FEMA Launches Hurricane Recovery Facebook Page for U.S. Virgin Islands

Release Date: ?? 14, 2017

ST. CROIX, Virgin Islands – The Federal Emergency Management Agency has launched the "**FEMA U.S. Virgin Islands**" Facebook page to provide factual information and resources to hurricane survivors, their families and the general public on and off the islands.

Virgin Islanders can visit <u>www.facebook.com/FEMAUSVirginIslands</u> to find information on federal response and recovery activities, location-specific updates, helpful links, and photographs and videos of the united effort to help the islands recover from hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Survivors can learn how to register for disaster assistance, find resources to goods and services and much more. The page currently features posts with:

- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions from hurricane survivors about FEMA disaster assistance.
- Photos of Department of Defense temporary medical facilities in the parking lot of Hurricane Maria-damaged Gov. Juan F. Luis Memorial Hospital in St. Croix.
- Information about Disaster Unemployment Assistance that is being made available to eligible survivors who lost their jobs because of the hurricanes.
- Photos of the American Red Cross distributing clean-up kits at the Coral Bay, St. John, fire station.
- A colorful graphic with guidelines for sorting household debris for pickup.
- Tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on cleaning up and keeping your family safe after a flood.

"We know survivors are in need of accurate answers about the recovery assistance and services on the islands, and we're working to get timely information to them in as many ways as possible," said FEMA's Federal Coordinating Officer William Vogel. "This Facebook page gives us one more opportunity to reach as wide an audience as possible."



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FEMA encourages everyone to visit and "Like," "Follow," and "Share" the page to help spread the word about this important new resource for U.S. Virgin Island disaster survivors and others who want updated disaster recovery information.

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Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at **800-621-3362** (voice, **711/VRS** - Video Relay Service)

(TTY: 800-462-7585). Multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish).

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

For official information on the recovery effort following the hurricanes, please visit <u>www.informusvi.com</u> or <u>www.usviupdate.com</u>. Follow us on social media at <u>twitter.com/femaregion2</u> and www.facebook.com/FEMAUSVirginIslands.

To donate or volunteer, contact the voluntary or charitable organization of your choice through the National Voluntary Agencies Active in Disasters (NVOAD) at <u>www.nvoad.org</u>. For those who wish to help, **cash** donations offer voluntary agencies the most flexibility in obtaining the most-needed resources and pumps money into the local economy to help businesses recover. The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands also has the "Fund for the Virgin Islands" at <u>www.USVIrecovery.org</u>.



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