islanders to protect themselves better during hurricane season.

This guide is prepared using FEMA hurricane preparedness Guide, CDC's Preparedness and safety messaging for hurricane, floods, and similar disasters, and Louisiana's Emergency Preparedness Guide.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

HURRICANES

Hurricanes are massive storm systems that form over ocean water and often move toward land.

HURRICANE SEASONS

HURRICANE SEASON
JUNE 1ST - NOVEMBER 30TH

HURRICANE CLASSIFICATION

Depending on wind speed, hurricanes are categorized in to 5 different scales

Category	Wind Speed (mph)	Storm Surge (feet)	Damage
1	74-95	4-5	Minimal
2	96-110	6-8	Moderate
3	111-130	9-12	Extensive
4	131-155	13-18	Extreme
5	155 +	18 +	Catastrophic



HOW TO PREPARE FOR HURRICANE



BEFORE

- Sign up for local alerts and listen to the weather reports on TV Or Radio
- Obtain and store materials to protect your house
- Check Insurance policy
- Store water, food (non-perishable) and medicine for at least for two weeks
- Stock emergency supplies

DURING

- Remain calm and stay indoors
- Follow guidance from local authorities
- Stay out of showers and bath during the storm also avoid getting in contact with metal objects

AFTER

- Return to area only after authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Never walk or drive on flooded roads
- Do not drink tap water unless Authorities approve it

BEFORE

- Pick fruits and trim trees if near a house
- Pack emergency "Go Bag" incase of evacuation or going to an emergency shelter
- Call elderly families and friends and see if they are prepared for the hurricane.
- Write down Important Phone numbers

DURING

- Stay away from windows and seek shelter on the lowest level in an interior room
- if there is a flood warning stay on a higher ground
- Call 9-1-1 for life threatening danger

AFTER

- Assist in search and rescue with Trained people only
- Do not remove heavy debris
- Look out for unstable trees and buildings
- Assist in community response efforts
- Report damages to utilities

HURRICANE WATCH AND WARNING

WATCH

A Hurricane Watch is issued when a tropical cyclone containing winds of 74 mph or higher poses a possible threat generally within 48 hours. These winds may be accompanied by storm surge, coastal flooding, and/or river flooding

The watch does not mean that hurricane conditions will occur. It only means that these conditions are possible.

WARNING

A Hurricane Warning is issued when sustained winds of 64 kt (74 mph) or higher associated with a tropical cyclone are expected in 36 hours or less. These winds may be accompanied by storm surge, coastal flooding, and/or river flooding

Emergency Designated Shelters

ST- CROIX

- Canegata Recreation Center (opened)
- St. Croix Educational Complex
- Herbert Grigg Home for the Aged

ST- JOHN

- Bethany Moravian
- Guy Benjamin Elementary School

ST- THOMAS

- Knud Hansen (Special Needs will be co-located at this shelter)
- Lockhart School
- Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School

Please note: for updated information, you can use the normal text message functionality on your phone to search for open shelters: text SHELTER and a Zip Code to 43362

Image courtesy of Chip Somodevilla Getty Image

Emergency Preparedness Checklist

Checklist

- ✓ Portable cooler
- ✓ Matches
- ✓ Can opener (Non electric)
- ✓ Diaper
- ✓ Blanket or Sleeping bag
- ✓ Mosquito net ((Mosquito repellent)
- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Toiletries, Soap, Toothpaste, Pads (Tampons)
- ✓ Bleach
- ✓ Extra battery
- ✓ Disposable cup, plate & Utensils
- ✓ Heavy Duty Aluminum Foil
- ✓ Fuel for cooking
- ✓ Soap, Toothpaste, Pads (Tampons)
- ✓ Hand Sanitizer
- ✓ Full tank gas
- ✓ Map/GPS
- ✓ Flash light
- ✓ Candles
- ✓ Ice Chest and Ice

Communication

- Battery operated Radio
- Charged Cellphone
- Important emergency contact numbers

Medical

- Prescription medication
- First aid kit
- Medical equipments

Food/ Water

- 7 gallons of water per person
- Infant /pet food
- Can food

Priceless Items

- Photo albums
- Favorite stuffed toy
- Valuables

Critical Document

- Passport
- Birth certificate
- Insurance Policy

Emergency Contact Numbers

St. Croix

St Croix Police Department -
For all emergencies, call 9-1-1 from a land line or (340)-772-9111

Water & Power Authority (WAPA) -
(340)-773-0150 (to report power outages) or (340)-773-2250

US Coast Guard Auxiliary -
Emergencies only - (787)-289-2040 or (787)-279-7778

V.I. Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) -
(340)-773-2244 www.vitema.gov - Sign up for email alerts
here, <https://users.vialert.gov/>

Juan F. Luis Hospital -
Sunny Isle, Across from Innovative Building
(340)-778-6311
www.JFLUSVI.org

Emergency Contact Numbers

St. Thomas/St. John/ Water Island

Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency

VITEMA Headquarters

phone: (340) 774-2244

fax: (304) 715-6847

www.vitema.gov - Sign up for email alerts here, <https://users.vialert.gov/>

Virgin Islands Department of Health

(340)-774-9000

Virgin Islands Water & Power Authority (WAPA)

(340)-774-3552

VI Police Department

Phone: (340)-774-2211 or 9-1-1

Cape Air

(800)-352-0714

Post Hurricane Clean Up Tips

1. Before cleaning, make sure you have a protective gear on at all times (gloves, construction boots, hard hat, mask and goggles)
2. Get rid of anything that has been damaged with flood water and can not be cleaned in 48 hours (eg. carpets, wooden floors, etc...)
3. Make sure you keep the doors and windows open while working and also over night (If is not raining outside)
4. When electricity is available use fan and dehumidifier to remove moisture.
5. When using cleaning supplies make sure to read the instruction thoroughly (eg. do not mix bleach and ammonia)
6. Make sure to remove all mold and dry the space/ area right away.
7. Do not paint on surface with mold.
8. Dry the house completely prior to painting.

