

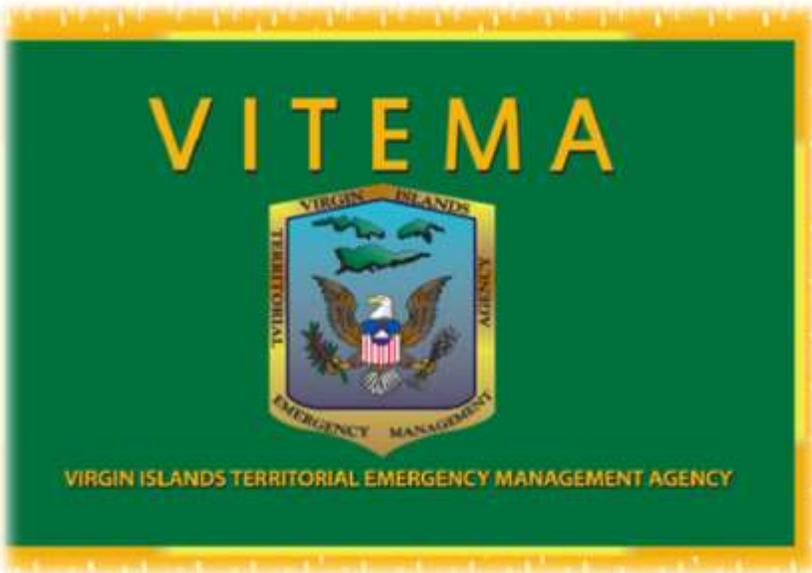
# VITEMA



## 2013 ANNUAL REPORT







## THE MISSION

The principal mission of VITEMA as a first response coordinator, is to save lives and property of the territory's population, by preparing territorial organizations to respond to, recover from and mitigate against All-Hazards, through planning, coordinating, training and exercise activities and is the sole Virgin Islands government agency designated to supervise, administer and coordinate All-Hazards response and recovery operations.

The official flag of the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) was adopted in September 2011. It displays a combined version of the Great Seal of the United States Virgin Islands and the seal of VITEMA since its inception in 1981.

The eagle holds a laurel branch in one talon representing VITEMA's mission to save lives and protect property from natural and man-made disasters through determined planning. The arrows in the other talon represents VITEMA's steadfast vision for the Virgin Islands to become the pre-eminent leader of emergency management in the Caribbean and the Nation by providing an effective and professional network of services to ensure resiliency before, during, and after a natural or man-made incident.

The red and white stripes encapsulated by a blue border symbolizes the charges of VITEMA – Homeland Security, 911 emergency operations, and emergency preparedness and response. The flag's colors of green and gold chain symbolizes the resilience and unity of VITEMA through oneness of mind and body of all its members.

---

## THE VISION

To be the pre-eminent emergency management agency in the Caribbean and the Nation by providing an effective, responsible, and professional network of services to ensure resiliency before, during, and after a natural or man-made incident that may impact the safety and well-being of the U.S. Virgin Islands.



# VITEMA

VIRGIN ISLANDS TERRITORIAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
ST. CROIX | ST. JOHN | ST. THOMAS | WATER ISLAND

## *Director's Message*

First and foremost, we thank God for sparing us the disastrous effects of a major storm during the 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season. None of the storms that formed in the Atlantic made landfall in the US Virgin Islands. Thousands of families and businesses throughout the Territory were relieved.

We are also grateful to have been able to accomplish several longstanding goals. In the pages ahead, we enumerate our achievements during 2013, including a major advancement in our Tsunami Readiness Program, and detail our efforts to build a prepared and resilient community and to maintain a trained and ready force of responders and emergency managers. Our mission remains to save lives and protect property and the homeland from the threat of natural and manmade disasters.

I extend my gratitude to the dedicated employees of Team VITEMA and to our stalwart partners across local and federal government, in non-profit organizations and the private sector, as well as the many hardworking volunteers, especially in the area of communications, who gave their time freely. Through this combined commitment, VITEMA continued to meet its mission and objectives and forged ahead with a vision of becoming the premier emergency management agency in the Caribbean.



*Photo courtesy of Clara Freeman*

**BG ELTON LEWIS, CEM**

*Director, VITEMA*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 7 | Executive Summary

## 8 | Preparedness

Tsunami Readiness  
Training & Exercises  
Community Outreach

## 34 | Operations

Emergency Operations  
Center  
VI Fusion Center—Office  
of Homeland Security

## 40 | Grants Management

120 Day Plan  
Police Radios

## 44 | Logistics

Facilities  
Information Technology  
Communications

## 47 | Leaning Forward

The Way Forward



### 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

#### Pg. 10—11

Tsunami Hazard Zone & Evacuation Route Signs  
Tsunami Evacuation Maps

#### Pg. 22—31

2013 All Hazards Preparedness Expo

#### Pg. 36—37

Gas Station Explosion Response

#### Pg. 42—43

120-Day Grants Management Plan

## TEAM VITEMA

### **Elton Lewis**

Director

### **Debra Henneman-Smith**

Deputy Director,  
Finance & Administration

### **Al Javois**

Deputy Director,  
Preparedness

### **Renata Christian**

Deputy Director,  
Grants Management

### **Christine Lett**

Public Information Officer

### **Asim Frett**

IT System Manager, St. Thomas

### **Andre Llanos**

IT System Manager, St. Croix

**Carolyn Wattlely**, 911 Manager,  
St. Thomas-St. John District

**Ninafe Awong**, 911 Manager  
St. Croix District

**Joseph Hodge**, Manager  
Emergency Operations Center  
St. Thomas

**Denise Lewis**, Manager  
Emergency Operations Center  
St. Croix

**Linda Williams**, Manager  
Emergency Operations Center  
St. John

### **Irvin Mason**

Training Coordinator

### **Roy McFarlene**

Exercise Planner

### **Adelle Williams**

Radio Frequency Technician

### **Ethelbert Benjamin**

Facility Manager



The 2013 Annual Report front and back covers were designed by VITEMA Director Elton Lewis. The front cover depicts Main Street in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, then and now. The back cover depicts King Street, Frederiksted, St. Croix, then and now.

Courtesy of Lt. Col. Kenneth Alleyne and Sgt. Jason Young, VI National Guard.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Oct. 31, 2013, Governor John P. de Jongh Jr., penned his approval for VITEMA's production of the first US Virgin Islands tsunami evacuation maps, which were designed to provide the community with an emergency preparedness planning tool for this catastrophic event. The maps delineate tsunami evacuation zones and safe areas and highlight landmarks such as public schools, hospitals and clinics, located in both areas. In December 2013 the maps will be made available to the public through multiple mediums.

The promulgation of the tsunami evacuation maps is a milestone achievement for VITEMA and the culmination of a fundamental paradigm shift in emergency management that began several years ago. In 2007, the De Jongh Administration set as one of its top priorities — overhauling the Territory's emergency management system. The overhaul began with a vulnerability assessment of the emergency management system and concluded with a complex reorganization of VITEMA. As a result, VITEMA broadened its focus from hurricane-centric to planning for, responding to and recovering from all-hazards, natural and manmade, including tsunamis, earthquakes and acts of terrorism. The tsunami evacuation maps are the apex of this tremendous effort, and with its completion, VITEMA has met the requirements necessary to apply for TsunamiReady status which is granted by the US National Weather Service. In November, VITEMA submitted applications to the National Weather Service for TsunamiReady designation for the islands of St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas. VITEMA anticipates obtaining approval in 2014, allowing the Virgin Islands to join 152 TsunamiReady sites in 11 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.



