VITEMA

National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program
August 19-23, 2019
Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency

- VITEMA is the territorial agency with the primary responsibility for ensuring the territory's resilience to disasters.

- By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies, and with the private sector - individuals, families, non-profits and businesses - VITEMA ensures the Territory’s ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating hazards, enhancing preparedness, ensuring effective response, and building the capacity to recover.
Tsunami Preparedness Campaigns

- Participated in Carib Wave 2019
  - Public and private sectors participated in Tsunami Evacuation drills/walks by testing out their evacuation plans and making adjustments as needed. (VITEMA Staff Assisted).
  - In the simulation, after the tsunami is generated at Kick `em Jenny its first wave would hit Christiansted 2 ½ hours later, then Charlotte Amalie at 2 hours 57 minutes, Roadtown, Tortola at 3 hours and Anegada at 3 hours, 5 minutes.

- Tsunami Awareness Training/Course AWR-217
  - Obtain a better understanding of the tsunami hazard, the current hazard assessment tools/products, the tsunami warning and dissemination systems and methods; and the methods of community response to local and distant tsunamis.
Tsunami Preparedness Campaigns

Future Campaigns

- **ShakeOut - October 17**
- Adoption of 3 classes per District
- Tsunami Awareness Day Activities on November 5
- Continued community outreach
- Tsunami Workshop/Seminars
  - Shoreline hotels and restaurants
FEMA Assistance

- $1.6 million to the territory for the Tsunami Early Warning System.
- Upgrading system
  - Poles
    - Wooden support poles will be replaced with steel poles rated two classes higher in strength, heavy-duty solar panels and brackets will be mounted, and robust tensioned cables will add structural stability.
$1.6 million to the territory for the Tsunami Early Warning System. (Cont’d)

IPAWS

The system is being modernized for compatibility with the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). This integration will boost the system’s capabilities to notify and alert the public of many other potential catastrophic events, including hurricanes, earthquakes and other weather-related traumas.

IPAWS infrastructure allows for multiple methods to alert the public in the event of an emergency including the Emergency Alert System (EAS) through television and radio, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) through cell phones and tablets, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio and other public alerting message boards and signage.
US Virgin Islands Tsunami Computer Modeling Project

- All the modeling work has been completed and the products derived from the modeling
  - Max wave elevation
  - Max flow depth in inundation areas
  - Max current speed
  - Time series
    - selected locations and animations have been created
Tsunami Evacuation Maps
Tsunami Evacuation Map
 mapa de Desalojo por Tsunami
St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands

Legend / Leyenda
- Outside Evacuation Zone / Fuerza de 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 Service / Servicios de Emergencia
- Ferry Terminal / Terminal de Ferry
- Health Clinic / Clínica de Salud
- Hospital / Hospital
- Hotel / Hotel
- Government House / Casa de Gobierno
- Mangrove Island
- National Guard / Guardia Nacional
- Public School / Escuela Pública
- Soapplane / Hibiscus

Locations / Localizaciones
Assembly Points / Lugares de Asamblea
- A: University of Virgin Islands
- B: Lindbergh Bay Hill
- C: 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, muévasese al lugar más alto más cercano.

Disclaimer / Releva de Responsabilidad:
This map is only for Emergency Management purposes. It is not for the use of individuals or groups with non-tsunami related purposes.

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St. Thomas
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Challenges

- Hurricane Irma and Maria
- Recovery efforts
  - Blue Line Project
  - Importunacy
- Lack of Tsunami Program Administrator
Comments or Questions?

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