For Additional Information please consider the following websites

Ready.Gov <https://www.ready.gov/>

Red Cross <https://www.redcross.org/>

The FEMA app <https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app>

COMET <http://www.comet.ucar.edu/>

Emergency Preparedness and Response <https://emergency.cdc.gov/>

The Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Operations Plan

[http://www.vitema.vi.gov/docs/default-source/key-documents/teop-](http://www.vitema.vi.gov/docs/default-source/key-documents/teop-2010-09-23.pdf)

[2010-09-23.pdf](http://www.vitema.vi.gov/) or <http://www.vitema.vi.gov/>

REFERENCE

- [FEMA.Gov](https://www.fema.gov)
- [CDC.Gov](https://www.cdc.gov)
- [Vitema.vi.gov](https://vitema.vi.gov)
- Louisiana Emergency Preparedness guide
- NOAA Hurricane Preparedness
- [Redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org)
- Disaster Prep 101
- Government of the Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement

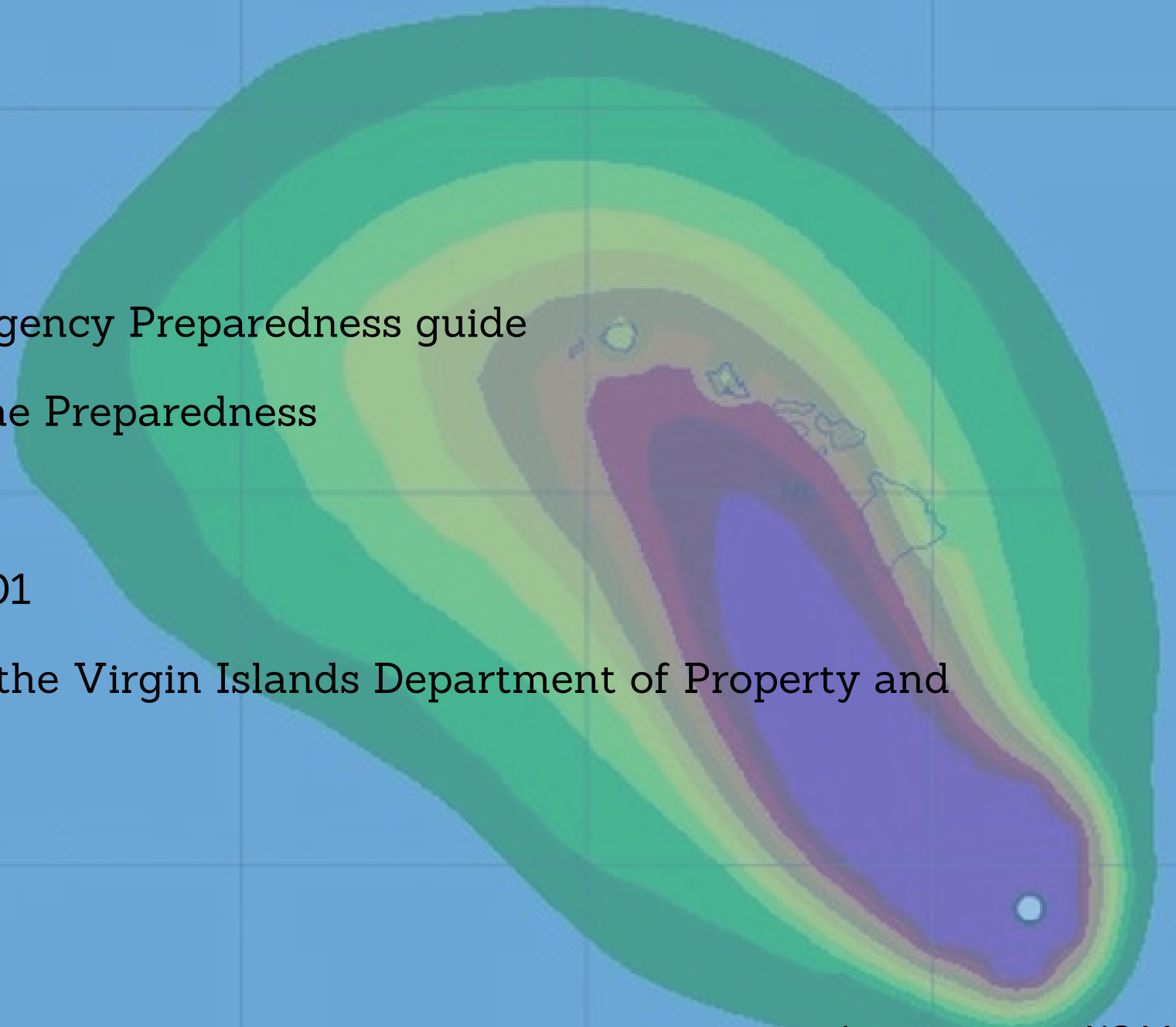


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