In addition to completing the tsunami evacuation maps, VITEMA installed 100 tsunami hazard zone and evacuation route signs at areas considered at-risk for tsunami including Christiansted and Frederiksted, St. Croix, Coral Bay and Cruz Bay, St. John and Charlotte Amalie, Red Hook and Crown Bay, St. Thomas. An education campaign was launched featuring two tsunami awareness public service announcements.

While the Territory was spared in the 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season, VITEMA was called to coordinate the response to other major incidents. In September, fuel tanks at a St. Thomas gas station exploded posing a significant threat to life and property in the Bovoni area. More than 100 responders were on-scene including firefighters, police, EMS and Search and Rescue. The blaze was prevented from reaching nearby homes and the Bovoni Landfill. Other incidents requiring coordination included a propane gas leak in Christiansted, St. Croix which required the evacuation of three hotels, and a partial structural collapse at a public elementary school on St. Thomas.

VITEMA, during 2013, also provided training and exercises for hundreds of first responders and emergency managers and continued to build a ready community through its outreach program. VITEMA is also tasked with preparing the community for disaster. The Agency continued to drive its preparedness message through numerous presentations, disaster preparedness training, workshops and expos in partnership with the public and private sector. This year, VITEMA hosted its largest All-Hazards Preparedness Expo on St. John, St. Thomas and St. Croix.

# Preparedness



**A**mong VITEMA's main priorities in 2013 was boosting its Tsunami Readiness Program by preparing communities territory wide identified as high-risk for this type of catastrophic event. Prior to the reorganization of VITEMA, emergency management focused mainly on hurricane preparedness, though the Virgin Islands is vulnerable to many other natural hazards as well as acts of terrorism. The Agency's longstanding objective has been to create a redundant and viable public warning system and to arm the community with information and awareness about tsunamis. This year VITEMA was successful in significantly advancing the Tsunami Readiness Program.

In 2012 the Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, a division of the NOAA's National Weather Service, secured grant funding to assist the Virgin Islands with developing tsunami evacuation maps. The grant was awarded to the Puerto Rico Seismic Network, which contracted Global Matrix of the Dominican Republic to create the maps. After months of collaboration and development, VITEMA presented the tsunami evacuation maps — for the islands of St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas — to Gov. John P. De Jongh Jr. for approval. On Oct. 31, 2013, after careful review, the governor approved the maps for production and distribution throughout the territory. The maps will be made available to the public in December, and will also be delivered to schools and be posted at various websites including [www.VITEMA.gov](http://www.VITEMA.gov), [www.Tsunami.gov](http://www.Tsunami.gov) and [www.redsismica.uprm.edu](http://www.redsismica.uprm.edu).

The maps depict tsunami evacuation zones — areas likely to be impacted if a tsunami were generated — and safe areas. To define the evacuation zone for the US Virgin Islands, an 82 feet (25 meters) elevation profile was used. It was reached within 2 miles of the coast, another factor considered. This evacuation criterion was based on historical events, tsunami modeling results from Puerto Rico and the British Virgin Islands and the US National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program guidelines.

Following the introduction of the maps, VITEMA will launch a public education program across the territory, including holding town meetings. The maps are also in English and Spanish.

VITEMA accomplished other goals in the Tsunami Readiness Program during 2013. This year, VITEMA installed 100



In June 2013, VITEMA installed 100 tsunami hazard zone and evacuation route signs at high-risk

tsunami hazard zone and evacuation route signs at high-risk areas throughout the Territory including downtown Charlotte Amalie, Red Hook and Crown Bay on St. Thomas; downtown Christiansted and Frederiksted, and Gallows Bay on St. Croix, and at Cruz Bay and Coral Bay on St. John. The signs identify these areas as a tsunami hazard zone and guide pedestrians toward safe areas.

The Agency also applied for and was awarded a \$300,000 National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program grant. With funding in place, VITEMA completed a contract for Phase Two of the All-Hazards Warning System Installation Project.

Fourteen new warning sirens are currently in the Territory and are ready to be installed once utility poles have been purchased.

At the end of this project, 24 warning sirens will be online and capable of warning various communities of an imminent threat or danger. Issuing timely public alerts was a significant gap in how VITEMA managed major incidents. As an emergency management agency, VITEMA relied heavily on local media to fill this void which left our communities at risk during a no-notice event. With our mass alert and notification system, VI Alert, in place and the installation of an All-Hazards Warning System, today the Territory's public warning capabilities are far more advanced.

As part of our education campaign we have held numerous tsunami awareness courses for government agencies, including the departments of Health and Human Services, and made presentations to a number of organizations and housing communities including Kirwan Terrace on St. Thomas and William's Delight on St. Croix. VITEMA also launched two Public Service Announcements, one of them based on a PSA competition for high school students.

VITEMA also continued to be actively engaged in the international discourse on tsunami readiness. This year, during annual conferences, VITEMA Director Elton Lewis updated scientists and emergency managers from across the globe on advancements in the Territory's Tsunami Readiness Program such as the installation of tsunami signs and expanding the Virgin Islands tsunami warning system.

The conferences included: *Caribbean Waves* hosted by NOAA on the island of Guadeloupe; the Eight Session of UNESCO's International Oceanographic Commission— Intergovernmental Coordinating Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning

System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOC ICG CARIBE EWS) held at Port of Spain, Trinidad; and the UNESCO IOC training workshop titled *Strengthening Tsunami Warning and Emergency Response* held at La Romana, Dominican Republic. This type of interaction and networking ensured that the US Virgin Islands has a voice in the larger dialogue on developing a viable Caribbean-wide tsunami warning system.

This holistic approach — working all of these elements together — has strengthened VITEMA's Tsunami Readiness Program and the Agency intends to build on this momentum in the next year.



High-risk areas on St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas.

## Introduction

A tsunami consists of a series of ocean or sea waves that can be generated by an earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide or meteorite impact.

In deep water, the tsunami can travel as fast as 500 miles per hour, equivalent to the speed of a commercial jet. Near the shore, however, a tsunami slows down, the distance between its waves decreases and the wave height increases.

The tsunami may arrive within minutes, but waves and strong currents may affect the coastal zones for hours. The wave height could be tens of feet destroying everything along its path, when flooding and when receding.

To define the evacuation zone for the USVI an 82 ft elevation profile was used; it was reached within 2 miles of the coast, another factor considered. This evacuation criteria was based on historical events, tsunami modeling results from Puerto Rico and the BVI and the US National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program guidelines.

Significant Tsunamis in US Virgin Islands and NE Caribbean*			
Year	Earthquake Magnitude	Epicenter	Most Severe Impact
1755	~8.8	Offshore Portugal	Saba
1867	7.5	US Virgin Islands	USVI
1918	7.3	Mesa Cayson	Western PR
1946	7.8	Dominican Republic	NE DR

### For Your Safety Remain Alert to:

- Natural tsunami signs: a very strong or long earthquake and/or an abrupt sea level change.
- Tsunami alert messages issued by the US National Weather Service Tsunami Warning Centers and the Puerto Rico Seismic Network.
- Evacuation orders issued by the USVI Government through VITEMA

### Be TsunamiReady™

- Have an emergency backpack on hand.
- Study the evacuation map and identify the evacuation zone, evacuation routes, assembly points and high ground.
- When a tsunami message is issued, cooperate and follow all instructions from emergency management authorities.

