

Caribbean Regional Response Team, Spring Meeting

Disaster Preparedness – Category 3 Hurricane or Above



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Daryl D. Jaschen, Director

daryl.jaschen@vitema.vi.gov

Virgin Islands Territory Emergency Management Agency

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Agenda

- Assumptions
- Facts
- Coordinating Agency - VITEMA
- Environmental Concerns
- Potential Mission Assignments
- Q&A



Assumptions

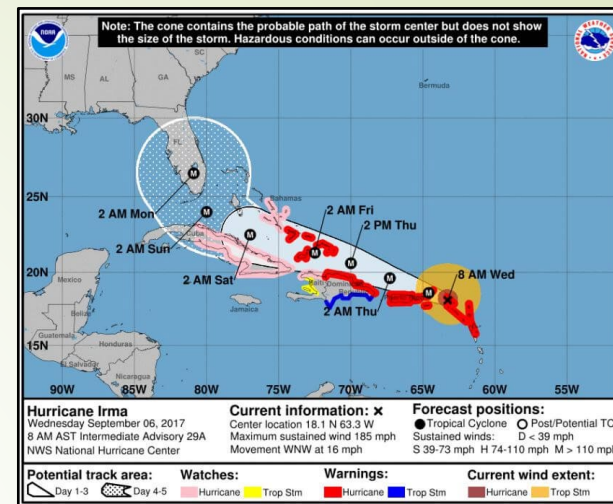
- Emergency power
- Emergency communication
- Linked to FEMA IMAT – unity of effort
- Limited POV / Rentals
- Curfew for local population
- Social media – negatively focused
- Tourist / Visitor anxiety is high
- Elected officials are supporters and want to assist
- Cash only environment



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Facts

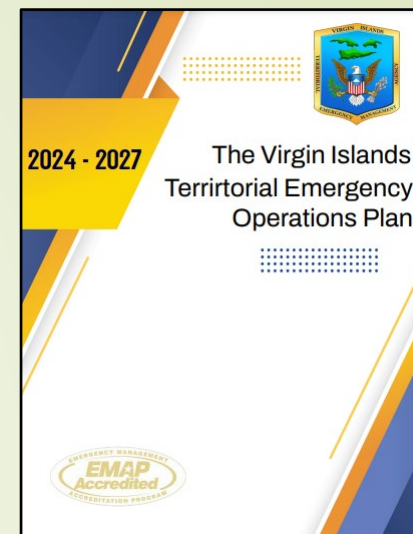
- Time and Distance for response efforts are our greatest challenges
- Local National Guard is quickly overwhelmed
- Local Law Enforcement is quickly overwhelmed
- Local Hospitals are quickly overwhelmed
- Local Emergency Management is quickly overwhelmed
- Local Agencies are “victims” of the disaster too
- Local Hotels are limited in occupancy or closed
- No organic rotary or fixed military aircraft
- Very limited government owned marine vessels (VIPD, VIFEMS, DPNR, VITRAN)
- Requirements will change over time – be prepared
- Tourists are stranded
- Cyril E. King Airport (STT) – 7,000 ft runway (2,500 feet is extended / filled over the water)
- Henry E. Rohlsen Airport (STX) – 10,000 ft runway



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Coordinating Agency - VITEMA

- Emergency Operations Centers on St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John
 - Capacity STT (30), STX (30), STJ (15)
- Joint Priorities and Objectives
- 24-hour Incident Action Plan Period
- Rhythm with Planning-P initially, then Operational-O
- EMAC – National Guard and Other State Capabilities (e.g. medical teams, IMAT)
- Tailor Mission Assignments to Forces Available
- Review Objectives against defined end-state
- Media Relations are just as important as Mission Assignments
- Close Coordination with FEMA for Operations and Logistics needs
- Close Coordination with Private Sector
- Daily Briefs with Governor and FEMA Regional Administrator
- Identify Requirements Early
- Track Funding
- Include Safety In All Missions



Environmental Concerns

- Impact to public health
- Industrial level environmental incident
- Due to lack of power and generators – wastewater contamination
- Storage tanks – hazardous material release
- Sunken / Washed Up on Shore Marine vessels – fuel and soil spills
- Vegetation debris – temporary storage
- Vegetation debris – final disposition
- Marine vessel salvage operations – disposal
- Generators – long term use
- Limited capacity – need to develop federal request for assistance
- Due to time it takes to open seaport and airports - slow response to contain and cleanup
- Public lack of environmental concerns (need to get the messages out early)



Potential Mission Assignments

- Emergency Support Function 10 – Oil and Hazardous Material
- FEMA Community Lifeline – Hazardous Materials (Facilities, HAZMAT, Pollutants, Contaminants)
- VITEMA / FEMA : Liaison at all EOCs, EMAC coordination, generator and fuel support
- Police: Traffic Control Points, Force Protection (road crews – WAPA, DPW, BIT)
- Human Services: Shelter Support, Commodities Distribution Support
- Fire and EMS: Urban Search and Rescue, Health and Welfare Checks, Hazardous Material
- Property and Procurement: Fuel distribution, Contract Management
- Public Works: Route Clearance
- Port Authority: Airport Opening, Seaport Opening, Debris Removal
- Bureau of Information Technology: Contingency Communications, Fuel distribution
- Health: Patient Movement and Evacuation, MEDEVAC
- Waste Management: Debris Removal





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