\* NOAA National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) Tsunami Data Base (2013)

## Puerto Rico and VI Tsunami Alert Messages!

### Mensajes de Alerta de Tsunami para Puerto Rico e IV



A Warning is issued when an inundating wave is possible. A full evacuation is suggested. Get out of the evacuation zone or up a sturdy building as quickly as possible. This message will be updated, stay alert for further official information.

Un aviso de tsunami se emite cuando hay la posibilidad de olas que inundan. Se recomienda un desalojo completo. Desaloje a pie y siga de la zona de desalojo o subase en un edificio en el menor tiempo posible. Este mensaje será actualizado, está pendiente a información oficial.



An Advisory is issued when strong currents are likely, but no tsunami inundation is expected. Stay away from the shore. This message will be updated, stay alert for further official information.

Una advertencia se emite cuando hay probabilidad de corrientes fuertes. Se recomienda alejarse de la costa. Este mensaje será actualizado, está pendiente a información oficial.



A Watch is issued when an event has occurred, but the danger level is not yet known. This message will be updated, stay alert for further official information.

Una vigilancia se emite cuando ha ocurrido un evento y no se ha determinado el nivel de impacto. Este mensaje será actualizado, está pendiente a información oficial.



An information statement is issued when an earthquake has occurred and all most there could be minor waves. No action is suggested.

Un boletín informativo se emite cuando ha ocurrido un evento sísmico pero a lo mucho podrían haber olas menores. No se recomienda ninguna acción.

Once the Tsunami Warning Center believes that the threat of a tsunami has ended, it will issue a cancellation. Nevertheless, if evacuation orders were issued, only return to the evacuated area if the designated authorities have declared it is safe to do so.

Una vez que el Centro de Alerta de Tsunami entiende que ha terminado la peligrosidad causada con el tsunami, emitirá una cancelación. Sin embargo, si una orden de desalojo fue emitida, solo debe regresar al área desalojada una vez las autoridades competentes hayan declarado que es seguro hacerlo.

## Save Lives, NOT possessions!

Most tsunamis are caused by earthquakes. During the earthquake find the safest place: **drop, cover and hold**. When the shaking ends, move away, out of the tsunami evacuation zone. The tsunami could arrive in just minutes!

### ¡Sabemos Vidas, lo material NO cuenta!

La mayoría de los tsunamis son generados por terremotos. Durante el terremoto busque el lugar más seguro: **quédese, cúbrase y sujétese**. Una vez termine el movimiento fuerte, si está en la zona de desalojo por tsunami, sálgase lo antes posible. **El tsunami podría llegar en cuestión de minutos!**

Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency  
Agencia Territorial para el Manejo de Emergencia de las Islas Vírgenes (VITEMA)

(340) 773-2244 (St. Croix), 776-2244 (St. John),  
774-2244 (St. Thomas)  
<http://vitema.gov>

National Weather Service-NOAA  
Servicio Nacional de Meteorología-NOAA

Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program

Maryaguez, Puerto Rico (787) 832-4040 ext. 5787

San Juan Forecast Office (787) 253-4386

National Tsunami Warning Center, Alaska (907) 745-4212  
Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, Hawaii (808) 689-8207  
<http://tsunami.gov>

Puerto Rico Seismic Network (OPRAN)  
Red Sísmica de Puerto Rico (PRRSN)  
(787) 833-8433; 265-5452  
<http://reosismica.uprm.edu>

## Introduction

Un tsunami consiste de una serie de olas que pueden ser generadas por un terremoto, erupción volcánica, deslizamiento o impacto de cuerpos celestes (meteoritos).

Los tsunamis pueden viajar a unas 500 millas por hora en aguas profundas, lo que equivale a la velocidad de un jet comercial. Sin embargo, al acercarse a la costa, disminuye su velocidad y la distancia entre sus olas, mientras aumenta su altura.

El tsunami puede llegar en minutos, pero sus olas y corrientes fuertes pueden afectar zonas costaneras por horas. La altura de las olas puede ser de decenas de pies, arrasando con todo lo que encuentran a su paso y a sea cuando inundan o retroceden.

Para definir la zona de desalojo se utilizó una elevación de 82 pies lo que se alcanzó a menos de 2 millas de la costa. Este criterio de desalojo está basado en eventos históricos, resultados de modelaje de tsunamis en Puerto Rico e Islas Vírgenes Británicas y las guías del Programa Nacional de Peligro y Mitigación de Tsunamis.

Tsunami Significativos en las Islas Vírgenes y NE Caribe*			
Año	Magnitud	Epicentro	Impacto más Severo
1755	~8.8	Costa Leste Portugal	Saba
1867	7.5	USVI	USVI
1918	7.3	Cañón de Mesa	Costa de PR
1946	7.8	Rep. Dominicana	NE ED

### Por Su Seguridad Preste Atención a:

- Señales naturales de alerta: un terremoto fuerte o de larga duración y/o cambio repentino del nivel del mar.
- Mensajes de alerta emitidos por los Centros de Alerta de Tsunamis del Servicio Nacional de Meteorología de los EEUU y la Red Sísmica de Puerto Rico.
- Ordenes de desalojo emitidos por el Gobierno de USVI a través de VITEMA.

### Este TsunamiReady™

- Tenga a mano su mochila de seguridad.
- Estudie el mapa de desalojo e identifique: zona de desalojo, rutas de desalojo, puntos de asamblea y lugares altos.
- Cuando se emita un mensaje de tsunami, coopere y siga las instrucciones de las autoridades de manejo de emergencias.

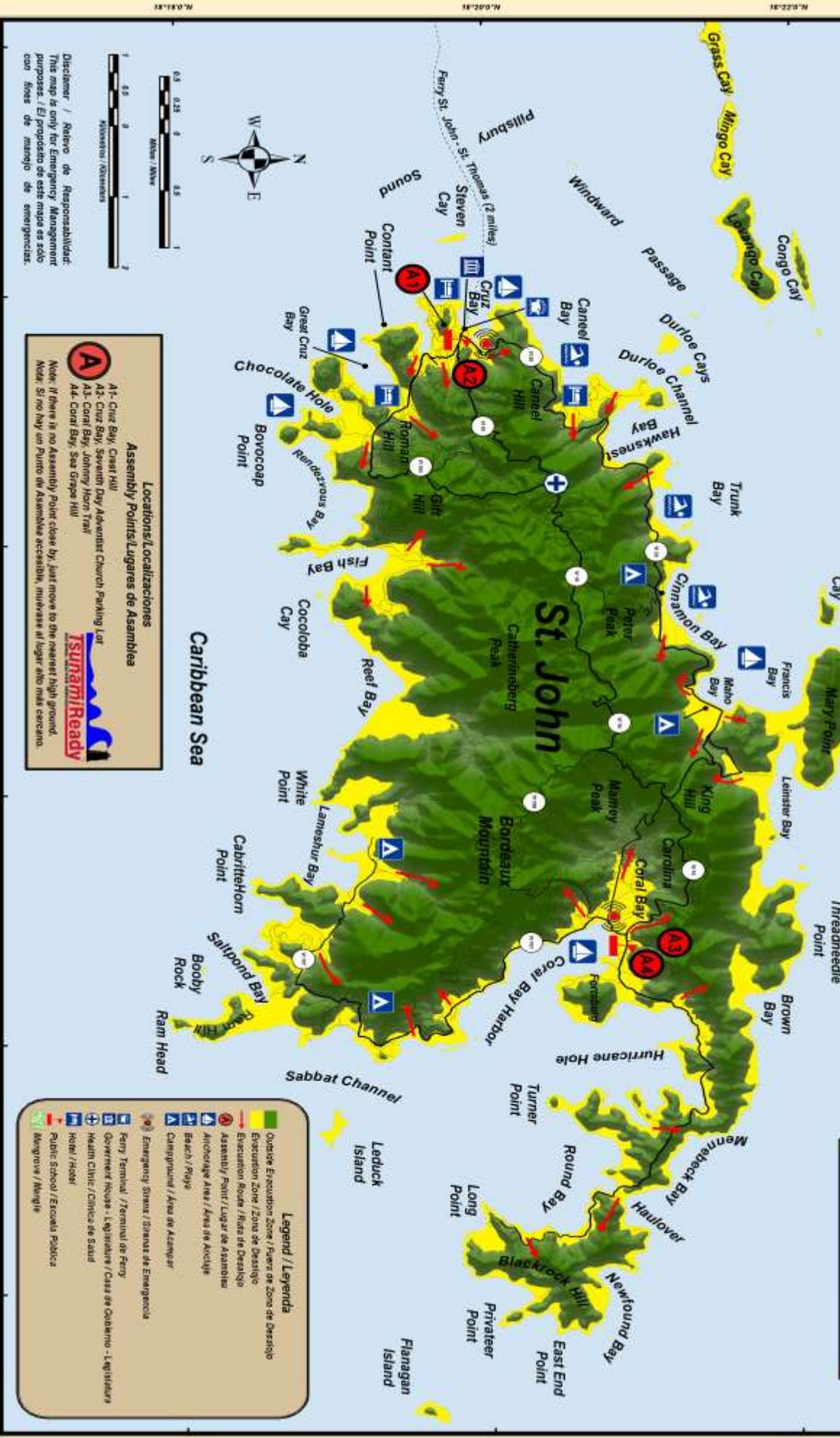
\* NOAA National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) Tsunami Data Base (2013)



**TsunamiReady**  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE



**Tsunami Evacuation Map**  
**Mapa de Desalojo por Tsunami**  
**St. John, US Virgin Islands**



**Disclaimer / Advertencia de Responsabilidad:**  
 This map is only for Emergency Management purposes. / El propósito de este mapa es solo con fines de manejo de emergencias.

**Locations/Localizaciones**  
**Assembly Points/Lugares de Asamblea**

**A1** - Cruz Bay, Great Hill  
**A2** - Cruz Bay, Seventh Day Adventist Church Parking Lot  
**A3** - Coral Bay, Johnny Horn Trail  
**A4** - Coral Bay, Sea Draper Hill

Note: If there is no Assembly Point close by, just move to the nearest high ground.  
 Nota: Si no hay un Punto de Asamblea accesible, muévase al lugar alto más cercano.

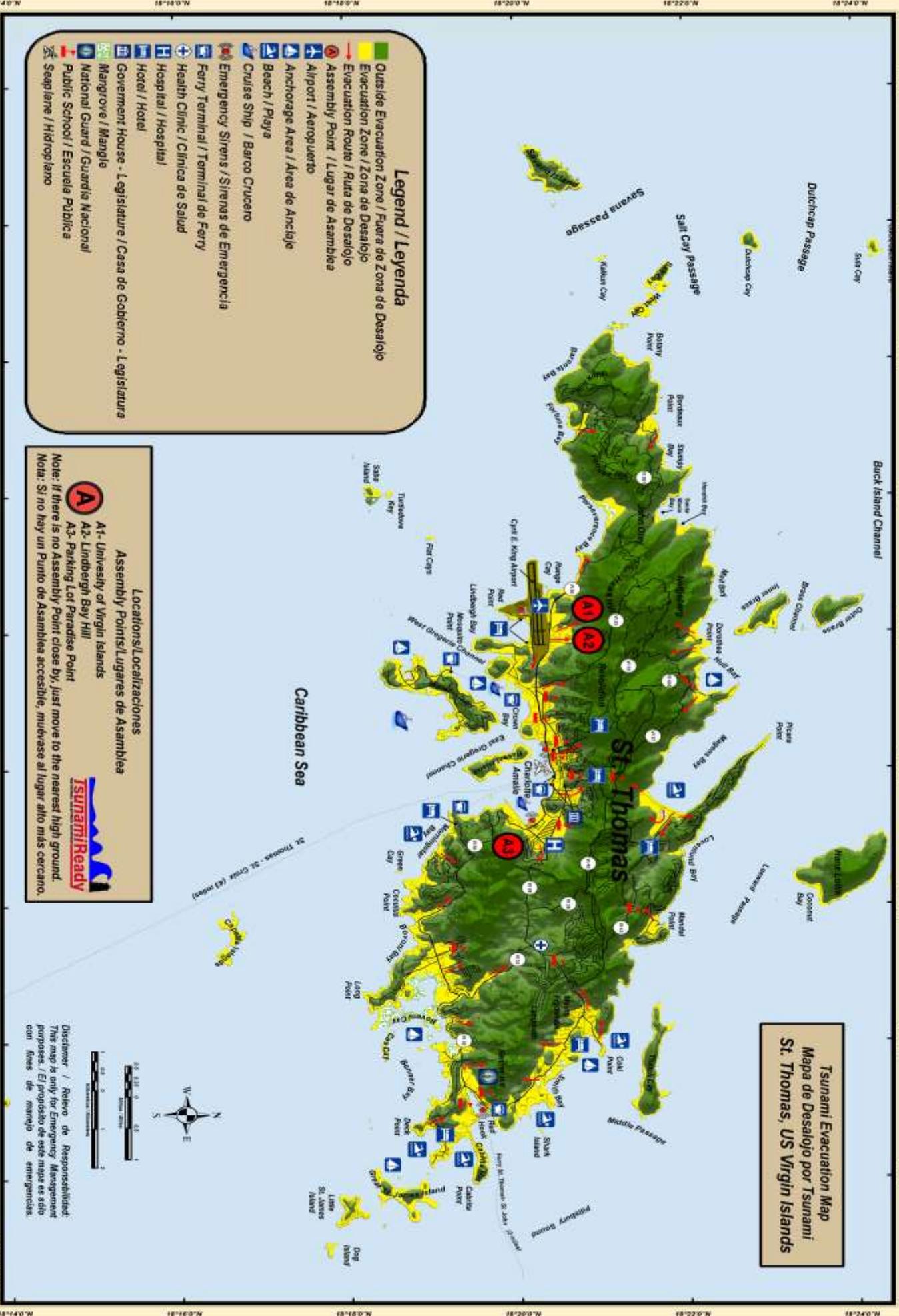
**Legend / Leyenda**

- Emergency Shelter / Sitios de Asamblar
- Ferry Terminal / Terminal de Ferry
- Government House - Legislature / Casa de Gobierno - Legislatura
- Health Clinic / Clínica de Salud
- Hotel / Hotel
- Public School / Escuela Pública
- Marigold / Marigold
- Quarantine Evacuation Zone / Fuera de Zona de Desalojo
- Evacuation Route / Ruta de Desalojo
- Assembly Point / Lugar de Asamblea
- Arrival Area / Área de Acogida
- Beach / Playa
- Campground / Área de Acampar

Government of the United States Virgin Islands  
 St. John  
 Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency  
 Tel. (340) 776-2344, Fax (340) 779-4266  
 www.virginia.gov or www.tsunami.gov

October 28, 2013

**Tsunami Evacuation Map**  
**Mapa de Desalojo por Tsunami**  
**St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands**



- Legend / Leyenda**
- Outside Evacuation Zone / Fuera de Zona de Desalojo
  - Evacuation Zone / Zona de Desalojo
  - Evacuation Route / Ruta de Desalojo
  - Assembly Point / Lugar de Asamblea
  - ✈ Airport / Aeropuerto
  - ⚓ Anchorage Area / Área de Anclaje
  - 🏖 Beach / Playa
  - 🚢 Cruise Ship / Barco Crucero
  - 📢 Emergency Sirens / Sirenas de Emergencia
  - 🚢 Ferry Terminal / Terminal de Ferry
  - + Health Clinic / Clínica de Salud
  - 🏥 Hospital / Hospital
  - 🏨 Hotel / Hotel
  - 🏠 Government House - Legislature / Casa de Gobierno - Legislatura
  - 🌿 Mangrove / Mangla
  - 👮 National Guard / Guardia Nacional
  - 🎓 Public School / Escuela Pública
  - ✈ Seaplane / Hidroplano

- Locations/Localizaciones**  
**Assembly Points/Lugares de Asamblea**
- A1 A1- University of Virgin Islands
  - A2 A2- Lindbergh Bay Hill
  - A3 A3- Parking Lot Paradise Point
- Note:** If there is no Assembly Point close by, just move to the nearest high ground.  
**Nota:** Si no hay un Punto de Asamblea accesible, mudarse al lugar alto más cercano.
- IsunamiReady**

**Disclaimer / Reserva de Responsabilidad:**  
 This map is only for Emergency Management purposes. / El propósito de este mapa es sólo con fines de manejo de emergencias.

Scale: 0 10 20 30 Feet / 0 10 20 30 Meters

North Arrow

Government of the United States Virgin Islands  
 St. Thomas  
 Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency  
 Tel. (340) 774-2244, Fax (340) 774-6847  
 www.viema.gov or www.isunami.gov

October 28, 2013

# TRAINING & EXERCISE — *Building a Ready Force*



VITEMA develops and exercises the Territorial Emergency Operations Plan (TEOP), as well as monitors its implementation. It is critical that emergency responders and managers train and exercise to identify and address critical gaps and weaknesses. As events unfold on a national front, including the Boston bombing and the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, more than ever before, emergency responders and managers must be prepared for any eventuality.

During 2013, VITEMA exercised its ability to manage a range of disastrous and catastrophic event, including a tsunami and hazardous materials incident. VITEMA continued to provide

Police officers receive Active Shooter Response Training on St. Croix. (above, below)

training for police, firefighters, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), search and rescue personnel, educators, medical professionals, as well as for the Virgin Islands Emergency Management and Homeland Security Council.



During a field exercise, police officer must stop an active shooter holding and threatening to harm hostages in a building.

Courses held this fiscal year included; Law Enforcement Active Shooter Response, Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing Incidents, Emergency Operations Center and Planning for All Hazards and Law Enforcement Prevention and Deterrence of Terrorist Acts.

Emergency management must work across all levels of government to be effective. The EMC, which is comprised of the governor's Cabinet, is the strategic level, policy-making body in emergency management. During FY 2013, VITEMA provided two senior executive level seminars for the EMC, including Continuity of Operations, which prescribes best



US NORTHCOM provided Defense Support to Civilian Authorities (DSCA) training in June 2013. The course was hosted by VITEMA for Cabinet-level members and VI military officials and provided a forum for leadership discussion on federal statutes, policies and capabilities in regard to DOD support during domestic emergencies.

practices for continuing government operations in the aftermath of a disaster, and Defense Support to Civil Authorities, which describes post-disaster support available through the Department of Defense.

VITEMA also conducts exercises to test the readiness of our emergency operations centers and other government agencies territorially throughout the year. VITEMA conducted joint exercises to include:

- ✦ Operation Tide Breaker III, a collaboration between VITEMA and the VI National Guard. This full-scale multi-hazard and maritime exercise brought together more than a dozen local and federal agencies and Royal Caribbean Cruise Line to test our ability to quickly gather and share intelligence, interoperable communications, and on-site incident management, particularly our emergency triage and pre-hospital treatment and medical evacuation capabilities. The exercise scenarios included an active shooter and a maritime hazardous release incident. Operation Tide Breaker was by far our largest exercise of the year and required months of planning and coordination.
- ✦ In May, VITEMA participated in FEMA's Caribbean Region tabletop exercise titled "Blue Surge," which tested our catastrophic earthquake and tsunami response plans for the Virgin Islands in a high stress, real time simulation. As part of the exercise scenario, VITEMA activated its Emergency Operations Centers territory wide in response to a 7.5 magnitude earthquake that also generated a tsunami. As part of the scenario our EOCs were responsible for coordinating the response to a multitude of incidents, including collapsed buildings, fires, casualties, and for developing Assistance Request Forms for federal government support. FEMA activated its Regional Response Coordination Center, its Defense Coordinating Element and its Caribbean Area Division. The US Department of Health and Human Services also played in this exercise.

VITEMA also supported two Active Shooter exercises conducted by the VI Police Department at the Ivanna Eudora Kean and Charlotte Amalie high schools.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT — Preparing Citizens for Disaster**



Ivanna Eudora Kean High School students participate in a mock exercise during the Teen CERT training. (above, below)

*Photos by Joseph Hodge*



VITEMA’s mandate is also to prepare our citizens for all hazards. The agency has done this through numerous presentations to various housing communities, rotary organizations and at several public and private schools. Here are just a few examples.

In March, VITEMA, in partnership with VI Rescue, graduated its first St. Thomas Teen CERT class. The CERT or *Community Emergency Response Team*, program trains citizens in basic disaster response skills so they can assist in their neighborhoods, workplaces and schools following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. Thirty (30) Eudora Kean students graduated from the program. In total more than 100 students are certified Teen CERT members.

**Ivanna Eudora Kean High School Teen CERT—Class of 2013**



**THROUGHOUT** the year, VITEMA receives numerous requests for presentation from government agencies, businesses, organizations and for housing communities. Through VITEMA’s preparedness and outreach program, VITEMA made presentations to more than 1,000 individuals territory wide on how to be ready for hazards, natural and manmade, that may impact the Virgin Islands including earthquakes and tsunamis, hurricanes and acts of terrorism.



(Above) Training Coordinator Irvin Mason speak with participants in the University of the Virgin Islands’ 4-H program about how kids can prepare for hazards.

(Below) VITEMA staff, Joseph Hodge, Irvin Mason and Ozzie Bradshaw (center, left to right) with members of the Lions Club of St. Thomas, after a presentation on preparedness.



## 2013 OUTREACH PRESENTATIONS

### ST. CROIX

- University of the Virgin Islands
- Virgin Islands Housing Authority
- Marley Homes
- Williams Delight
- John F. Kennedy
- Home Depot
- Frederiksted Health Center
- St. Patrick’s School
- Department of Tourism
- Holy Ghost Deliverance Ministries
- Virgin Islands Medical Institute, Inc.
- Retirees in Action
- Board of Education
- Public Services Commission

### ST. THOMAS

- University of the Virgin Islands
- 4-H Program
- Resident Assistant Employees
- Virgin Islands Housing Authority
- Kirwan Terrace
- Oswald Harris Court
- Diamonds International
- Department of Human Services
- HeadStart Program
- Roy Lester Schneider Hospital
- Assembly of God Church
- New Beginning Church
- Faith Christian Fellowship Church
- Department of Education
- Addelita Cancryn Junior High School
- Home Depot
- Lions Club of St. Thomas



(Above, left) A University of Hawaii Center for Preparedness instructor, Iris Terashima, provides tsunami awareness training to Department of Human Services employees.

(Below, left) Denise Lewis, St. Croix Emergency Operations Center manager and Ethelbert Benjamin, VITEMA manager, gives a presentation on tsunami awareness to a group at the University of the Virgin Islands in St. Croix.





The Virgin Islands is located in a seismically active region and a major earthquake can occur at any time. One of VITEMA's ongoing goals in tsunami readiness is outreach to the youth of the Virgin Islands. In disasters, kids of all ages are often moved and inspired to do their part in the recovery effort and in helping the community get better prepared.

In January 2013, VITEMA launched a ReadyYOUTH-VI Earthquake & Tsunami Public Service Announcement (PSA) Competition for high school students across the Territory. The competition was designed to engage and empower high school students to raise awareness about earthquakes and tsunamis by a developing the concept for and videotaping a PSA.

St. Thomas' Ivanna Eudora Kean High School won the competition and had their PSA professionally-produced by Lambert Media. The PSA across major networks on cable television for a one-year period.

The PSA portrays a class reacting to a tsunami warning while school is in session, with a dramatization of the students immediately stopping their school, leaving their belongings behind and running to the highest ground. This information is critical since a locally-generated tsunami can reach the shores of the Virgin Islands within minutes. It

VITEMA Director Elton Lewis personally congratulated and presented the students, their teacher Ms. April Petrus, and school principal Dr. Sharon McCollum, with a framed group photo.

In October, VITEMA sponsored the Territory's largest earthquake drill called the Great USVI Shakeout. More than 10,000 individual registered at [www.ShakeOut.org/usvi](http://www.ShakeOut.org/usvi) to drop, cover and hold at 10:17 a.m. on Oct. 17. Participants included individuals, families, businesses and non-profit organizations.

The drill helped spread the message that the Caribbean region, lies in an active seismic zone and the possibility of a strong earthquake occurring is very real.

The Great USVI ShakeOut was part of the world's largest earthquake drill and was organized in more than 40 U.S. states and several countries around the world. The USVI officially participated for the first time this year .



Members of the VI Emergency Management Council participates in Shakeout.

In May, VITEMA hosted its annual **All Hazards Preparedness Expo** on St. John, St. Thomas and St. Croix, to heighten awareness of being prepared. More than 20 agencies, representing the local and federal government, voluntary organizations and the private sector came together to share preparedness information with citizens.

**SEE 2013 EXPO PHOTOS, PAGES 18—29**



First responders and 911 staff present "911 for Kids" at the AZ Academy on St. Croix.

In April, the 911 Emergency Communications Center launched a "911 for Kids" program to educate elementary school age children about 911 and about who responds to an emergency. The education program was created not only to educate young children about emergencies but also to curb the high rise in prank calls to the centers.



# 2013 All-Hazards Pr



*Julius E. Sprauve School Choir & J.E.S. Avengers Marching Band*



# Preparedness EXPO



*Photos by Joseph Hodge*



VI Fire Service



VI Water and Power Authority



# 2013 All-Hazards Preparedness EXPO



VITEMA



Department of Health (left) & Department of Human Services (right)

## 2013 EXPO KICK-OFF — ST. JOHN

# 2013 All-Hazards Preparedness EXPO



VI National Guard



VI Lottery



## 2013 EXPO KICK-OFF — ST. JOHN



# 2013 All-Hazards Preparedness EXPO



# 2013 All-Hazards Preparedness EXPO



# 2013 All-Hazards Preparedness EXPO



Inting Mobile by Innovative



VI Waste Management Authority

# 2013 All-Hazards Preparedness EXPO



VI Fire Service



VI National Guard





# 2013 All-Hazards Preparedness EXPO



## 2013 EXPO FINALE — ST. CROIX

# 2013 All-Hazards Preparedness EXPO



VI Fire Service & VIPD Bomb Disposal Unit



VI National Guard



## 2013 EXPO FINALE ST. CROIX

# 2013 All-Hazards Preparedness EXPO



American Red Cross of the Virgin Islands



Departments of Health & Human Services

## 2013 EXPO FINALE — ST. CROIX

# 2013 All-Hazards Preparedness EXPO



Teen CERT



St. Croix Search & Rescue



VI Fire Service

# Operations



Gas Works Explosion and Fire at Bovoni, St. Thomas

**The Territory was spared** the devastating effects of a major storm during the 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season, but the year was not without incident.

## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

VITEMA Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated to manage a massive fire, a structural collapse and a propane leak during 2013. The coordinated multi-agency response reflects years of training within the NIMS (National Incident Management System) structure.

### Collapsed Structure

On Sept. 23, 2013, the ceiling in the upper floor of the Joseph Gomez Elementary School in St. Thomas collapsed causing injury to one teacher and trapping students inside a classroom.

VITEMA's EOC coordinated with the VI Fire Service, EMS, St. Thomas Rescue and the VI Police Department to manage the incident. The teacher was rescued and transported to the hospital and the students were removed from the classroom, sliding through a sliver of space between the classroom and the fallen ceiling.

No students were hurt but about 200 parents, who converged at the school's entrance, quickly became an unruly crowd as school administrators declined to dismiss students. During a responders' review of the incident, most agreed that schools must have a written plan of action to manage school dismissal for this type of incident.

Counselors were brought to the school to meet with students and staff who witnessed the collapse of the roof structure and a team of contractors and engineers arrived on site to survey the damage and cause of the collapse.

### Gas Station Explosion

At approximately 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 14, 2013, a fuel tank in the storage area of the Gas Works in Bovoni, St. Thomas, exploded and engulfed the gas station in fire.

VITEMA, utilizing its Mobile Emergency



Counterclockwise: Explosion at convenience store, firefighters and Rodney Querrard Sr. brief Gov. .



Clockwise: Ceiling collapses at the Joseph Gomez Elementary School, St. Thomas. entrance as parents gather. Gov. John P. de Jongh Jr. and school officials try to ca



at the Bovoni Gas Works Gas Station. After battling the fire that engulfed the Gas Works, firefighters and emergency responders examine the remains. Assistant Fire Director Darryl George and Police Commissioner John P. de Jongh Jr. on the incident response.

*Photos by Joseph Hodge & the VI Daily News*

Operations Center, coordinated the response to the incident with VI Fire Service, the VI Police Department, private water truck haulers, EMS, the Public Works Department, the VI Port Authority and St. Thomas Rescue. More than 100 first responders arrived on the scene and worked frantically to minimize the harm to individuals and the environment.

Police officers closed roads leading into the area from both directions and residents in the nearby surrounding area were ordered to evacuate their homes. EMS remained on scene to provide medical attention to firefighters battling the fighting the blaze.

Firefighters worked to cool off the fuel tanks so they would not ignite while Public Works sealed off the perimeter of the Bovoni dump nearby, to prevent the fire from spreading there. Had the fire spread to the Bovoni dump, it would have raged on indefinitely. The Port Authority's crash units provided additional foam to stop the fire from feeding off of the gasoline. Water haulers responded to mass alert for assistance, and reported to the scene. Enough water was provided to battle the fire which had engulfed the Gas Works convenience store.

The fire was significantly contained within two and a half hours and by 12:40 a.m. it was completely extinguished. Residents were given the all-clear to return to their homes at about 11:30 p.m.

Two people were injured as they tried to escape the blaze. The gas station was open at the time of the fire. One individual suffered burns to 18 percent of her body and was transported to the hospital, and the other suffered scrapes, cuts and bruises when jumping a fence to help the first employee run from the blaze. No firefighters were injured.

### **Propane Gas Leak**

On June 25, 2013, VITEMA activated its Emergency Operations Center to coordinate a government-wide response to a 2,500-pound tank leaking propane in downtown, Christiansted, St. Croix. At the time the leak was detected, the tank was at 80% capacity. The leaking tank triggered a government-wide response by



Police cordon off school pickup area to calm worried parents.

*Photos by Dalis Duvano*



emergency agencies and caused the evacuation of two hotels in downtown Christiansted.

VITEMA worked with VI Fire Services to evacuate both the Caravelle and Holger Dankse hotels after the company which owns the tank was unable to contain the leak. A total of 96 guests from both hotels were displaced.

Police cordoned off the immediate area, maintaining a half-mile security barrier in all directions around the tank.

Two days later the tank completely drained and businesses and roads were reopened. Local government response agencies included; the Fire, Police, Tourism, DPNR, Health and Human Services departments.

VITEMA EOC managers and emergency support function coordinators continue to train for all types of incidents, and have activated for major exercises this year.

In 2013, VITEMA's three EOC managers also graduated from FEMA's Emergency Manager Basic Academy at the



Police block off several streets in Christiansted, St. Croix, after a propane gas delivery truck leaks its contents.

While coordinating the local response, VITEMA also contacted federal partners at the U.S. Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency and FEMA's Caribbean Area Division to request that additional resources be placed on standby.

Firefighters worked to minimize the effects of the leaking tank on the air quality while attempting to transfer the propane, the Fire Service conducted a controlled dispelling of the contents from the vehicle.

Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Md. The training course provides the basic knowledge and skills to help them meet the unpredictable challenges in the field of emergency management.

VITEMA also continues to maintain an optimally-performing communications apparatus, ensuring EOCs are capable of communicating with each other and with any FEMA EOC in the country, including Mt. Weather, Va.

### EOC TRAINING—2013

Throughout 2013, EOC managers and their EOC Emergency Support Coordinators trained and exercised to close gaps in coordinating a multi-agency response to all hazard. Training and exercises provided by the EOC also included:

- Caribe Wave/ LANTEX 13 Tsunami Exercise
- Tsunami Awareness Course
- Hurricane Tabletop Exercise
- Virgin Islands Blue Surge Exercise
- Preparedness & Response to Food and Agriculture Incidents
- Advanced Incident Management
- Threat & Risk Assessment
- Enhanced Threat & Risk Assessment

In February 2013, VITEMA's EOC managers also graduated from FEMA's Emergency Manager Basic Academy at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Md. The training provides the basic knowledge and skills to help meet the unpredictable challenges in the field of emergency management.



The Virgin Islands Fusion Center (VIFC) is one of 78 federally recognized fusion centers. Its personnel comprise both local and federal components. The VIFC is an all crimes, all hazards fusion center with its focus currently on border security/counter drug operations. It is also focused on critical infrastructure protection and has supplied numerous trainings, assessments and additional support for its private sector partners.

The mission of the Virgin Islands Fusion Center is to prevent and deter acts of terrorism and criminal activity within the territory of the US Virgin Islands, and to promote public safety through intelligence fusion and information sharing with all its law enforcement, public and private sector partners.

### Key Accomplishments

During 2013, the VIFC:

- Became the chair of the Coast Guard Area Maritime Security Committee
- Served on the Virgin Islands HIDTA Board
- Served as a member of the IRS SAR Task Force
- Served as the POC for ESF 13
- Participated in all Harbor Safety Meetings
- Participated with the Joint Terrorism Task Force Meetings.
- Created a Hotel Security Committee
- Started the Computer Aided Assessment Tool (CBAT) <http://www.dhs.gov/computer-aided-assessment-tool> . Sites completed include VITEMA Headquarters on St. Thomas, WICO, waterfront jouvert and carnival route, waterfront-waterside from WICO to WAPA.
- Worked case support for various agencies. And supplied event specific intelligence products for the VI National Guard
- Completed the 2013 Department of Homeland Security's fusion center assessment
- Gained approval for a 90-day federal analyst to assist with a joint border security intelligence product.
- Worked to develop intelligence products regarding the rise of Cubans entering St. John.
- Hosted various training activities.

- Approved for eight classified terminals with the fusion center.
- Supported the 25th anniversary Iron Man Triathlon on St. Croix, and the first maritime private sector exercise on St. John.
- Supported US marshals' sex offender operations.
- Created a Maritime Intelligence Group



(left to right) Eric Kennedy, Regional Director, US Department of Homeland Security, Wayne Bryan, VI Fusion Center manager, Elton Lewis, VITEMA Director, and Jonathan Gaff, DHS Intelligence Officer, during the dedication of the Virgin Islands Fusion Center.

### VIFC 2013 Training

The VIFC provided the following training in 2013:

- Open Source Practitioners Course
- Risk Analysis Course
- SLATT Anti-Terrorism Train the Trainer
- SAR Training for 911 Operators, St. Thomas
- National SAR Initiative Analyst Training
- Analyst Exchange with Orlando Fusion Center (CFIX)
- Analyst Exchange with Puerto Rico

# Grants Management



## GRANTS MANAGEMENT

Through the **Grants Management** Division, VITEMA applies for, administers and monitors federal funding that facilitate the Territory's ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural or manmade disasters. VITEMA manages grants for homeland security, preparedness, hazard mitigation and disaster public assistance.

The Grants Management division worked diligently throughout the year to address findings in both a US Department of Homeland Security audit as well as a FEMA assessment that cited deficient monitoring of projects, and delays in payments of claims and in drawing down federal funds. To address these findings, a 120-Day Plan was developed to test VITEMA's business process using Hurricane Omar federal disaster grant. The end goal is to find and close gaps in our business process related to procurement and drawdown of federal funds.

As part of the 120-Day Plan, inspections are being conducted in the St. Croix district for projects awarded under Hurricane Omar. Sub-grantees that report incomplete projects are required to submit a time extension request for FEMA's review and consideration. The results of the work plan will be analyzed in order to report out corrective actions and affect change within the Agency.

VITEMA also implemented a new bi-weekly time and attendance requirement for all personnel paid from the Emergency Management



Hurricane Omar sinks a boat moored at the Christiansted Wharf on St. Croix.

Performance Grant and the Homeland Security Grant Program. This requirement addresses findings in both reports that note unsupported personnel costs, much of which predates the reorganization of VITEMA which took effect in October 2010. Employees are required to report their specific grant-related activities and distribution of time required to perform those activities.

Beginning in August, VITEMA is required to submit bi-monthly progress reporting as opposed to the quarterly reporting that is normally required.

VITEMA submitted the required Corrective Action Plan, which was due to FEMA by August 12, 2013. Staff members have been tasked with specific actions to fulfill the requirements of the Corrective Action Plan. VITEMA is also currently developing a Standard Operating Procedure for the Grants Division to ensure established processes are in place for managing and administering grants.

However, with increased reporting requirements and various restrictions on draw down as a result of the assessments, VITEMA continues to be challenged with ensuring timely drawdowns.

### **Public Assistance**

The Grants division worked on the closeout of November 2003 Flood and Tropical Storm Jeanne which hit the territory in 2004. In 2013, the final documentation associated with these storms were under review, Federal funds were drawn, and closeout letters were drafted and submitted to FEMA with the goal of closing these disasters by December 2013.

## DISASTER GRANT SUMMARY

DISASTER NAME	DISASTER NUMBER	OPEN APPLICANTS	FEDERAL SHARE AVAILABLE	FEDERAL SHARE EXPENDED
November Flood 2003	1503	39	\$1,884,152.03	\$1,574,406.15
Tropical Storm Jeanne	1567	24	2,202,429.35	1,689,490.28
Hurricane Omar	1807	70	9,071,833.79	4,184,490.41
Hurricane Earl	1939	43	2,678,392.09	*
Tropical Storm Otto	1948	24	1,047,424.89	*
Tropical Storm Tomas	1949	21	1,887,207.10	78,100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$18,771,439.25</b>	<b>\$7,526,486.84</b>

### Supporting First Responders

VITEMA is proud to announce that in 2013, it was able to utilize a Department of Homeland Security communications grant to support the VI Police Department's to upgrade its communications apparatus.

In May, VITEMA officials presented the VI Police Department with 108 new handheld radios with chargers, a package totaling \$100,924. The new radios support the department's goal of upgrading its communications apparatus and ensuring all officers have the tools they need to keep the community safe. We were aware of VIPD's need and this was an innovative way to support our first responders.



VITEMA Director Elton Lewis presents Police Commissioner Rodney Querrard Sr., with 108 new handheld radios for his officers.

# Logistics



*VITEMA Director Elton Lewis (left) and Nikolao Pula (right), Insular Affairs Director, Department of Interior, at VITEMA's Hermon Hill Facility on St. Croix.*

## Facilities

This year, VITEMA began reviewing the possibility of renovating and upgrading the Agency's St. Croix facility located at Hermon Hill. With strain of the local economy, VITEMA attempted to cut costs wherever feasible.

In 2011, VITEMA was faced with the challenge of relocating its St. Croix staff and the Emergency Operations Center to a new facility after the Hermon Hill facility was deemed uninhabitable due to a mold infestation. By the end of January 2011, the St. Croix office moved its office to a temporary location at King Cross Street in Christiansted, and began transforming the three-story building to meet the needs of the Agency. However, the long term goal has been to renovate the Hermon Hill facility to meet the needs of the new VITEMA.

With the governor's guidance and approval, the VITEMA director met with the Nikolao Pula, the Director of the Office of Insular Affairs for the US Department of Interior, to discuss federal support in the rehabilitation of the Herman Hill facility.

Ultimately, VITEMA aims to renovate the facility to house all of its components including the 911 Emergency Communications Center. This would significantly decrease the cost of leased space for VITEMA's operations on St. Croix. On St. Thomas, VITEMA installed new fencing around the headquarters facility to provide added security.



(left to right) VITEMA Facilities Manager Ethelbert Benjamin Jr., US Department of Interior –Office of Insular Affairs field officer Basil Ottley Jr., VITEMA Director Elton Lewis, Nikolao Pula, Director of the Office of Insular Affairs, US Department of Interior.

## Information Technology

During 2013, VITEMA renewed its maintenance contracts for the 911 call centers on both islands. The initial warranties had expired and we were left faced with locating funding to cover these costs. This was no minor challenge as these contracts were upwards of \$200,000. This made it difficult financially as we had to allocate funding to cover the expenses. However, the Agency was able to cut costs elsewhere and our electrical consumption dropped by over \$50,000. VITEMA has renewed the communication contracts which will be another reduction in costs.

## Communications

VITEMA enhanced its communication infrastructure in 2013. New Rockwell-Collins HF radios were installed at the St. Croix and St. Thomas Emergency Operations Centers (EOC). VITEMA can now communicate with all EOC across the US mainland and even as far as Guam. Weekly tests are continuously conducted to ensure the systems are functioning properly.

# **Leaning Forward 2014**

# THE WAY

**As we press forward** in 2014, VITEMA's top priorities include strengthening the Tsunami Readiness Program, the rehabilitation of the Agency's Hermon Hill facility on St. Croix and building a more efficient and effective Grants Management Division. VITEMA's ongoing mission to secure warehouses to house life-saving commodities in event of a catastrophe, also remains among our highest objectives.

## **Tsunami Readiness**

Fourteen new tsunami warning sirens will be installed between the islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix, significantly boosting the Territory's public warning capability. Ten sirens are already installed at sites on St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas.

New sites identified for the Phase Two installation, the final leg of the project, include:

- Cramer's Park, Diva Carina Bay, Sino Farm, Williams Delight, La Vale, and Rainbow Beach on St. Croix; and at
- Crown Bay, Baa Library, Fort Christian, Long Bay (vicinity of Lucinda Millin Home), Amgen's Bay, and Coke Beach on St. Thomas.

VITEMA will launch a concentrated public education campaign to raise awareness about tsunami, the Territory's new tsunami maps and signage. Outreach will include town meetings, presentation and targeted training for segments of the community. The All-Hazards Siren Warning System, coupled with the installation of tsunami signs, the production of the tsunami evacuation maps, a state-of-the-art 911 Emergency Communications Center, a mass alert and notification system and a viable public education campaign — the Virgin Islands is in a strong position to attain Tsunami-Ready status during 2014.

## **Grants Management**

VITEMA's most arduous task ahead is in the area of Grants Management and public assistance, where the Agency must make the necessary improvements to ensure the timely processing of payments, monitoring and drawdown of federal grants. Work has begun to address these deficiencies and positive changes are



Governor John P. De Jongh Jr. and VITEMA Director Elton Lewis meet with FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and FEMA Caribbean Area Division Director Alejandro De La Campa (left, back) also participated in the visit.

# FORWARD



raig Fugate (right front) during a visit to the Virgin Islands in April. FEMA Region II

anticipated in 2014.

In 2014, VITEMA expects to programmatically and financially closeout Hurricane Omar and hire an additional disaster grants specialist using Public Assistance State Management funds. VITEMA will also aggressively pursue changing the Public Assistance grant pay-out procedure for small projects so that sub-grantees are able to retain excess funds as allowable by FEMA for the benefit of the Territory.

For all otherwise non-disaster grants, VITEMA will work to expend and drawdown all funds in a timely manner and in accordance with Department of Homeland Security policies and procedures, and, once completed, to implement procedures that are outlined in the VITEMA's Standard Operating Procedure for grants.

Ultimately, the Agency's goal is to become proficient enough to request that FEMA remove VITEMA from its manual drawdown by the end of the Fiscal Year 2014.

## Logistics

VITEMA will continue its goal of renovating and upgrading the Agency's St. Croix facility at Hermon Hill. With strain of the local economy, VITEMA will cut costs wherever feasible.

The long term goal is to renovate the facility to meet the current operations of VITEMA, including a modern Emergency Operations Center and a state-of-the-art 911 Emergency Communications Center. The Hermon Hill facility will also house a section of the VI Fusion Center.

The USVI's unique geographic location means that, in a catastrophe, help from federal and military partners will not arrive right away. VITEMA has also kept self-sustainment for the Virgin Islands, within its sights as an achievable goal. While it is a major undertaking, VITEMA will also continue its work to find and secure warehouses territory wide, large enough and properly equipped, to store life-sustaining commodities to support the Virgin Islands in aftermath of a major disaster.



**WWW.VITEMA.GOV**



**www.facebook.com/vitema**



**www.twitter.com/readysvi**



**www.youtube.com/readysvi**



**www.flickr.com/readysvi**



**CHRISTINE LETT  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER  
VITEMA  
christine.lett@vitema.vi.gov  
340-773-2244**



**DIRECTOR**  
**BG ELTON LEWIS, CEM**  
**769 KING CROSS STREET**  
**CHRISTIANSTED, ST. CROIX**  
**US VIRGIN ISLANDS 00820**  
**(340) 773-2244**

**ELTON.LEWIS@VITEMA.VI.GOV**

**WWW.VITEMA.GOV**

